

# REVES EXCELLENCE AWARD 2017

*Application form*



▪ **Part A: APPLICANT'S DETAILS**

Name of the organization: Nya RågsvedsFolkets Hus (NRFH) – (Community House of Rågsved)

Type of organization: Cooperative - local support structure for community initiatives also providing legal and other services to the citizens in the area

Address: Rågsvedstorget 11, 124 65 Bandhagen

City: Stockholm

Country: Sweden

Contact person: Leif Rönngren

E-mail: leif.politik@gmail.com

Mobile: 0046707569007

▪ **Part B: DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE**

1. Name of the initiative: Nya Rågsveds Folkets Hus (NRFH)

2. For which topic(s) are you applying?

NRFH is very broad in its approach covering all population groups of Rågsved promoting a large number of their initiatives. (social, culture, integration etc). Regarding the groups/themes mentioned below integration of migrants/refugees, youth capacity building and child poverty are directly targeted.

- Integration of migrants/refugees
- Digital economy
- European Structural and Investment Funds (in particular the implementation of Community-Led Local Development, CLLD)
- Youth capacity building
- Child poverty and vulnerability
- Transfer of enterprises (e.g. worker buy-out phenomenon)

# REVES EXCELLENCE

## AWARD 2017

*Application form*



3. Please describe the context of the initiative, providing also information about the identification of perceived needs and constraints in the target group(s).

Rågsved is a Stockholm suburb of the 50's. A modern working class area when built which successively receded into a derelict area where low income, high unemployment and a low education level prevail. 12 000 inhabitants, of which a very high share of inhabitants of foreign origin (68 per cent).

As one response to the situation NRFH was created in 1997 to involve citizens and local civil society.

4. Which are the main objectives of the initiative?

*(Max 5 lines)* Within a broad public/private/social partnership to organize a democratic infrastructure for bottom up participation and social cohesion by giving disadvantaged citizens access to facilities promoting jobs, education, culture through their associations and cooperation between those..

5. Please describe the initiative, including the actors involved and the concrete activities.

*(Max 25 lines)* NRFH is a local support structure for community initiatives as well as it provides legal and other services to the citizens in the area. It is very broad in its approach covering all population groups of Rågsved promoting a large number of their initiatives. (employment, social, culture, integration etc) Employs nearly 100 persons; around 30 permanent workers in NRFH and its affiliated social enterprises and another 60 persons in employment and job-training activities financed by the public labour market authorities.

NRFH is a membership organization (based on cooperative principles; one member-one vote) Members (around 35) are local voluntary associations and networks of individual associations (organizing ethnical groups, youth, elderly, women etc) as well as local political parties and trade unions. NRFH works closely with its different members to solve their needs. NRFH is active in setting up new voluntary associations by giving advice

NRFH works in a close partnership with the decentralized local city authority administration of the area.

It works also closely together with the local association of private business in the area

# REVES EXCELLENCE

## AWARD 2017

*Application form*



NRFH is the owner of two social enterprises (recycling and catering/events) which provides jobs to long term unemployed in the area. Total 20 employees

Other concrete activities – where NRFH takes part together with their partners - include for instance Integration of newly arrived refugees and EU migrants, Preventive actions for elderly, Summer jobs for youth, Organizing meeting place for drug addicts Defense of social and economic rights of the individual citizen towards the local and central public authorities, New green technology based on circular economy for underground cultivation. City gardening and greening open spaces, Security in public space, Street arts and graffiti, Arts gallery (Swedish excellency award 2016) Social food shop (social enterprise for food distribution – lower prices, reducing waste). Boxing Club, Children activities including help to school homework.

6. Please highlight the strengths of your approach, stressing also the elements that make it a real partnership.

*(Max 10 lines)*

- The organization of a meeting place recognized and well known by everyone in the community,
- Easy access for everyone
- Developing new initiatives e.g actually circular economy and actions against hate crime
- Support to voluntary associations on their conditions
- Support to create new associations (examples Boxing Club, ex-convicts, AA)
- The very close cooperation with the decentralized services of the city of Stockholm particularly children, elderly, social services
- Support by local political parties – some of them are members - in the process
- The very close collaboration with local private business

# REVES EXCELLENCE

## AWARD 2017

### *Application form*



7. Please explain who are the partners, what exactly is their role and what is their concrete contribution to the initiative.

- The members – having their say in the NRFH, putting their demands to NRFH to find solutions, organizing joint projects with NRFH
- The public (city and state authorities) – recognizing NFHR as a partner, finding joint solutions to local community problems
- Local private business (common projects on employment, green technology and security)
- Other non-member partners are using the facilities (e.g. the regional adult education association, the national trade union help center for undocumented workers)
- Not to forget that NRFH is a member of a nation wide association of community houses where it is used as a pilot example

8. Which are the main results – if already visible – resulting from the described initiative; and how do you imagine the continuation of this action?

*(Max 10 lines)*

- Concrete responses to the needs of the citizens in Rågsved – a lot of activities and events are organized, jobs are created, job-training enhanced, education level is raised, concrete culture projects (e.g. Arts Gallery) implemented
- More participation of citizens
- Recognition at the level of the city of Stockholm and Sweden (study visits from outside and even abroad, quotes in the media etc)
- Social innovations are inherent in the project as the NRFH has a holistic view involving many partners and being the catalysator for ideas to create community welfare. Developing green technology is a recent social innovation
- The action will continue
- An important goal is to spread the model to other communities

9. Please provide some details on how you raised the resources for the initiative. (This is not an element to be judged by the jury – however, it is important to readers of our Yearbook in which eligible initiatives will be presented.)

# REVES EXCELLENCE

## AWARD 2017

*Application form*



*(Max 5 lines)*

At the start in 1997 a small local authority subsidy was not sufficient to run the project. Therefore NRFH was obliged to create market activities for sale  
To-day turnover is around SEK 20 million from the activities (sales from social enterprises, events etc). A local authority subsidy of SEK 1,4 million is granted to the community house.