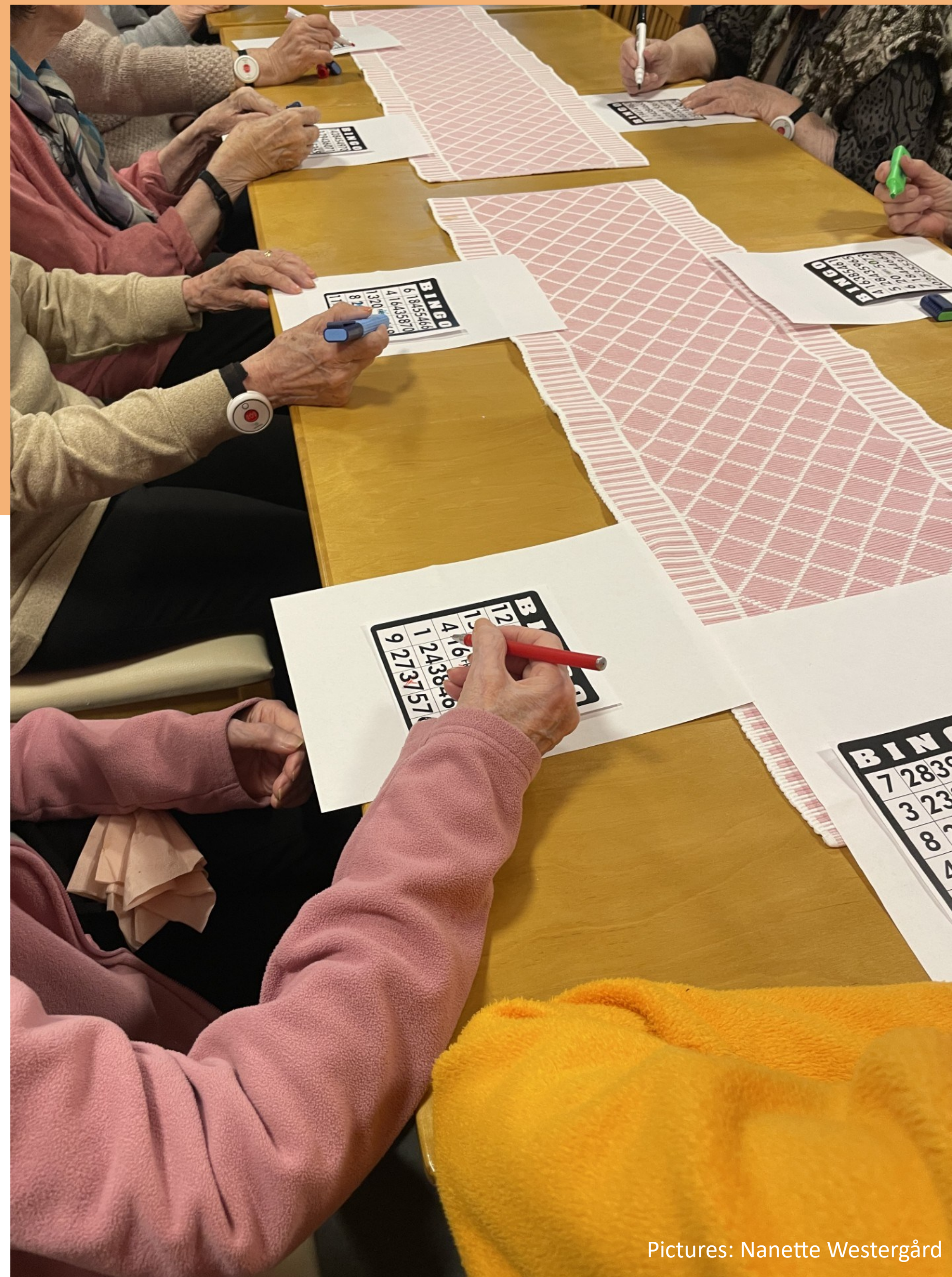


# The “Golden Moments” Project

– Integrating Language Learning and Social Interaction for Nursing students in Elderly Care



Pictures: Nanette Westergård

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## Background

In today's globalized world, international students face challenges when learning the local language, particularly in professional settings such as healthcare. The primary aim of the "Golden Moments" project is to support international nursing students in achieving the required language competencies by offering practical, real-world opportunities to practice Swedish.

## Methods

The project activities originally come from the successful concept of language teaching in Swedish that was previously tested with English-speaking nursing students at Novia University of Applied Sciences. The focus on non-clinical, everyday interactions in a supportive environment allows students to practice their language skills without the pressure typically associated with formal courses. Feedback is collected from students and staff to assess the program's success and identify areas for improvement. The project allows students to volunteer for visits to elderly care homes, where they lead activities in Swedish, such as chair gymnastics, bingo, and Alias. These visits are carefully planned with preparatory materials, including vocabulary lists and conversational phrases, to ensure students are well-equipped to communicate effectively.

## Results

The project has proven successful in contributing to students' language development, with participants reporting increased confidence in using Swedish, particularly in healthcare contexts. Residents and staff at the care homes have expressed great appreciation for the visits, noting that these activities provide a welcome break from their routines and promote social engagement. Additionally, students have gained insights into Finnish workplace culture and formed valuable connections with potential employers, enhancing their chances of employment in the region after graduation.

## Conclusion

The low-stress and enjoyable approach has also boosted motivation to continue learning Swedish. Given the success of the concept, it will be further refined and expanded as a sustainable model, in the form of an elective course.



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