

Best Practice Examples of successful Social Enterprises

Omakylä Vuolenkoski Oy (Own Village Vuolenkoski Ltd.)

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<http://vuolenkoski.fi/fi/yrittajat/omakylavuolenkoski> (Own Village Vuolenkoski Ltd.)



Social Mission/key social objectives

The mission of Omakylä Vuolencoski is to foster community and develop the village by supporting local services and local entrepreneurship, as well as strengthening the share capital of the village's limited company.

Main Activity

 Community

Business Structure

 Public utility limited liability company (yleishyödyllinen osakeyhtiö)

Background

Omakylä Vuolencoski is a business and development company owned entirely by the villagers themselves. The company has a total of 139 shareholders, including both permanent and seasonal residents of the village, as well as local businesses. All of Omakylä's profits are reinvested into the development of the Vuolencoski village, benefiting its residents.

Year established: 2007

Numbers employed: None

Range of activities

- Village development
- Attracting new residents
- Ensuring the availability of building plots
- Maintaining and renting out business premises
- Maintaining and developing infrastructure
- Improving tourism and village services
- Supporting the utilization of digitalization
- Increasing residents' sense of community and well-being through joint activities

Target groups/clients

Target groups are people living in the village.

Business Model

The Village Ltd is run by voluntary basis by the members of the village association. They are gathering some funds to maintain the village activities by creating income from renting premises, offering local services and different cooperation agreements with the municipality.

Lessons learnt/Tips for success

"Focusing on obstacles leads to defeat, thinking about solutions leads to success".

(Panchatantra)

- The foundation of village activities is formed upon the people and the existing resources in the village.
- The company's activities must be collective and shared: the village enterprise's operations should not be identified with just one person.
- Promises must be kept: gaining trust not only reflects on the methods of collaboration but also influences how funding, for example from the municipality, is granted.
- Running a village company differs from running a village association: the business must tolerate risk-taking and might involve making tough decisions.
- It is important to ensure the continuity of the activities.

Funding



Income from Activities

Main challenges and obstacles in progressing/developing

Main challenges and obstacles are related to the complex legislation of running a business. There is a need for more comprehensive legal guidance to support community-based social entrepreneurship which considers the laws and regulations of association activities that combine with business activities and vice versa.

What supports have been most useful to the development?

In addition to the funding, there is a need for further networking, information exchange, and peer support to get guidance, advice and best practices.