

Best Practice Examples of successful Social Enterprises

RSMH Fjällsjö

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Social Mission/key social objectives

The co-operative promotes social and mental health by creating jobs and including people in the local community.

Main Activity

■ Trading (cooperatives, collectives, employer-owned)

Business Structure

■ Cooperative

Background

The cooperative started as a reaction to the municipality reducing its support to people discharged from regional psychiatric care and where one person got involved in organising social activities such as communal cooking for people with mental health problems.

The employees have their own stories and backgrounds with different difficulties in the labour market.

Year established: 1997

Numbers employed: 15 people

Range of activities

- The co-operative runs a bed and breakfast, a lunch restaurant including home delivery of food mainly to the village elderly.
 - Since 2021, they have been producing meals for the village's primary school and nursing home after winning a tender organised by the municipality.
- The cooperative also works to organise study activities with a public health focus for the target group of people with mental health problems and people who are socially isolated.
 - The activities are called "feel good weeks" where participants come from all over the country. The cooperative organises about fifteen such weeks, where participants stay in their hotel with full board and studies are alternated with cultural activities.

Business Model

The basis of RMNH Fjällsjö's business model is sold lunches directly to customers, procured meal production for municipal school and care activities, and some public compensation for completed popular education activities.

Lessons learnt/Tips for success

The reason why our co-operative works is that we have several legs to stand on, and that we think about what works for the moment. I believe that the food and restaurant industry is an excellent sector in which to run a co-operative," says Tore Hansson, founder, and chairman of the co-operative.

Funding



Income from Activities

Main challenges and obstacles in progressing/developing

In a small community, it can be difficult to find certain skills, such as chefs. It can be difficult to find people who are willing to participate in board work and take responsibility for managing the social enterprise. One challenge now is how to ensure a generational shift from those who started to new people taking on the responsibility.

What supports have been most useful to the development?

The co-operative has grown organically through cost control and prudent expansion, not having to borrow money for its growth. They have not had any special support for their development. They have learnt most things themselves.