



Strategic plan 2026-2028

Background

Kalmar county museum, Sweden developed the Time Travel method in the mid-1980s. In September 1999, Kalmar County Museum organized the first Time Travel event in another country, Finland. Followed by USA and the Åland Islands shortly thereafter.

In 2004, Bridging Ages' first conference/ symposium took place in Vimmerby, Sweden. In 2007, in Tukums, Latvia, it was decided Bridging Ages would transform into a formal organisation, with constitution, board, office etc. Bridging Ages remains a non-governmental organisation with the head office at Kalmar Läns Museum. It continues to promote the Time Travel method in more than 20 countries. The organisation produces newsletters and webinars. The Bridging ages network also helps members to find partners in new cross-border projects. As often as possible, an international conference about Time travels is held somewhere in the world.

More information: Visit website: www.bridgingages.com

Bridging Ages remains an international organization focusing on the use of local history and the application of this knowledge to benefit the local community *today and for the Future*. Bridging Ages practices the Time Travel method, supporting the strategic sustainable 2030 goals of the United Nations. This is detailed in the specific countries' strategic objectives and goals.

The Time Travel Method is an educational method:

- using local heritage in a learning process
- creating reflection on contemporary issues
- providing tools for community building

It is a holistic approach in its implementation, based on needs, processes, event and impact. These differ from country to country, based on development, need, social condition and funding opportunities.

Principles:

The 5 principles underpinning the method:

- Focus on local sites and stories
- Use several perspectives with attention to the bottom-up viewpoint
- Employ key questions to connect today with the past
- Facilitate interaction with the community, schools, universities and other parties
- Reflective dialogue is vital to every Time Travel

Goal

The **goal** is to promote learning, social cohesion and contribute to community building. This is accomplished by consolidating and institutionalising the method in a uniform way and is done internationally. Target groups are local communities, schools and tourists.

Objective

The strategic objective of Bridging Ages is to implement the Time Travel method in line with the definition: Create reflection on contemporary issues by using the local heritage. This is undertaken in a creative learning process. In doing so, many processes are launched to support community-building programmes.

As per constitution adopted on 24th November 2020, the objectives to achieve are:

1. To promote the Time Travel method as an educational tool for education, community building and social cohesion.
2. To work with established structures in the Bridging Ages organisation by way of mentorship, capacity building and study material.
3. Consolidate and develop the work of the Organisation by networking
4. Be representative on other fora with similar aims and objectives.
5. Keep updated in the field of Applied Heritage and partner with similar organisations in heritage, education and community development.
6. To as and when resources and convenience allow to produce publications and hold conferences to further the work of the Organisation.

Focus the next three years, 2026-2028

International level:

1. Emphasis on networking, cooperation, partnership, (social) inspiration, and mentorship between the Bridging Ages countries.
2. Promote existing methodological material on the Time Travel method, and when needed develop new material. When possible, with countries working together, organize virtual and in-person trainings on the Time Travel method, on various levels, including academic and in turn develop methodological material and digital resources for use in both member countries and countries interested in developing a Time Travel program.
3. Be sensitive to the contemporary issues in society, trends in heritage and to the needs and opportunities of the Bridging Ages countries.
4. Remain active in communication, social media, newsletters, websites, etc.
5. Engage the board and, if possible other members, in working groups and committees to better delegate responsibilities. Develop the administrative and practical work of the board and the secretariat.
6. Work with various agencies and organisations to promote international projects that raise awareness for the value and application of the Time Travel method thus increasing the fundraising ability of Bridging Ages.
7. Continue to evolve and grow the Bridging Ages organisation to new counties and spread the use of the Time Travel Method

Responsible

The Bridging Ages board is responsible for the strategic plan. The board establishes working groups to assist in the implementation. The secretariat serves the board with practical support and assigned duties.

Each country has a network/ organization whose responsibility is to implement the strategic plan within their country. Structure, conditions and activities are very different between the countries, but the main goal remains the same.

Country level:

1. Implement and promote the Time Travel method locally, regionally and nationally.
2. Consolidate the Time Travel method and the regional/ national Bridging Ages organization to build a stronger network within the country/ region.
Relate to the international network?
3. Organize capacity building and trainings on the Time Travel method.
4. Partner with schools, museums, universities and NGOs.
5. Establish viable fundraising methods.