

Innovation Plugs In

Many ongoing initiatives aim to reduce dropout. What is lacking is research on what works and why it does. Within the Swedish project Plug In, new scientifically based methods will be tested and monitored. Plug In is Sweden's largest project with a focus on young people at risk of leaving their studies or who have already dropped out of high school.

The project's main goal is that the amount of students in Sweden who leave upper secondary education prematurely should be significantly less than 10 percent. Measures to help reach that goal includes offering the students support such as help with their homework, motivational talks or help structuring their everyday lives.

We have results showing that we now meet the students earlier than before.

Helene Sjöberg, Education Strategist

One goal of the project is that all young people within the target audience are offered the right help at the right time for them to get the opportunity to complete high school. A secondary goal is to decrease unemployment among the youths who despite all efforts do not return to studying. An additional goal is to distinguish which measures facilitate students at risk to complete their education.

Cross-sectoral cooperation is often cited as a prerequisite for more students to graduate from high school. Plug In therefore contains a number of so-called 'cooperation goals'. These goals aim to develop methods and manners of cooperation between and within regions and municipalities.

Youth Coaches Help Out

An example of a new method being tested within the project is the 'youth coaches'. The job of the youth coaches is to make contact with young people who dropped out of school, or are at risk of dropping out, and help them find new inspiration for studying. It appears that the youth coaches take an important role of supporting communication between the young people and the different authorities such as school, social insurance and employment services.