

## Sustainability

The working relationship may run for anything from a year to decades, but the purpose is always to contribute to results that can be termed “sustainable”, i.e. which hold true for the target group(s) and the organisations. Sustainability entails institutionalising the successes of the operation within the popular movement, the party, the organisation or local authorities in such a way that it is not possible to “reverse direction”.

This can involve a number of different aspects, such as an educational programme for new members continuing within the party, or having a network of popular education organisations in a given country teaming up on demands for local financing. Thinking in terms of sustainability and sustainability means thinking strategically, allowing space within the working relationship to reconsider plans, and thinking in new ways with a view to achieving the goal.

Above all, it is the changes to which the operation has contributed that need to be sustainable in the long term. In other words, it is not necessarily the case that specific activities need to continue when the working relationship or the specific project comes to an end. However, if this is important to reaching the goal, discussions should be held as early as in the planning phase regarding ways in which the partner organisation can continue to bring the target group together for courses of education after the end of the partnership, for example, or how to maintain an education coordinator in the organisation if this person’s salary is not paid by the Swedish member organisation or the Palme Center, and so on. In many cases, it is the strength of the organisation that takes care of the long-term aspect, to continue battling towards its goals with greater strength after the end of the project. The capacity of the organisation itself is therefore crucial, and an aspect that should be reinforced and maintained. It is thus essential to include organisational development when planning the operation.

### **Discuss:**

- What are the results that your organisation considers most important to retain and to continue to build on?
- What can you do to retain and continue to build on the results you identified?
- What resources are available?
- What additional resources are required?
- What other possible sources of finances can you identify?
- What type of capacity is required to assure the sustainability of the results?
- What capacity exists in your organisation?
- What needs to be reinforced?
- What can the Palme Center or the Swedish member organisation do to support sustainable results?