



Description of the social enterprise - information sheet

Lantgården Economic Association



A. Identification data	
1. Name of the enterprise	Lantgården
2. Location/Address of the enterprise	Stadsnära Lantgård i Lidköping ek fören, c/o Katarina Sundberg, Tröskgatan 6, 531 42 Lidköping, Sweden
3. Website of the enterprise	www.lantgarden.com
4. Legal organisational form	Economic association
B. Good practice of the social enterprise	
Aspects that recommend the social enterprise as a good practice in the particular sector.	Lantgården is a good example of a business within the green industry. Through good cooperation with the municipality, the employment office and local actors, we have been able to start up our operation. Good collaboration between everyone involved is essential for our possibilities to finance the start-up of the enterprise and the first year of operation. Coompanion has provided advice and support during the process which has been very important.
C. Context:	
1. Year of Founding	2014
2. Context of start-up – problem that the enterprise was set up to solve, economic social rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overbridging the gap between the countryside and the city, linking the present with the past, children and elderly people and letting them experience and learn from natural contact with animals, crops and farming surroundings. • Offering a way for unemployed, disabled or people suffering from long-time sickness to experience work within a farm and to contribute and being a part of its context. • Using the farm as a platform for learning and networking by stimulating organizations within learning, environment, craftsmanship, retention and so on to working together, organizing education, meetings, seminars and more
3. What are the Main Activities of the entity?	All functions within the farm, including taking care of the animals, property and machines. To take care of the daily care of the farm animals (cows, horses, chickens, pigs, etc.) We will work with growing plants (lettuce, potatoes, herbs, etc.) and flowers. This also applies to the cultivation of food to the farm animals.
4. Who are the Main stakeholders (i.e. members, clients, producers, etc.)?	The main stakeholders are the Government, the municipality, adult education organisations and the Region of West Sweden. The municipality can appoint one person as adjunct board member. The starters of the cooperative were 5 enthusiastic persons with great knowledge in agriculture and farming. New members can join but they must apply for membership to the Board.

<p>5. Geographic coverage with respect to:</p> <p>i) to production of services and/or goods and</p> <p>ii) market/consumers or beneficiaries, clients, etc.</p>	<p>This is a local farm near the city of Lidköping</p> <p>The farm is situated very close to the city (of Lidköping) and welcomes everybody - people living in or the municipality can travel by foot, bicycle, bus or car. Visitors and tourists from further away may also come by bus or by car. The city of Lidköping is situated in the southwest of Sweden. Lidköping municipality has about 38,000 inhabitants. New members can be from outside area.</p>
<p>D. Ownership Structure</p>	
<p>1. What is the ownership structure of the entity: i.e., does the entity have shareholders, owners/members, donors, trustees, investors, etc.?</p>	<p>The organization is owned by the members. Some are going to be employees but most of the members will contribute by working for free as volunteers.</p>
<p>2. If membership, is membership open or closed? Is exclusivity required?</p>	<p>Open membership, the only demand is that members to be are sharing the belief in human rights, equality and that person has a value and can contribute.</p>
<p>3. Is a capital contribution required? If so, how much? Is equity capital unallocated or individualised?</p>	<p>Members pay an entrance deposit (100 Swedish crowns) and thereafter a yearly fee (300 SEK).</p>
<p>4. Describe in a few words the voting distribution (e.g. one member-one vote; proportional to equity contribution; proportional to use, etc.).</p>	<p>One member – one vote.</p>
<p>5. Describe in a few words the main benefits for members or owners.</p>	<p>The main benefits are the possibility to work with interesting and meaningful tasks, doing something good for you, for others and for the municipality and experience affinity and solidarity.</p>
<p>6. Indicate any <u>main changes</u> in ownership over the lifetime of the entity.</p>	<p>Not the case.</p>
<p>E. Governance</p>	
<p>1. Describe the governance structure of the entity (board, management, committees, etc.), number of members and method of selection (appointed or elected and by whom).</p>	<p>The General Assembly composed by all 18 current members. There is a Board of five persons, elected by the General Assembly. Most of the cooperatives have a Nomination committee that proposes to the General Assembly who will sit in the board. But it is the General Assembly which decides at the end.</p> <p>When a new cooperative is formed there is no nomination committee. With this occasion it's the (new) members who choose persons to the Board. Next year, at the General Assembly there shall be a Nomination committee.</p>

	<p>The 5 members of the board are 3 full members and 2 stand-ins alternates: in place of a board member who cannot attend the meeting/which is absent. There is one person from the municipality in the board (has the function of adjunct)</p> <p>The chairperson is also working (unpaid) in the organization, mainly with management and business administration. The vice chairman is also the director of the organisation.</p>
2. Is there an entity or process for oversight of the board?	The General Assembly, accountants and the Tax Agency oversees the Board.
3. Are there external independent board members?	One person from the municipality has the function of adjunct to the board and may attend at any meeting.
4. Are there term limits for board members?	<p>There are no term limits. The board is evaluated and re-elected on yearly basis, by the members.</p> <p>The first year half of the Board are elected for a term of 2 years and half elected for 1 year so that they overlap. The following years: the Board Members who are being considered for re-election (or election). This means that the entire Board does not leave at the same time. The chairman is elected usually for 1 year at the time (and can be re-elected).</p>
5. What is the gender composition of the board?	The chairman and vice chairman are women, and so is the third member. The two stand-ins are men (alternates: in place of a board member who cannot attend the meeting/which is absent).
6. Describe management and board salary/ compensation policies and how they are decided/determined?	Not the case.
F. Profit/ benefits/ surplus distribution policies	
1. Describe briefly the distribution policies and procedures for profits / benefits / surplus	All profits are reinvested in the company. No liabilities for the members.
2. Are members/owners liable for losses of entity? Describe how liability is shared.	
G. Strategy: highlight approaches adopted to address the identified challenges	
1. Describe briefly the business strategy looking at aspects like: main products/services, market niche, market	<p>Three main areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public farm. This mission is paid for by the municipality and contains demands of certain animals and certain crops to be held on the farm. There must be an average of open hours at least five hours a

<p>share, quality and pricing/costs and <u>main changes</u> occurred in time.</p>	<p>day on a yearly basis and there must be a farm-host present during these hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social company. (Work Integration social enterprise) People further away from the labour market (due to long time sickness, unemployment, disabilities or newly arrived to the country may work on the farm. Mostly paid for by the Working Agency of Sweden, this co-operation is recently started. • The farm as a platform for learning and networking. The farm with all its contents is offered as a platform for other organizations for courses, seminars, meetings, networking, projects etc.
<p>2. Describe briefly the relation between the business strategy and the social mission of the enterprise.</p>	<p>The business strategy is strongly connected to the insight of necessity of profit as a tool for possibility to develop the farm to higher standards and to be able to offer more people a place to enjoy, work on or learn from.</p>
<p>3. Please describe briefly the strategic partners or alliances that the enterprise has.</p>	<p>The contact with the municipal government is fundamental. Without good contact with politicians and officials from the municipality, it is very difficult to start and run a work integrating social enterprises. There is also a close cooperation with the employment service and the social insurance offices.</p> <p>Lantgården is a member of PASS, the newly formed umbrella organization for the work integrating social enterprises in our region. Its role is to support, lobbying and carry out joint training activities and seminars. The objective of PASS is to strengthen the work integrating social enterprises position and status in society. Through investments in education, they can grow and become stronger in the market.</p> <p>There is also a national association for the work integrating social enterprises, SKOOP (www.skoop.coop) they can become members. A membership which also involves a subsidized fee to become a member of The Co-operative Employers' Association KFO (www.kfo.se/Om-KFO/Internationellt)</p>
<p>4. Please describe briefly the methods and practices of communication/relationships with Stakeholders (members, community, donors, NGOs, etc.),</p>	<p>Regular meetings and follow-ups with our key partners, both at local, regional and national level.</p> <p>The organisation communicates with its members at the annual meeting and through mail, newsletters, social media, etc.</p>
<p>5. Innovation and key performance factors</p>	<p>The farm is situated just by the town/city and there are processes containing animals and retention, cultivating, gardening, housekeeping, carpeting, painting also. All of these factors are rare in one enterprise (maybe unique in Sweden).</p>
<p>6. Human resources - personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of employees - No. of volunteers - No. of members 	<p>3 employees 15 active volunteers 18 members.</p>

6.1. For Work Integration social enterprise - **The social company.** (Work Integration social enterprise) People further away from the labour market (due to vulnerable employees if the case (i.e.), to long time sickness, unemployment, disabilities or newly arrived to the country may work on the farm, work integration plan/programmed used mostly paid for by the Working Agency of Sweden. and management structure

H. Outcomes: results achieved and lessons learned

- Yearly social and economic results – every 5 years since start-up, and/or the last 3 years
 - Assets (raw numbers)
 - Capital (raw numbers)
 - Production
 - Turnover /sales
 - Profit/loss
 - Social benefits - describe the benefit to members (membership), indicators used to evaluate the enterprise.
- This is the first year for the enterprise. The municipality is contributing with a yearly amount of 480.000 SEK and approx. 1.6 million SEK for the start-up. Project funding is held by the region of Västra Götaland of 200.000 SEK.

Contact info

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