

Do not offer only  
square solutions  
– some people  
are round



VÄGEN UT! KOOPERATIVEN  
**20 ÅR!**  
 empowerment &  
 socialt företagande  
 2002-2022

"I know your work makes all the difference in people's lives and it gives me strength to continue my advocacy work for better living conditions for abused women and children and a society free from men's violence."  
 Katarina Björkgren, Head of Unit for violence prevention, Men's violence against women at the Swedish Gender Equality Agency.

"A group of people who thought outside the box, looked for innovative solutions to give new opportunities to people - real entrepreneurs, but this entrepreneur spirit was met by us, rule-driven bureaucrats. Not always easy, but it is when different roles sit down and discuss things that solutions are found. This is what happened then and this is what will happen in the future."  
 Henrik Svedberg, Head of the Association Älv&Kust

"You have given empowerment a real face, in a world that has a tendency to diminish people who fight against their own exclusion. In that way, you have influenced us all in our opinion on how important it is to see peoples' capacity instead of their shortcomings."  
 Ingvar Nilsson, Economist

Photo Anna Rehnberg and Vägen ut! kooperativen  
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# We do it together

What a year we had! Not only did we celebrated our 20th anniversary with old and new cooperation partners, we also got together with all our colleagues for a party, and we were awarded "Cooperative of the Year in Sweden" by Coompanion, We Effect and Fremia.

For 20 years, we have driven the development of Work Integration Social Enterprises, in order to create work inclusion and long-term change for those of us who have ended up far from the labour market. We have measured and communicated the effects that our job training has had on people's lives for a long time. This time, we have also looked at what a job means for those of us who have found employment. It feels great to get these numbers in black and white; read more about the impact on the next page.

We know that we will not create inclusion and participation on our own. We do it together with the business sector, the public sector and society in general. More and more companies and organizations are moving from charity and individual contributions to using their own businesses to create social benefits. It is through long-term business partnerships that we can build sustainable Work Integration Social Enterprises that create more jobs.

During the year, we have collaborated in an innovative way with Vägen ut! Mosaikfabriken. Together with Gårdstensbostäder, Familjebostäder and the City of Gothenburg Employment and Adult Education, trying new ways into the labour market.

Together with the IT company AvaniX in Mölndal, we have successfully started Vägen ut! Aspektra, who supplies reconditioned IT equipment and welcomes young people with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum in job training. We continue to deliver fruit baskets to the employees in the municipality of Gothenburg and we have received another reserved procurement for salad catering.

Together we work for a socially sustainable society, and we do it in arenas such as Stora Sociala Företagsdagen, CSR Västsverige, Forum for increased business between the public sector and idea-based companies, Gothenburg Municipality's Procurement Council, the Swedish Public Employment Service's national supplier forum, West Sweden's Chamber of Commerce employment network, Recovery network Gothenburg, Agreements with the society in general at local and regional level, as well as on Frihamnsdagarna, and others.

Together, we continue to create a better society for all of us!

**Gunilla Klingensjö**  
 CEO of Vägen ut!  
 kooperativen



# From powerlessness to empowerment

Our goal is to create employment. For us it is never about charity or short term solutions. We work on a long term basis where people are given the opportunities to re-enter the labour market after being excluded for a long time. We have asked our employees how their lives have been affected by being employed by Vägen ut! kooperativen.

Ever since our colleagues were employed by Vägen ut!

- 85%** experienced greater participation, meaning and objectives in life.
- 73%** have more faith in the future.
- 72%** improved their mental health.
- 80%** experienced better self-esteem / self-confidence.
- 67%** handle difficulties and problems better.



We run our companies as cooperatives as these develop people's self-esteem and empowerment.

- 60** of our employees are members of the cooperative where they work.

**"I have a greater chance of getting another job now, if I would like to."**

In our company culture, there is a belief in one's own power.

- 74%** experience they have increased responsibility during their time in Vägen ut!
- 44%** have had the opportunity to change to a new role or position during their time in Vägen ut!
- 19%** have changed to another cooperative during their employment at Vägen ut!

**"Today I can get a bank loan and fulfill my dreams. I am a role model for my children."**

Many of our employees have experience in recovering from addiction. Together, we have

**368 drug-free years.**

Our experience in addiction recovery creates a safe environment, where you can be yourself and where you can get the support to maintain your sobriety.



When parents get their life well organised, it not only affects their children's situation now, but also in their adult life. Together, we have

**121 children** of which 49 are under the age of 18.

**"My self-confidence has increased."**



**"I have gained financial security and feel involved in society."**

The gain for our employees when moving from a long-term dependence on benefits to being self-sufficient is obvious.

**54 MSEK** is how much society has gained from the fact the Vägen ut!s employees are now self-sufficient and pay their taxes (see page 7).



**"My lived experience creates trust, hope and credibility."**

From beneficiary to entrepreneur. Most of us were very far from getting into the labour market before we came to the Vägen ut! kooperativen.

- 40%** had not had a job in 3-10 years.
- 26%** had not had a job in more than 10 years or had never worked.

# Our work towards the Global Goals

We have been certified by the Swedish Environmental Base since 2016. We follow our environmental management system and are constantly making an effort to be better together. The Environment Group's focus is on biologic diversity and sustainable consumption.



## NO POVERTY

Our employees go from exclusion to self-sufficiency, increased empowerment and influence.



## GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEEING

We work on the entire chain, from drug-free housing, treatment, after-care and rehabilitation into the job market. We work 100% of our capacity.



## QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

All our employees undergo an extensive and adapted training program, with no pre-requirements.



## GENDER EQUALITY

Our business model builds on empowerment and aims at the process that will provide people control and the right to decide over their own lives.



## DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

All our profits are reinvested to create jobs..



## REDUCED INEQUALITIES

The people who work for us have different types of work disabilities. Being employed gives the children a good role model and breaks negative patterns.



## RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Our brand Hållbart från Vägen ut! makes products based on ecological and local raw materials, or recycled materials.



## LIFE ON LAND

In collaboration with Stadskupan Vägen ut! Service and Vägen ut! Kajskjul 46 has increased the biological diversity by fighting invasive species and creating diversity gardens.

Vägen ut! Aspektra's business concept is to **reuse** IT equipment to extend its life cycle.

At Kikås ÅVC i Mölndal we work together to find new ways to **circular business models** and jobs.

Vägen ut! Karins Döttrar produces **wax tablecloths made from recycled material** that are sold at the Gothenburg Botanical Garden.

Vägen ut! Kajskjul 46 serves only **vegetarian meals for conferences**, catering and employees.

Vägen ut! Ångås Trädgård has trained Vägen ut!'s employees in **bee-keeping** and ecological farming.

Vägen ut! Lärjeåns Kök & Trädgårdar has **created a children's garden** with a focus on biodiversity and pollinators.

Our gardens are certified by **KRAV**.

# Sustainable business

We reinvest all our profits to create more jobs. Our 2022 results show that 87 percent of our revenues are used to pay salaries and general payroll taxes. We are very proud of this!

## Vägen ut!'s financial development

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Net sales, KSEK	49,799	49,168	40,156	43,171	54,454
Profit after financial items, KSEK	675	-1,046	1,986	874	910
Gross wages, KSEK	29,509	27,814	26,629	31,483	35,972
% of turnover that goes to wages and employer contributions	78%	74%	84%	96%	87%

## Vägen ut! kooperativen

Number of companies	14
Number of employees – women	69
Number of employees – male	64
Number of employees – total	133
The number of children under the age of 18 is	49

## Society's cost savings

Activity subsidies, KSEK	4,632
Sickness benefit/rehab and activity support, KSEK	2,734
Income support/benefits, KSEK	3,738
Total, KSEK	11,104

The numbers are from Statistics Sweden (SCB) from 2021 and do not include any housing subsidies or other supplement financial aid.

## Transfers to the public sector

General payroll taxes paid, KSEK	9,790
Paid local taxes, KSEK	7,799
Wage support received, KSEK	-26,629
Total, KSEK	-9,040

## Socio-economic earnings, KSEK

54,000\*

### \*Socio-economic financial statement

To show what society gains from our employees having a job, we supplement our regular financial statements with a socio-economic financial statement. The socio-economic benefits are the public costs that are avoided, as well as the production value in the company. This method has been developed by the economists I. Nilsson and A. Wadeskog. Read more on [www.socioekonomi.se](http://www.socioekonomi.se) under Reports, From society's perspective by I. Nilsson och A. Wadeskog.

## Impact of the job training

273 persons have had job training with us. Of the 179 that finished:

**14%** moved on to employment. 8 started working with us at Vägen ut!

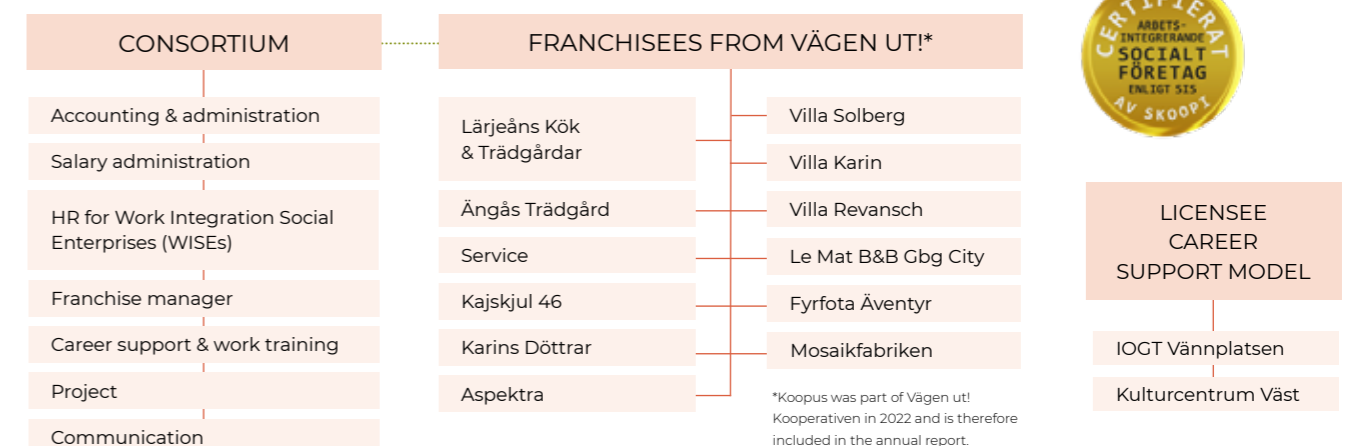
For **85%** it is important that the staff have their own experience.

**55 %** have experienced improved mental health.

The average work capacity has increased by **4,5 h** per week.

## Vägen ut! grows through social franchising

We know that it is a challenge to run a company. Become one of us and share our know-how, business development, inspiration, support, and market leading brand.



Vägen ut! kooperativen have 14 social companies with a total annual revenue of 54.5 MSEK. We are approximately 130 employees. Most of us have made the move from receiving benefits to entrepreneurship. More than 130 persons participate in the job training or live in our houses. Our companies are present in several places around the country through social franchising.



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