

Local Partnership and VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- Sweden

The social enterprise [Mamas Retro](#) is a second-hand shop in Gothenburg, Sweden, specialised in children's articles.

The successful social enterprise was initiated in 2011 by [forum SKILL](#), an NGO and resource organisation, aiming at promoting human rights through the creation of a model for work based on methods, structures and tools for a sustainable development and communication for entrepreneurs in the sector of social enterprises.

The idea was to encourage entrepreneurship among unemployed women and transgender persons with intellectual or neuropsychiatric disabilities, and to challenge the stereotype image of entrepreneurs. Job training at Mamas Retro is also procured by the local employment agency and the municipal departments for social welfare in order to support persons with disabilities who wish to enter or re-enter the work market.

The store started as a project providing education, new experiences and knowledge which will increase opportunities for empowerment. Today, Mamas Retro is an established non-profit organization and a social enterprise that shows that women with disabilities may well start-up and run a successful business.

Mamas Retro was selected winner of the [REVES Excellence Award 2015](#).

- Poland

The creation of the Sopot Model of Social Economy (SMSE) began in September 2012, when the Social Economy Local Agreement was signed by the Mayor of Sopot, some local companies and the following NGOs: Caritas Gdansk, Association "On the expression road" (Stowarzyszenie Na Drodze Ekspresji), Association "Friendly Sopot" (Stowarzyszenie „Przyjazny Sopot”), St. Brother Albert Aid Society (Towarzystwo Pomocy im. Św. Brata Alberta Koło Gdańskie), and Foundation of Sustainable Development and Professional Activation of Disabled (Fundacja Zrównoważonego Rozwoju i Aktywności Zawodowej Osób Niepełnosprawnych „Zadba”).

The objective of the partnership was to solve local social problems. In particular, the goal was to develop social economy activities in Sopot, aiming at social and professional reintegration of socially excluded inhabitants.

The result was the establishment of "Kooperacja"- Social Cooperative as well as setting foundations for Sopot Social Entrepreneurship Incubator (SIPS), whose construction was completed in April 2015.

Unemployed people were involved in the creation of SIPS from the very beginning. AQUA Sopot, in cooperation with the Municipal Social Welfare Centre in Sopot and the District Labour Office in Gdynia, has established social construction brigades composed of eight long-term unemployed and homeless persons. After finishing the construction of the incubator, these eight persons were permanently employed by the company and sent to courses and professional trainings. In addition, seven workers employed by the cooperative "Kooperacja" were involved in the building of the incubator. As a result of the activities undertaken in the incubator, the unemployed will gain new qualifications and will function independently in the community.

Partnership within the Sopot Model of Social Economy is constantly developing and is based on the idea of "socially responsible territory", which consists in making better use of Sopot's natural resources as well as other resources, including the cultural and human capital. In the process of participatory management, services are designed to increase the quality of life in our region by increasing social cohesion, sustainable development, economic efficiency and activation of citizens.

Sopot Model of Social Economy received a special mention for the [REVES Excellence Award 2015](#).

- Germany

The German programme „Verbundausbildung“ (promoting vocational training in networks) was specifically created to provide young people who did not find any apprenticeship training positions on the so-called first labour market with the possibility to successfully complete vocational training.

The objective is to increase the number of training positions particularly in small and medium enterprises through the involvement of an additional partner organisation that would take over specific tasks in order to discharge enterprises offering vocational training. Federal government, Bundesländer and enterprises thus share costs and tasks.

Pfefferwerk Stadtkultur gGmbH in Berlin participates actively in the implementation of the programme (to date, more than 200 young people successfully passed their final exams).

What does this mean?

Pfefferwerk Stadtkultur gGmbH

- is allocated a specific number of publicly co-funded training positions for pre-defined professions (e.g. computer specialists, media designers, sound engineers, event technologists or clerks),
- selects apt candidates, negotiates and concludes the training contract for the whole duration of the training,
- searches for interested and adequate partner enterprises and concludes contracts with them,
- provides the apprentices, in the beginning of the training period, through its own staff and in its own premises, with basic theoretical knowledge and practical skills for the aforementioned professions (after six months, the apprentices continue their training in the partner enterprises),
- coordinates the training schedule, over the whole training period, with vocational schools and enterprises,
- pays the training allowance and takes care of the apprentices with regard to content of the training and organisational questions,
- acts as a contact also for the partner enterprises.