



RETAIN – Retention in Education and Training conference  
22-23 October 2009  
Hotel 11, Göteborg (Gothenburg), Sweden

Dropouts from education and training are a major issue in most European countries. Young people lacking recognised qualifications have difficulties finding a permanent job and are at high risk of unemployment. Long-term unemployment is much higher among this group. Therefore education and training institutions need to develop methods of supporting young people in a way that helps them to remain in education and to carry out their educational and vocational plans.

The RETAIN project has identified successful experiences and methods used to prevent dropping out. Some of them have been tested and further developed over the last two years. This conference gives politicians, school leaders, teachers, trainers, mentors and guidance practitioners as well as others working with young people in education or training a possibility to share good examples and methods and to discuss how to prevent dropping out.

**Thursday 22 October 2009**

08:30 – 09:30 Registration

09:30            Opening session  
                  Mr Sven Höper  
                  Director of Education, City of Göteborg (Gothenburg)

10:00            1<sup>st</sup> Main session  
                  Key-note:  
                  **Strategies for Reducing Dropouts: Lessons from the United States**

The United States is facing a dropout crisis, with one-quarter of high school students failing to graduate from high school. This presentation will review alternative strategies for reducing dropouts, such as increasing support for students, improving the rigor and relevance of instruction, and restructuring schools to create a more personal and caring environment.

**Speaker: Prof. Russel W. Rumberger**  
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

Prof Russel W. Rumberger has been conducting research on school dropouts for the past 25 years. He is currently directing the California Dropout Research Project, which is producing a series of reports and

policy briefs about the dropout problem in California and a state policy agenda to improve California's high school graduation rate (<http://lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/>).

12:00-12:45 Key-note 2:

**One in two pupils reaches their goal**

On the (in)capability of upper secondary school to ensure all their pupils complete their education

**Speaker: Barbro Nässén**

Director of Education, Swedish Schools Inspectorate

Barbro Nässén is Director of Education, whose main task is to take part in the regular supervision of schools to identify shortcomings and conduct quality evaluations which focus on a particular area. She has taken part in the quality evaluation on dropouts in upper secondary schools in Sweden and will present the results from that study.

12:45-13:45 Lunch

13:45 Seminar session  
Parallel seminars with good examples and/or methods

15:00 Coffee and refreshments

15:30-16:45 Seminar session  
Parallel seminars with good examples and/or methods

19:30 Conference dinner

**Friday 23 October 2009**

09:00 Seminar session  
Parallel seminars with good examples and/or methods

10:15 Coffee and refreshments

10:45 Seminar session  
Parallel seminars with good examples and/or methods

12:05 Cultural session  
Hvitfeldtska gymnasiet's Kammarkör performing songs from different European countries

12:30 Lunch

13:30 2<sup>nd</sup> Main session

Key-note 3:

**What happens when young people drop out of upper secondary school?**

The purpose of the presentation is to present findings of a research project which explored the experience of young people aged between 16-20 years old looking at why they dropped out of upper secondary school and what happened with them afterwards.

**Speaker: Ph.D. Marianne Lundgren**  
University of Gothenburg

Marianne Lundgren Ph.D, Senior Lecturer at the University of Göteborg (Gothenburg), Department of Education. Her research interest has focus on young people's special needs as well in school as society.

14:25 Refreshments

14:45 Key-note 4:

**Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in education and training, 2009. Indicators and Benchmarks**

**Speaker:** (to be confirmed)

15:40-16:00 Closing session

### **The Venue**

The conference will take place at Quality Hotel 11, Maskingatan 11 (Eriksberg), Göteborg (Gothenburg), Sweden.

[www.hotel11.se](http://www.hotel11.se)

Telephone: +46 31 779 1111

Conference hours will be from 08:30 Thursday 22nd October to 16:30 Friday 23rd October 2009.

### **Conference language**

The conference language will be English.

### **Hotel**

Hotel rooms are available at Quality Hotel 11. E-mail: [q.hotel11@choice.se](mailto:q.hotel11@choice.se)

The participants must make the reservations by using the following booking number: **77196**.



### **Travel information**

From Landvetter airport or Göteborg (Gothenburg) City Airport, take the airport bus to Göteborg (Gothenburg) Central station/Nils Erikssonsterminalen and then bus number 16 to Hotel 11, Eriksberg. Another option is to take a taxi to the hotel.

### **Pre-Registration**

The last date for pre-registration will be **October 10th 2009**. The conference is *free* of charge. Lunch and refreshments will be served during the two days but the conference dinner on the 22nd October costs €30 (to be paid at the registration desk on site). The participants will cover travel costs and accommodation themselves.

The number of participants is limited and confirmation will be sent out continuously from the end of August. **Please use the attached Registration Form.**

### **Further information**

Information about the project and the conference will be up-dated regularly on the project website: [www.retainproject.net](http://www.retainproject.net)