

## Sweden

### Radio Fri

Radio Fri is part of the foundation Fanzingo. The project started in 2011 and was initially aimed at young people who had been taken in by the state (in Sweden people aren't generally sentenced to prison before the age of 20, but are kept in separate institutions).

Since 2016 Radio Fri has had a project within the general correctional system and worked with adults in prison. We visit the prison once a week and within a ten-week period the participants go from being introduced to radio production to making a one-hour show. The show is produced in front of a live audience as well as being broadcast into cells. As the participants continue they are given more and more advanced assignments.

- Between 2011-2016 Radio Fri produced 210 live shows and broadcast them to the general public.
- Between 2016-2020 Radio Fri produced ten one-hour long shows which were produced in front of a live audience of prisoners.
- Radio Fri has met and worked with hundreds of young people in custody and about 150 adults.
- Radio Fri has made a study on how to increase reading and writing abilities among incarcerated youth using radio production as a means of education.
- Radio Fri is on hold in 2021 after ten years of engaging radio production created by and for people who have committed crime, suffered drug abuse or who have experienced incarceration.
- Radio Fri is unique in doing this work so far in Sweden.



## Baggy man - a case study

Nadia (producer and project manager) writes:

*This person's journey and hard work I will never forget!!*

Baggy came to us 2014 suffering heavily from drug abuse. He was often wearing a mask and felt very suspicious of people. Radio Fri lets everyone participate as they feel comfortable and it didn't take long before Baggy was our main show host.

We found out that he was a former rapper and told him to use his flow in the presenting of the show. He became one of our most popular hosts ever and showed up every Wednesday for rehearsal and every Friday for the recording of our "live on tape show", until we had to close down our studio in 2016.

During these two years Baggy told us he found community and a safe place where he belonged. We talked about how to get treatment for the addiction, where to find a suitable place to live and later on how to get a job.

Today he is the father of two and a skilled metal worker. I meet him from time to time and he still calls me boss and always makes sure that we know how the Radio Fri community helped him find trust in people and the self-confidence needed to find a happier life.

He has been a rock for the project and helped lots of new members find their place and was the first one to show up and talk to our funders when we were at risk of having to close down.

"All these lies and half-truths I've told my family. I remember one time. I was sitting and reading the Alcoholics Anonymous handbook and my sister called.

I told her I was reading, and she thought it sounded great and wanted to give me another chance. However, I didn't tell her that I was drinking at the same time. That's the kind of thing I can talk about here. This is where I feel at home. I can show both sides and still be welcome."



(left)  
Nadia and Baggy

