



STUDY GUIDE

FOR

MEMBER TRAINING

FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Socialdemokraterna
FRAMTIDSPARTIET

Foreword



Welcome to basic member training for the Social Democratic Party.

The Social Democratic Party is a popular movement party and as such, it is important that many of us get involved in order to develop our ideas about the future. A member training programme is one of the most important tools for the members of our party. Our member training programme is also an important instrument in building a stronger party organisation, and also raises the level of our entire system of studies.

By giving a group the chance to discuss and gain insights into politics, ideology, history and how the party organisation works, the members are given better tools for participation, involvement and active membership in the party.

For a popular movement for social change, education is of central importance. Greater knowledge and insight into how things are related gives rise to some of the most important ingredients of change work. It

helps members grow and provides them with better conditions to influence the development of society together with others.

This member training programme is for everyone who is interested, both new members and those who have been in the party for some time. The Party Executive has the ambition of providing qualitatively good materials. Of course, it is up to the municipal party organisations and party districts to organise member training in their own way.

The member training materials are also for those interested in the Social Democratic Party.

Good luck with your studies!

Lena Rådström Baastad

Party Secretary

Tomas Eneroth

Study Manager, Party Executive

Objectives

The 2009 Party Congress of the Social Democratic Party decided that all members will be offered training in the party's history, ideology and organisation in a new, step-by-step member training programme that will be digitally available to all members regardless of where they live.

New members will be given an introduction to the party. This is both a matter of being well received and listened to, and of being given an opportunity of directly becoming active, based on the member's interests and circumstances.

All members are entitled to member training. The Social Democratic Party's basic member training aims to provide every member the conditions to improve his or her knowledge of our politics, ideology and history. Member training should provide the members broad knowledge of how the Social Democratic Party is structured and works. It is also a matter of encouraging and making sure that members are given the tools to be able to channel their commitment for social change.

The training programme increases the value of membership and the level of knowledge in the party organisation and is a part of the party's ideological and political development.

Knowledge objective

Members who have chosen to participate in member training should be given basic knowledge and greater understanding of the Social Democratic Party's history, values and organisation, and the importance of the popular movement as a force for social change.

Members should be given greater insight into the Party of the Future vision and how the party can be developed.

Change objective

Member training should inspire the participants, make them feel involved and get them to take responsibility for participating in activities for an organisational, cultural and social change on their own and together with others.

Responsibility

The party districts are responsible for ensuring that all members are offered member training at stages one and two. Training should be held in collaboration with the municipal party organisations. The Party Executive is responsible for offering the party districts the possibility of recruiting participants for stage three of member training.

For instructors

Your role and your expertise are incredibly important. Your leadership and approach will mean at least as much to the studies as the study materials. This study guide gives you some advice and suggestions on how to lead the training. Contact ABF in your city and ask about the next study circle or instructor training, where you will have the opportunity of meeting other instructors and developing your knowledge of teaching, methodology and popular education.

Member training should be characterised by openness, curiosity, activity and participation. It is important that all of the participants feel welcome, are involved and influence the content and structure of the training and that the participants' needs and experiences are utilised. During training, it is important to discuss our view of learning and how the training can be constructive and participatory. Agree on how you should treat each other and work together.

The training should be based on respect for each other and everyone's active participation. Everyone should have the opportunity to speak and should be given about the same space. Decisions should be made in an open and democratic spirit. The instructor serves as a guide and provides inspiration and leads the group's

work forward. The participants' views and experiences, and the discussion in itself create new knowledge, but above all lead to growth.

Through your leadership, you have a chance to show how the learning will take place. Most adults prefer to know how things will be run and how we will work together. All modern behavioural science research shows that in all new environments, people have a great need to feel three things above all. That others see (and maybe hear) us, that somebody affirms what you say (or do), and that everyone feels like they are good enough.

Study circle, distance learning circle or course

This guide sets out the framework of what a member training programme in the Social Democratic Party should include. The concrete set-up is structured according to local circumstances and the wishes of the participants.

The training can be carried out as a study circle or distance learning circle with five or more sessions. The training can also be done as a two- or three-day course using the hypothetical course set-up at the end of these materials.

Stage 1

First session

Introduction and current politics

Objectives

- The participants should feel welcome in the group and feel a sense of security about continuing training.
- To hold discussions about one or more current political issues.

Carefully note who is participating in the training programme. Make them feel at home. People who do not get on well together will not come back. This is especially important to keep in mind if the training is held in a study circle format.

Begin by making a quick round where everyone says their name. Then bring up the goal of the member training programme, what it is about and what the set-up for the day looks like. Also tell a little about yourself.

On the study portal socialdemokraterna.abf.se, there is an introduction film that is appropriate to show after this first conversation. Watch the film and discuss it.

If training is done in a study circle format

If training is being done as a course, the programme is already approved and set. However, if it is being done in a study circle format, the participants are who de-

cide together how it should be done. This means that a large part of the first session should be devoted to this shared process.

After watching the film and reflecting on it, it may be time for the participants to introduce themselves in more detail and to describe their expectations of the training programme. Gather together the participants' expectations and talk about them for a while – how can they be met? Based on the expectations, you can formulate goals for the continued training.

Go through the study materials more thoroughly so that everyone gets an overview. Decide on the set-up for the rest of the study circle and also talk over and decide on practical matters – when will you meet from here on, how should the participants report absences, arranging coffee for the sessions, etc.

You can also ask the participants themselves to answer the following questions orally and in writing:

- What would I like to know more about?
- What do I want to discuss in the group?
- What do I want to influence myself?
- What do I want to influence together with the group, or with my own party association?

Based on the answers to these questions, a study plan takes shape that the group follows in the rest of the study circle.

In the section “Set-up for a study circle/distance learning circle” at the end of this guide, there are suggestions of how the training can be done in a study circle format.

Current politics

A good way to get the political discussions started may be to bring up the political commitment that might have preceded the decision to become a member of the Social Democratic Party.

Prior to this discussion, the instructor can pick out one or more articles on a current issue that concerns many people. On the study portal socialdemokraterna.abf.se, there are the following links where current articles can be found:

- Tiden – A social democratic ideological magazine. A place for poignant analysis of ideas, politics, culture, art and society. tidenmagasin.se
- Dagens Arena is an online daily political magazine that describes itself as “independent, radical and progressive”. Brief articles about a wide range of topics. Readers can subscribe free of charge and get the magazine’s newsletter by e-mail. dagensarena.se
- The newspaper Arbetet (formerly LO-tidningen). arbetet.se

When the group discusses the article, the instructor can provide suggestions on various online periodicals and blogs and how they can be used in political work. Does anybody in the group blog? Ask him/her what it is like and what is difficult.

For the next session

- Find a favourite blogger and tell who it is and why the blog caught your interest. Look through the study booklet “Our Ideology”, part one.

Second session

Our Ideology – The Social Democratic Party’s fundamental values

Objectives

- The participants should define, understand and discuss the fundamental values of our ideology.

Start the session by referring back to the first session. Briefly talk about the bloggers who caught the participants’ interest.

The second session should serve as an introduction to the fundamental values on which our politics rest. The idea is also for the participants to think about their own ideological foundation. What does my social democracy stand for? What do liberty, social equality, gender equality and solidarity mean to me?

The view that all people are equal is, after all, our fundamental concept of the whole view of learning and knowledge and why we believe in the popular movement idea and popular education. It is important to create a sense of what “all people being equal” actually means to how we view everyone having the right to participate, to contribute and to assert oneself based on one’s circumstances.

These definitions will form the basis of much of the starting points for the upcoming sections so it is very important that plenty of time is provided for this.

Materials

- The study booklet “Our Ideology” – part one on values.
- The party programme for parallel reading and further study.

Discussion questions

- Follow the questions in the study materials.

Suggestions

Here, work can be based on the participants’ own views and experiences, but support can of course be taken from our programme of principles and other written materials. Let the participants read a text and discuss what it says and what it stands for. Analyse and discuss proposals from other political parties and try to identify common views or differing ideas.

For the next session

Look through the text about the party’s history on the Social Democratic Party website. Follow the link: socialdemokraterna.se/Vart-parti/Var-historia

Look through the study booklet “Our History”, parts one and two.

Third session

Our History – Inception and breakthrough of the Social Democratic Party

Objectives

- To give the participants an understanding of the early development of the Social Democratic Party until its major breakthrough in the 1930s.
- To provide the participants an understanding of the choices the Social Democratic Party made through its history that also had a bearing on its politics.

This session should provide an introduction to the early history of the labour movement. We have to understand our history to find our way in the future. We want to keep from re-inventing the wheel time and again, but above all want to understand the courage of having visions for society, and why it is important to set up goals for the future.

In the foreword of the study booklet “Our History”, one can read: “There are several reasons to read about the history of the labour movement. You learn something about the values of the movement and the party and how they have changed and been reinterpreted over time. This history is also a matter of the identity and unique nature of the Social Democratic Party and the labour movement compared with other parties and movements.

These study materials are focused on the history of the Social Democratic Party. However, it should be emphasized that the Social Democratic Party grew forth

as a social movement by and through the working class. Union and political work went hand in hand and sometimes one also speaks of “the red fabric”, the network of various organisations that once embraced those who were active from cradle to grave, not least in mill towns and industrial cities.

Properly understood, history is not nostalgia – the longing for the past – but rather reflection on what factors have shaped social development, how past events affected the present and what lessons the past can provide for the future. In moving forward, old and new, continuity and renewal are always mixed.”

Materials

- The study booklet “Our History”, parts one and two.
- Text on the Social Democratic Party website about the party’s history, follow the link:
socialdemokraterna.se/Vart-parti/Var-historia
- Possibly Bo Widerberg’s film “Ådalen 31” (Adalen Riots) or Ingvar Skogsberg’s film “Mina drömmars stad” (City of My Dreams).

Discussion

- Follow the questions in the study materials.

For the next session

Read through section 1 in the study booklet “Our Organisation”.

Fourth session

Our Organisation – The Popular movement

Objectives

- To gain an understanding of how our popular movement works and its advantages.

The Social Democratic Party is a popular movement party, and the popular movement idea is a cornerstone of Swedish democracy. People organise themselves in associations to work together for change, in large and small. The popular movements are in people's daily lives, and conduct their activities based on the decisions of the members. Involvement in popular movements makes us active participants in democracy, rather than passive onlookers.

Political craftsmanship also becomes better and the results become more poignant when many of us are involved in shaping a new proposal. Sometimes it may feel like there is a large distance from idea to realisation, but anchoring political ideas and proposals is also an investment. It is how the proposals are tested and honed so they become sustainable.

Being a popular movement demands a large number of members. It also demands that the membership provides possibilities of involvement based on each member's circumstances and desire to get involved.

Here, it is a great deal about creating a sense that we can change society if we want. And we do not need to wait for the motion to pass at the party congress in a few years. We can begin in the neighbourhood now, and do something about child poverty in our activities, or start a study circle in cooking for singles and so on. From word to deed!

Materials

- The party's basic materials "Our Organisation", the section "Welcome to a popular movement party".

Discussion questions

- What led you take the step to become a member of the Social Democratic Party?
- What expectations do you have of your membership?
- How can we get as many people as possible involved in shaping the politics of the Social Democratic Party?
- How can the Social Democratic Party be a force for change in people's everyday lives?

Activity

Assign the participants the task of planning and preparing a member meeting (that should also be held if possible) based on the discussions of the questions above and the political discussions of earlier sessions.

What gets people to come to meetings? How can we get more people involved in the work? Think about the formulation of ads, flyers and posters. How can the location, the programme and any cultural elements be made inviting? New technology?

Further study

Recommended reading for anyone who wants to learn more about arranging lectures is "På promenad med mästare Palm" (On a walk with Master Palm) by Erik Wiklund, a handbook from ABF about arranging lectures in the footsteps of the labour movement.

Fifth session

Basic meeting techniques

Objectives

- To become familiar with, and practise meeting techniques. To understand important formal meeting components, such as the agenda, various kinds of votes, majorities, meeting minutes, annual assemblies, member meetings, etc.

In a democratic organisation, formats are required to let everyone have their say and have their proposals handled fairly. Anyone who wants to participate in the Social Democratic Party's meeting activities and influence its politics needs to be familiar with basic meeting techniques.

Materials

- The study portal has an excerpt on the basics of meeting techniques, which can be found [here](#).
- The whole book is available for purchase from ABF.
- “Vad händer på mötet?” (What happens at the meeting?) An information booklet from LO, click [here](#) to download it as a PDF file.

Discussion questions

- How can we get people to come into the meeting rooms at all?
- Once they have come to the meeting, what methods do we have to increase participation in our meetings?
- What did you think of your first member meeting?

Suggestions

Begin with a review of important meeting terminology and meeting techniques.

A role-playing session on member meetings can then be done where the participants get to practise different situations, such as submitting a motion for something, requesting a vote, voting, etc. Show different kinds of meeting minutes.

Another alternative is to create various situations that can come up during a meeting and role play about them. Everyone should be able to try being the chairperson and try different roles. The participants should feel at home in the meeting.

Another method you can try is to ask what the meeting chairperson should absolutely not do if the meeting is supposed to be democratic and everyone is supposed to feel involved. Such an exercise concerning opposites usually gets the creativity of the participants going. The group then discusses the conclusions together and reflects on how to keep from doing these things.

Sixth session

Party of the Future

Objectives

- To discuss and gain insights into what the Social Democratic Party is and how it is perceived, and to talk about how the party's politics and organisation can be developed.

The vision platform of the Party of the Future in Swedish politics is a shared direction for what our party should be and how it should be perceived. The platform is based on a thorough analysis of how members and voters view the party and contains ideas about how the party should be developed, and how those of us who are active in the party should practise what we preach.

Materials

- The Social Democratic Party's workshop materials on the platform "The Social Democratic Party – the Party of the Future". These materials are available here, socialdemokraterna.abf.se/Utbildningar/Organisationsutveckling/Framtidspartiet/

Discussion questions

- Work based on the discussion questions in the workshop materials.

Suggestions

Work based on the proposed set-up in the workshop materials.

Evaluation

The first stage of the member training programme has now been completed and you should now do an evaluation.

The member training programme has a distinct purpose and objective for what every participant should achieve after completing training. It is therefore im-

portant to assess the value of the participants' experiences, assure quality and develop our training programmes at the same time.

The study circle leader or instructor is responsible for all participants being given the opportunity to participate in an evaluation of the training program.

Stage 2

First session

Introduction and opinion formation

Objectives

- The participants should feel welcome in the group and feel a sense of security about continuing training.
- To provide an introduction to communication and opinion formation.

If training is done in a study circle format

If training is done as a course, the programme is already approved and set. However, if training is being done in a study circle format, the participants decide together how it will be carried out.

If this is your first study circle, this entire session and some effort should be devoted to getting a good start. Follow the guide in the first session of stage one of the training programme.

If the same group is continuing from stage one training, you can skip over the parts that cover more detailed introductions and the like. Look through the contents and see what can be used.

Use the first session to discuss the following:

- What is stage two of the training programme about?
- What expectations do you have of the study circle?

- What goals should you have?
- Make a round in the group and discuss what worked well in the previous study circle, what did not work as well and why, and what could improve the work and make it more enjoyable moving ahead.
- Remind the group about everyone's participation and responsibility to contribute to results and the group atmosphere.
- Decide on a set-up and practical matters.

Communication

In political work, it is important to be able to convey what you personally think and feel, in the spoken and written word. Stage two of the member training programme of the Social Democratic Party should therefore be permeated by a communication and opinion formation perspective.

In the first session, you begin a dialogue that continues throughout the training programme.

Regardless of whether you are writing a letter to the editor or a motion or are holding a speech, you can work based on the same structure: What ingredients are needed to be persuasive? What do I need to think about in order to include everything and thereby succeed in what I had in mind?

Remember

In all communication, the recipient is the deciding factor. The message that is ultimately perceived is what is left after being filtered through the recipient's frame of reference, prior knowledge and experiences.

Materials

- The Wikipedia article on rhetoric provides a good introduction: [sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retorik# Talersdelar_-_Disposition](https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retorik#Talersdelar_-_Disposition)
- There are a lot of useful materials about speaking and writing on the website snackasnyggt.se.
- Westander's PR handbook provides good suggestions on opinion formation. It is available for download at pr-handboken.se
- Further reading: Lena Josefsson and Mona Sahlin: "Tala så alla lyssnar och förstår" (Speak so everyone listens and understands) and Erland Lundström: "Talaren Talet Lyssnaren" (The Speaker, the Speech, the Listener).

Set-up

Discuss why it is important to be able to present a message in speech and writing in political work.

Watch a social democratic speech – there are many speeches, by Olof Palme for example, on YouTube, youtube.com if you search for the name of the speaker.

What does the speaker do to grab the attention of the audience? What is it that is persuasive?

Talk about the basics of speech, using for example the Wikipedia article. Work based on the question: What makes a speaker a good speaker?

Ethos is the term in rhetoric used to define a speaker's credibility.

Logos appeals to reason and facts. Referring to facts, reason and realism in persuasion creates strong, credible arguments.

Pathos is about the strong feelings that a speaker seeks to evoke in his or her listeners, and the feelings that are actually evoked in the audience. This emotion is most often in harmony with the feelings the speaker displays him or herself.

Continue discussing what you should think about when writing or presenting something.

Discuss the speaking process: collecting materials, structuring the ideas, formulating the text, memorising the script or bullet points, and holding the speech.

Go through the components of the speech:

1. Introduction (Should grab attention and evoke curiosity)
2. Background/narrative (Give a background, short and concise, facts)
3. Suggestion/thesis (Core of the speech. What you want to say, clear and concise. For example: Therefore... We have to... I think... We need...)
4. Argumentation and counter arguments (Argue using evidence and proof. For example: Firstly... Secondly... Last, but not least... Show that the opponents' arguments do not hold. For example, Then you may think that... Your objections may be... To this I would say that...)
5. Conclusion (Repeat and summarise, for example: There are two ways to go... We want...)

It is a matter of going through the various parts of the rhetoric structure that can often be used, regardless of whether you are writing a debate article, a motion or a speech. As an instructor, you can make your own suggestions and discuss your own experiences, perhaps show something you have written yourself and let the group discuss what ideas were behind the text.

For the next session

Read through the study booklet "Our Ideology", part two.

Second session

Our Ideology – A power analysis from a social democratic perspective

Objectives

- The participants should gain a better understanding of how class, gender and other power structures affect us.

This session can serve as an introduction to our ideology. The idea is that the participants should do a power analysis of society by reading and discussing. What power structures do we see? What power structures are there that we might not see with the naked eye?

Materials

- The party's basic study booklet "Our Ideology", part two.
- The party programme for parallel reading.

Discussion questions

- Use the discussion questions that are in the study materials.

Activity

Write a letter to the editor based on what you discussed in the session.

For the next session

Read the study booklet "Our History", parts three and four.

Third session

Our History – From the welfare state to the present

Objectives

- To give the participants an understanding of the development of the Social Democratic Party from the 1930s to the present.
- To provide the participants an understanding of the choices the Social Democratic Party made through its history that also had a bearing on our politics.

In the first stage of the member training, we focused on the party's early history. In the second stage, we look at the party's development beginning from the major breakthrough in the 1930s.

Materials

- The Social Democratic Party's study booklet "Our History", parts three and four.

Discussion questions

- Use the discussion questions in the study materials.

Suggestions

Feel free to focus on the important choices that had a bearing on the party's ideological course. Emphasise how, for example, the welfare state line and general welfare grew forth and developed, and discuss the assessments that were behind the choices made. What happened? What were the arguments for and against? What were the long-term consequences of these choices?

For the next session

Read through the study booklet "Our Ideology", part three.

Fourth session

Our Ideology – A social democratic strategy

Objectives

- To provide the participants an understanding of the ideology in current politics.
- To give the participants an opportunity to discuss the future social democratic reform strategy.

Materials

- The Social Democratic Party's study booklet "Our Ideology", part three.
- The Social Democratic Party's study materials "Välfärd och Arbete" (Welfare and Work) as parallel reading.
- Daily papers, socialdemokraterna.se and other current materials.

Discussion questions

- Use the discussion questions in the study booklet, "Our Ideology".

Let the group identify what the major problems are in today's society. Then ask what can be done about these problems based on a social democratic ideology. In discussion, identify one or a few important social reforms.

Activity

Begin discussing how support can be won for the social reform(s) you identified in the above exercise. What is the best way to pursue the matter? Begin sketching what a text on the reform might look like, such as a motion, letter to the editor or appeal.

For the next session

Read through the study booklet "Our Organisation", the section on the Social Democratic Party's organisation.

Fifth session

Our organisation and the parliamentary system

Objectives

- To give the participants an understanding of how our organisation is structured and why.
- To provide the participants insight into what the parliamentary system looks like locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, and how influence can be exerted through the decision-making channels that exist.

Along with the popular movement efforts, the parliamentary efforts form the basis of the social democratic political change work. It is important to have a grasp of what the parliamentary system looks like and how influence can be exerted.

Materials

- The study booklet “Our Organisation”, the section on the Social Democratic Party’s organisation.

Suggestions

It would be beneficial to let the participants read the text for this session at home. Invite leading social demo-

cratic politicians who can describe the levels of the political system. Show an illustration of the municipality’s, county council’s, parliament’s and EU’s organisations.

Or take a field trip to the municipal seat or city hall and meet leading politicians who can describe how the municipality works.

Activity

Continue to discuss based on the session’s discussion of important social reforms. What is needed to begin pursuing the matter – a letter to the editor, a motion to the municipal council, a parliamentary motion, a motion to the party congress? What concrete requirements can be pursued?

For the next session

Let everyone think through what they want to write about at the next session.

Sixth session

Political writing

Objectives

- To provide the participants greater understanding of how advocacy work is done.
- To give the participants practice in political writing.

The Social Democratic Party's way of working for a better society can be summarised with the words gather, educate and influence.

We have to gather a large number of people to be able to form a formidable political force.

We have to be educated, have knowledge and insight, see the context and be able to use what we have acquired in practical action to be able to make a difference.

We have to understand what and how to exert an influence on people, groups and society as a whole – and we have to do so in purely concrete terms.

This basic member training aims to build a strong popular movement. During the training programme, several political issues have been discussed and hopefully, a few texts have been written in the course of the programme.

In this session, these skills are improved further, and the participants practise political writing.

Materials

- The ABF association book (Föreningsboken) contains a good introduction to how to write motions.
- There are several online guides on how to write motions, letters to the editor, etc.

Suggestions

- Discuss what should be included in a motion, a letter to the editor or a flyer.
- Let everyone choose their own assignment – what do I want to write out? Work based on the discussions during the training programme.
- Stop and discuss what is difficult, if anyone has questions or needs help.
- Read each other's texts and make constructive criticism with a focus on what is good in the text. Help each other make progress!

Conclusion

In conclusion, discuss how you can now go further. How can we attract more people? How can we continue to educate ourselves?

How can we exert greater influence?

Evaluation

Stage two of the member training programme has now been completed and an evaluation should be done.

The member training programme has a distinct purpose and objective for what every participant should achieve after completing training. It is therefore important to assess the value of the participants' experiences, assure quality and develop our training programmes at the same time.

The study circle leader or instructor is responsible for all participants being given the opportunity to participate in an evaluation of the training program.

Study circle and course set-up

Set-up for a study circle or distance learning circle

What is a study circle?

A study circle is a format where people regularly meet to study, discuss or practise something together. From an educational perspective, it is ideal when there are between seven and 12 participants including the leader, but there can be between three and 20 participants in a circle.

In a study circle, the participants take part freely and voluntarily. There is no set course syllabus, and all participants are involved in determining the contents and the set-up. In a study circle, work is done based on the needs of the participants and everyone's experiences are utilised.

The study circle is a democratic format for study and discussion that is based on everyone's active participation. Respect for each other is important. Nobody may dominate the discussions. Everyone should have the opportunity to speak and should be given about the same space. Decisions should be made in an open and democratic spirit.

The circle leader serves as a guide and provides inspiration and leads the group's work forward. But new knowledge grows forth in the interaction between the circle leader, the participants and the study materials.

Summary: A good study circle...

- Gives all of the participants about the same amount of space.
- Utilises everyone's experiences.
- Combines a search for knowledge with dialogue and problem solving.
- Adapts the level of ambition to the participants.
- Lets different perspectives come up in the discussion.

Register the study circle with ABF

There are some formal requirements in order for the study circle to be able to be registered and, for example, to get financial support from ABF for material costs or something else.

The circle has to consist of at least three participants including the circle leader and comprise three sessions with at least three hours of study (45 min) per session. Contact ABF in your city when it is time to begin the circle or if you have questions and you will get the help you need.

Role of the circle leader

The circle leader is responsible for coordinating the work in the circle, obtaining the study materials and maintaining contact with ABF. In some circles, the circle leader is already chosen in advance and sometimes the group appoints one of the participants to lead the study circle.

The circle leader is a member of the group, not somebody who has to possess all of the subject knowledge. It can be helpful for this person to be a source of inspiration and share his or her knowledge, but the leader should not get stuck in a lecturing role.

Circle leadership is very much about creating a good mood in the group, getting the conversations and discussion started, getting everyone involved, making the choices clear, handling any problems, working out disagreement in the group, and leading the circle towards a common goal.

The keyword is dialogue, and circle leadership is often more about asking questions than giving answers.

Develop the group

The party is a collective where certain ideas hold us together. This also characterises our way of studying together. You do not become a teacher, but the group's leader. This means that you control quite a bit. At least, at the beginning. You yourself and the study materials are the sources of knowledge.

The study group should be able to control both the contents and the set-up of the studies, within the scope of the content of the member training programme. The study circle should be able to be a small model of the party's view of how knowledge should be able to be developed in you as an individual and in the group as a whole. What have you perceived as knowledge and what do we agree in the group is knowledge?

Getting there demands both good conversations and intense discussions.

Through your leadership, you get the conversations rolling and summarise the intense discussions. Demand order and objective discussions. Do the arguments and opinions agree with our view of society? Search the sources of knowledge together. It is a very pleasant way of learning things and developing the party together.

Joint planning

There are suggestions of various presentation exercises and other method suggestions in the "Toolbox" fold-

er, which is one of the folders included in ABF's circle leader training.

It also includes the folder "Learning in a study circle" where you get suggestions on how you can set up the work in the circle and various evaluation suggestions.

They can be ordered at ABF or downloaded at the link:

- Learning in a study circle: <http://webbutik.abf.se/ftp/files/Kapitel%204.pdf>
- Toolbox: <http://webbutik.abf.se/ftp/files/Kapitel%208.pdf>

The participants may expect a ready-made programme for the studies and not want to spend time agreeing on it together. If so, they relinquish their right to influence the programme and must understand and agree to the consequences of this. This may also be the result of a vibrant, active democracy. Although it is usually the result of everyone being passive and "nobody caring".

A suggestion is to invite exciting people who have something to say, or watch a film together. Maybe someone can read a poem that ties into the assignments you are working on.

Another suggestion is to read texts, look for poems or articles, check websites or watch film clips between the sessions in the circle. This way, more space is created for discussions and creativity at the actual sessions. Of course, this must be discussed with the participants so that everyone thinks it is OK to work this way. Participants may have a family or a job that makes it hard to set aside more time.

Last, but not least!

For us, it is important that we can constantly renew and improve our study materials. We would therefore appreciate it if those of you in the circle would like to do an evaluation. Contact ABF and ask them to help you prepare an evaluation.

Also keep in mind that a good circle leader does like they do in Jeopardy: Turns statements into questions!

Good luck as a circle leader!

Set-up for a course

This suggestion is an aid for anyone who wants to do the training in a course format.

Stage one

How to get the best possible start

1 hour

Current politics

2 hours

Our Ideology – The Social Democratic Party’s fundamental values

3 hours

Our History – Inception and breakthrough of the Social Democratic Party

2 hours

Our Organisation – The popular movement

2 hours

Basic meeting techniques

2 hours

The Social Democratic Party – the Party of the Future

2 hours

Stage two

Course start – Opinion formation

3 hours

Our Ideology – A power analysis from a social democratic perspective

2 hours

Our History – From the welfare state to the present

2 hours

Our Ideology – A social democratic strategy

3 hours

Our organisation and the parliamentary system

2 hours

Political writing

2 hours

**You can find all of our study materials at:
socialdemokraterna.abf.se**

