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JUPITER FOUNDATION, VAASA, FINLAND

www.jupiter.fi

Founded in June 2001. In the background efficiency problems caused by many different employment projects (ca 18) financed by the city of Vaasa => to one more permanent and economically more profitable organisation to work with employment promotion and social exclusion => foundation

Founders:

- city of Vaasa (earlier: workshop for youngsters)
- municipality of Mustasaari
- the association of unemployed (earlier was running a kitchen and running different courses), finishing the association during the spring 2005
- the parish
- the Socialpsychiatric association
- the Association of Handicapped
- the Settlement association (earlier: carpentry work centre)
- the regional waste management company Stormossen (earlier: recycling centre)

The main purpose of the Jupiter foundation is

- to employ long term unemployed (>2 years, average nearly 4 years' unemployment) and young people and other groups having weak possibilities to get a job, incl. immigrants
- to help youngsters (17-25 years) having different kind of problems to continue school or to get a job = "control of life"
- during the subsidized work period give support individually and in groups (like in projects earlier)

To reach the targets the foundation makes business, it can

- sell goods and services produced by the people in work orientation
- take donations (furniture and all kind of items)

⇒ works like a SOCIAL FIRM (not a social firm according the new finnish law of social enterprises), first bigger in Vaasa

EMPLOYMENT IN VAASA

City of Vaasa

- bilingual, Finnish 75%, Swedish 25 %
- 55.000 inhabitants
- in Mustasaari 15.000 inh.
- ca 23.000 working places in the economic region (Vaasa+ surrounding municipalities)
- main employers: electronic equipment companies (ABB), metal (Wärtsilä), services

For years in Vaasa labour office

- nearly 4000 people without work
- 780 long term unemployed (more than 1 year without work)
- 700 youngster, under 25 years without a job
- 400-700 unemployed with some kind of handicap

Unemployment rate ca 9 %, second best after the capital city area in Finland.

Labour office has very few possibilities to help this group; a lot of people have more than 5 years unemployment: problems in life control; alcohol, drugs, mental problems, not capable to work = no place to cheque the “condition” => to Jupiter.

WORK ORIENTATION

Work orientation (in Finnish Työvalmennus, in Swedish Arbetsorientering) is based on a personal plan including work training period of 1-6 months + subsidied work and during the work individual guiding and group actions: in Jupiter clients can use the services of the nurse, a personal counsellor, psychologist, group counsellor and the job consultant. In groups self-knowledge, information of employment situation, training courses, health and drugs, visits to vocational institutes, working places etc

In Jupiter recycling in different forms is utilised as much as possible. Main part of the work has something to do with **recycling** (the regional waste management is one founding member in the foundation)

Working time per **day varies individually 4-8 h, average at the moment 6 h15 min.**

- per time ca 100 persons in work orientation from 2 months to 14 months mainly by combined and employment subsidy (the home municipality of the person, mainly the city of Vaasa, pays part of the salary of the persons in orientation)

- 20-40 youngsters per time participate the 3-phased youth programme including individual guiding, group actions, work and training
- starting the work orientation for mentally handicapped, 10 clients per time
- work try-outs
- special service packages eg. examining the ability to work
- rehabilitative work

Results in 3 years

More than 330 clients yearly in projects and more than 25 in rehabilitative work =

Results from “basic” work orientation

- 100 got a job
- 20 left for vocational training
- more than to diverse rehabilitations
- 30 interrupted or left
- 1 to pension

WORK DEPARTMENTS IN JUPITER (February, altogether ca 100 jobs)

EKOCENTER 25-30 jobs

- demantling and reparation of electronic household and office machines
- recycling of house reconstruction material (growing fast)
- “reception” of problematic waste, city reception point

HANDICRAFT max 20 jobs

- upholstery of furniture
- recycling of clothes, washed, ironed
- new Jupiter-brand textile products
- cloth printing etc.

CARPENTRY, CONSTRUCTION, RECYCLING OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL AND CLEANING

max 35 jobs

- renovating of wooden furniture
- new wooden products
- small scale construction and house restoring
- recycling of construction materials (starting this spring)
- cleaning is a own department with ca 8 workers (mostly immigrants), own and some outside cleaning

CAR WASH AND METAL WORKS, 6 jobs

- starting this spring

CAFÉ JUPITER, max 20 jobs

- 100 lunches and café products for own personnel and for clients outside

JUPITER BOUTIQUE, high quality recycle shop (820 m2) max 15 jobs

- selling goods donated to foundation, mainly furniture and household equipment
- selling products produced or repaired at own work departments
- transport services, incl. movings

Jupiter has hired ca. 6000 m2 room situated ca 1 km from the city centre of Vaasa.

PERSONNEL

- 33 permanent or project workers / per time ca. 140 clients
- professionals of several professions, multiprofessional organisation

ECONOMY

Main financers 2005

- the city of Vaasa, 1,3 meuro, part financing of the projects + rehabilitative work training
- local labour office (employment subsidies and expert consultations), 0,85 meuro
- projects: local Employment and Economic Development Centre+ the Provincial Government (youth programme)+ Finnish Slot Machine Association (group counsellor+psychologist), 0,7 meuro
- The Social Insurance Institution of Finland (unemployment subsidies + rehabilitative work training for mentally handicapped)

In February 2005 foundation administrates seven development projects + 3 minor project like tasks (1 administration of Equal + 1 as a sub project administrator).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROFITABILITY

The turnover in 2005 in budgeted up to 3,5 million €. Income from own business is budgeted up to 580.000 €, which is ca 22 % of the brutto expenses – **if it was 30-35 %, foundation would be economically and socially profitable to the society – SYTA-analyses.**

You can not keep people in store without expenses!

Future

After the three year starting phase by project financing the foundation tries to get more own incomes and longer contracts. Job orientation and youth services will be sold as service packages based on daily tariffs to employment authorities, to municipalities and to Social Insurance Institution of Finland, to private insurance companies too.

Challenges

- to tell to local entrepreneurs that our work has to have social and business like targets and is socially profitable, co-operation with other entrepreneurs

- to tell to political deciders that this kind of employment/social/education policy is really needed today – times have changed, target groups are more challenging than earlier
- develop the new branch in the region and have high quality in every service foundation provides, quality criteria are important

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