



BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Agency Plus
Integrating Economic and
Environmental Sustainability

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Co-funded by
the European Union

Agency Plus

– Integrating Economic and Environmental Sustainability

Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	Agency + by <u>Coompanion</u> Coompanion promotes entrepreneurship that safeguards social, economic and environmental sustainability. Their work results in companies that take social responsibility, local development and a diversity of ownership models in Swedish business life.
Geographical scope	Local, covering the entire Örebro County and Värmland County regions
Sources of funding	Project partners are ABF nationally, IF Metall nationally, and Coompanion Sweden.
Duration of the initiative	Two years, January 2023 - December 2024
Target audience	Unemployed, low-educated, working-class professionals
Social justice focus area	Economic empowerment and environmental justice The project aims to enhance the influence of ABF, IF Metall, and Coompanion Sweden on the Swedish labor market through three main initiatives: competence development, leadership, and regional collaboration (Cluster Work).
Goals of the initiative	Facilitate regional collaboration through Cluster Work, supporting joint problem-solving and project development among organizations. Strengthen participants in their roles, thereby reinforcing the unions' influence on the labor market at the individual level. Promote the green transition by advocating for and operating according to green policies, supporting the broader goals of the European Green Deal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

Good Practices Description

Stakeholder engagement in the process

Information not available.

Methodology used

Employees and elected officials in Coompanions and other cooperative organizations/companies are offered the opportunity to participate in a university education of 7.5 credits at Södertörn University. They offer an orientation training and idea development process on how our (cooperative) idea and its values can be applied to current societal challenges. And thus how the organization with its (cooperative) competence can contribute to social innovation and sustainable development. Together with Coompanion, Södertörn University has created an opportunity for studying and reflecting on the idea and role in own cooperative business. In the course, reflecting on current concepts such as social enterprises, social innovation, social economy, the idea-based and non-profit sector and civil society.

Participants get the opportunity for reflection and a deeper understanding of the challenges that society faces today and that you work or will work with. The purpose of the training is to strengthen the participants', and thereby the cooperation's, opportunities to develop the cooperative idea to meet society's challenges, by developing the ability to:

- Identify and take part in historical perspectives on, theories about, and current practices in cooperation and cooperative development .
- Explain central concepts within challenge-driven development work and social innovations in relation to cooperation and cooperative development.
- Identify opportunities and obstacles for social, economic and environmentally sustainable development in your own business and in society.
- Using scientific perspectives, analyze the conditions for and reflect on challenge-driven development work and social innovations in one's own organizations and in society.
- Problematize and reflect on the role of the current field of activity in meeting challenges in today's society.

The project holds 6-8 meetings, both physical and digital, over up to one year, starting in November 2023.

There are opportunities for exchange between regional clusters across the country.

Core groups from each organization will receive training and attend inspirational lectures, integrating green transition strategies into their learning.

The project uses conversations, exercises, lectures, and other interactive methods that also include education on sustainable practices and the EU's climate goals.

Teaching approaches

Conversations, exercises, lectures, etc.

Challenges and outcomes

Key factors contributing to success

Key success factors include finding common ground among the three organizations and leveraging each other's strengths for collaborative projects.

Environmental development is included in education programs as relevant for participants' own businesses, supporting them to identify opportunities and obstacles related to this field, when it comes to their own business. Therefore, the program adjusts the topic of green transition to the specific business needs of participants.

Encountered difficulties and challenges

Challenges include fostering effective collaboration and aligning the organizations' strengths and contributions while integrating sustainable practices in line with the EU Green Deal.

Recommendations

Green transition can be incorporated in business and entrepreneurship related programs in a way that is relevant to participants' specific needs and goals. Participants join the programs with the aim to develop business and entrepreneurship related competences, which are then integrated with environmental education responsive to participants needs.

Impact

Not available at the time of writing as the project is still ongoing.