



# “ Agreement

Between the social economy in the County of Västra  
Götaland and the Västra Götaland Region

# AGREEMENT

## Agreement between the social economy in the County of Västra Götaland and the Västra Götaland Region

The purpose of the Agreement is to establish an evenly balanced dialogue between the various representatives from the social economy in the County of Västra Götaland and the Västra Götaland Region and to increase the level of knowledge of each other among the parties concerned. The Agreement also aims to bring about greater partnership between the social economy and the Västra Götaland Region.

The knowledge and experience that exist in Västra Götaland should be utilised optimally, primarily through various forms of collaboration and interchange. Through the Agreement, the social economy and the Västra Götaland Region aim to create a firm foundation for a sustainable society based on the involvement of the people in the region and at the same establish trust in each other's unique mission. This would be facilitated if we could reach agreement in Västra Götaland on the principles for how this ambition could be realised.

The Västra Götaland Region is a politically controlled organisation with responsibility for healthcare and welfare as well as growth and development. The Region's vision *The Good Life* is the basis of all the work related to how Västra Götaland will develop in order to be an attractive region in which to live and work. The good life for the region's inhabitants includes good health, housing, work, education, safety and security, a sense of community and involvement in society. This also means that we satisfy the needs of children and young people, that we capitalise on the potential of everyone regardless of background, functionality or ability, and that we create a good environment in which renewable systems are safeguarded through sustainable development that generates resources for everyone. There should also be a rich and varied cultural life.

## What is the social economy?

The social economy differs from the private sector and public sector as it comprises organisations in which societal benefit and member benefit are the primary objectives. It also safeguards the interests of people and society without having economic gain as the overriding aim. The social economy is preserved and promoted mainly through associations, cooperatives, religious communities, foundations and similar organisations.



## Our vision

Cooperation and active dialogue are the cornerstones in the creation of a sustainable society that offers better prerequisites for developing *The Good Life* in Västra Götaland.

## Objectives

- Work together to bring about sustainable development through the application of social, economic and environmental solutions
- Capitalise on the commitment and involvement of all the inhabitants from an individual and organisational perspective
- Work to promote diversity in entrepreneurship
- Create structures for collaboration and mutual respect
- Encourage cooperation
- Ensure the region adopts a uniform approach to the social economy

## Objectives 2017

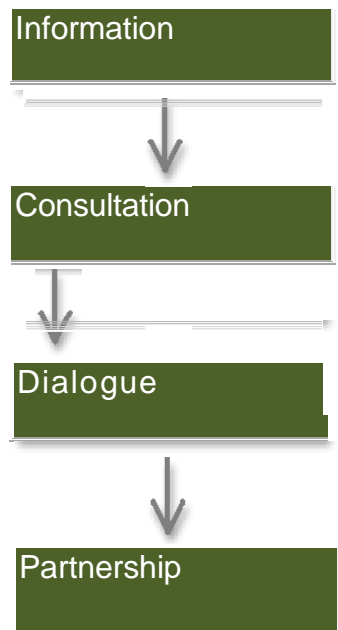
- A working organisation that is firmly established for both the social economy and the Västra Götaland Region.
- An organisation in which politicians, officials, individuals and organisations in the social economy work together, forming a hub for dissemination, information and dialogue.
- The social economy is a collaborative partner within all operations and activities in the Västra Götaland Region.
- More agreements (collaboration agreements and ideological, nonprofit partnership agreements) have been entered into.
- Local agreement processes have commenced in the Västra Götaland Region as a basis for local and subregional activities.
- Relations have led to new implementers and service providers.
- A procurement process that facilitates the situation for all parties in the social economy.
- Greater awareness in the Västra Götaland Region of the potential of the social economy.
- The build-up of a knowledge base to benefit development and innovations founded on the experience of all the parties involved and their participation in the process.
- Individuals who are firmly outside the labour market are given new opportunities to secure work and be included in various social networks.
- There is increased involvement and understanding of each other's unique mission.

## What are the principles on which the Agreement is based?

The Agreement is based on the six principles in the national social sector agreement signed in 2008 by the government, ideological, nonprofit organisations and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. These principles have been worked on through dialogue meetings, conferences and other meetings to examine what they entail for the Västra Götaland Region and the social economy and how we can work with the principles on a practical level.

- 1st Principle: Dialogue
- 2nd Principle: Long-term thinking
- 3rd Principle: Quality
- 4th Principle: Openness and insight
- 5th Principle: Independence and impartiality
- 6th Principle: Diversity

Our action plan stipulates measures and responsibility for each principle to assure implementation. To see the results, four levels of collaboration/involvement will be evaluated.



## Joint responsibility and undertakings

Both the Västra Götaland Region and the social economy are responsible for disseminating the content of the Agreement to committees, boards and administrations in all the operating areas within the Västra Götaland Region as well as organisations and associations.

The Västra Götaland Region and the social economy have different roles. An agreement, however, implies a sense of equality, marked by respect for the different roles, conditions and fundamental values.

The following are examples of areas that can be developed jointly and around which an exchange of experience and knowledge can take place:

- Growth and entrepreneurship
- Welfare development
- Healthcare
- Social welfare
- Public health
- Culture
- Diversity
- Infrastructure
- Rights issues
- Education
- Lifelong learning
- Environment
- Communication
- Physical planning

The parties to the Agreement see a particular value in the nonprofit approach assumed by organisations within the social economy. The Agreement should contribute to creating the requisite conditions for joint initiatives that lead to greater involvement, reduced exclusion and a sustainable society.

Based on the above positions, as well as the measures and responsibility in the Action Plan 2015-2017, each party will be responsible for their respective undertakings.

The parties agree to make the Agreement known and work to support initiatives aimed at partnership and collaboration on a regional level.

The parties in each organisation must safeguard the interests of the members with regard to involvement and participation in work related to the Agreement.

The parties must work together to monitor implementation of the Agreement on a continuous basis and develop its content.

# Action Plan 2015 -2017



## 1st Principle

### Dialogue

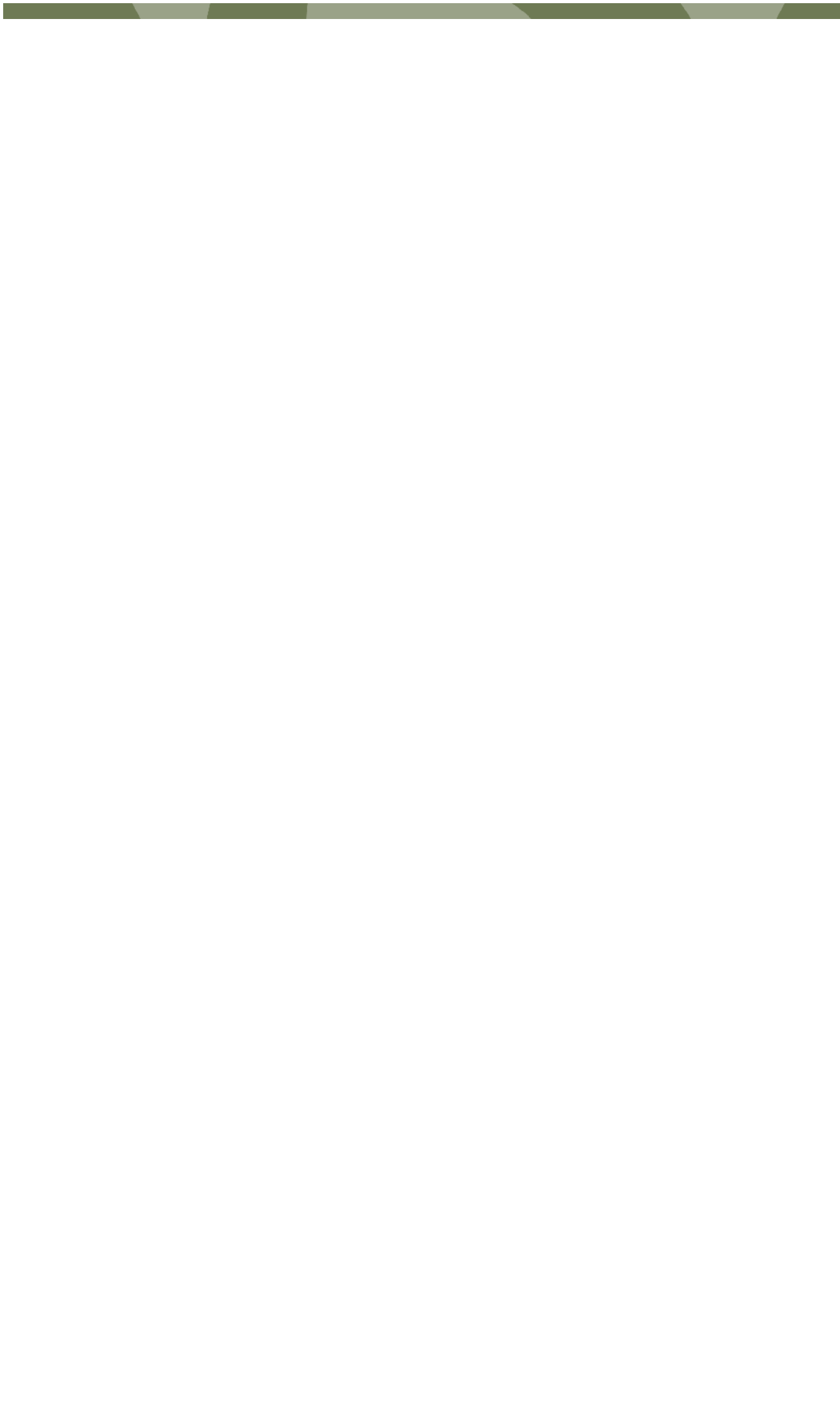
*By adopting a dialogue-based approach founded on common core issues, we can shift the focus from economy to processes.*

#### Measures

- Increased knowledge of each other's work and individuality.
- Continuously and systematically meet and reinforce interaction within new and existing structures.
- Common areas for development should be identified.

#### Responsibility

- The Regional Executive Board is responsible for maintaining a structure for the meetings and dialogues between representatives for the social economy and the Västra Götaland Region.
- Each panel/committee/board within the Västra Götaland Region is responsible for developing a dialogue with relevant parties within the social economy in accordance with the Agreement and the Action Plan.
- The social economy initiates and assumes responsibility, ensuring that more players within the social economy are involved in different collaboration and partnership contexts.







## 2nd Principle

### Long-term thinking

*By creating common, long-term structures, we can make it possible for representatives within the social economy to assume a clearer role in society based on their own aspirations and circumstances. The social economy needs to be made more visible in structures that are already established.*

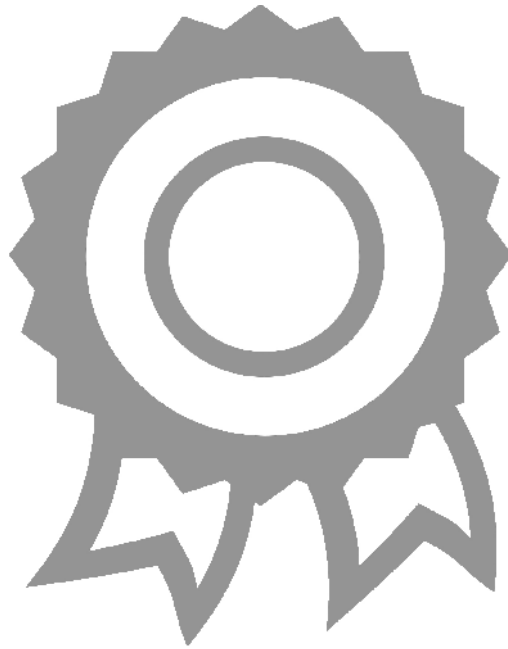
#### Measures

- Create long-term solutions and work to simplify, for example, applications and contacts. Work to establish a common language that is more accessible.
- Through partnership provide the prerequisites for players within the social economy to work in the long term – through social enterprises for example. Long-term solutions can counteract social exclusion.
- Examine forms for more long-term support systems/agreements/assignments from the region for activities that are being pursued within the social economy.
- Identify joint areas for development.
- Create an organisation for a continued Agreement process that incorporates a joint action group, administrative resources and finances.

#### Responsibility

- The Regional Executive Board is responsible for facilitating the establishment of new and/or long-term forms of support/procurement/agreements.
- The Regional Executive Board is responsible for the continuation of the Agreement process.
- Ensuring that there is the requisite competence and the organisation within the social economy to become a provider and/or contractor within the Region's operating areas.





### 3rd Principle

## Quality

*The public sector as a social structure is dependent on the development that takes place within associations and societies. The voluntary sector paves the way for good quality of life in the community through its local involvement and by providing the prerequisites for the inhabitants in the region to develop. The voluntary sector is also a quality factor in the sustainable development of the local community, in cultural development and in social sustainability.*

### Measures

- Adopt a common, long-term approach to improve quality for the individual and society.
- Work to bring about intelligible and manageable support systems.
- Facilitate access to the activities taking place in the region, both geographically and functionally, through collaboration with the social economy.
- Identify joint development areas.

### Responsibility

- Each panel/committee/board in the region is responsible for determining how operational quality can be developed together with parties within the social economy.
- The parties within the social economy are responsible for maintaining a good level of quality with a clear set of values.



#### 4th Principle

## Openness and insight

*Mutual trust between the Västra Götaland Region and the social economy is based on a willingness to promote openness. Increased involvement requires uniformity and a simplified language to ensure that we have a greater understanding of each other's work.*

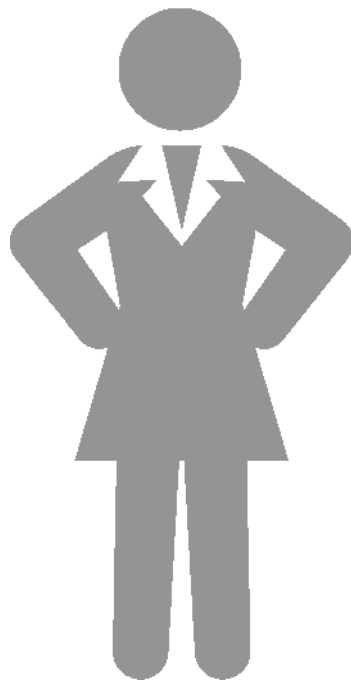
### Measures

- Strive to establish confidence and trust between the Västra Götaland Region and the social economy.
- Find ways of establishing a common language.
- Achieve openness and insight through dialogue and participation.
- Maintain support structures between the social economy and the region.

### Responsibility

- The Västra Götaland Region is responsible for ensuring that resources are available for support structures within the social economy.
- The Västra Götaland Region is responsible for facilitating communication between the region, local authorities, local authority associations and the social economy.
- Social economy representatives are responsible for facilitating communication between the different players on the regional and subregional level.





## 5th Principle

# Independence and impartiality

*The social economy is free and independent. Parties within the social economy formulate their social remit based on their values and are entitled to express views that differ from a collaborating authority without impacting on the position of the organisation.*

## Measures

- Capitalise on the views and insights of the social economy to increase insight and independence.
- Work to ensure that similar conditions prevail between the region and the social economy.
- Provide parties within the social economy with the prerequisites for taking innovative action as entrepreneurs, managers, welfare coordinators and motivators.
- Monitor an overview of the region's rules and grant allocation system to facilitate interaction with the social economy.
- The social economy is given the opportunity to be involved at an early stage in different processes.
- Identify common development areas.

## Responsibility

- The Regional Executive Board is responsible for providing assignments within the organisation to ensure that the independence and impartiality of the social economy are reinforced.
- The social economy is generally responsible for developing operations through value-based initiatives.



## 6th Principle

# Diversity

*Through the Agreement, we assume joint responsibility and welcome different starting points. The Agreement will form a foundation for greater tolerance and inclusion and will build on democratic values. A wide range of players within the different operating areas will provide the prerequisites for solutions that help to break down social exclusion – either of oneself or someone else.*

*The concept of diversity in this context means that the publicly funded welfare system welcomes the social economy as a provider with a variety of value-based or method-based starting points. The differences should be regarded as an asset when they are founded on democratic values.*

## Measures

- Stimulate the diversity of provider organisations.
- Broaden the procurement process to offer opportunities for more players.
- Provide the parties within the social economy with the prerequisites for developing diversity in the welfare society within, for example, integration, rural development, opportunities for the functionally impaired and the involvement of children and young people in the community.
- Identify joint development areas.

## Responsibility

- Each panel/committee/board in the Västra Götaland Region is responsible for examining and, if possible, initiating greater diversity at the provider level through collaboration with operating areas within the social economy.
- The social economy is responsible for ensuring that greater competence exists within the sector to allow more people to become providers.
- Coordination and knowledge are required between organisations to create a state of preparedness for shared responsibility at the provider level.

## What form will the follow-up and revision of the Action Plan take?

- Follow-up takes place each year via working groups, evaluations and a conference.
- Revision of the Agreement takes place through consultative forums and seminars held every third year.

An agreement presupposes that – over time – a joint action group is in place with the same number of representatives from the social economy as from the Västra Götaland Region.

The responsibilities of the joint action group are:

- Meet on a regular basis – 4-12 times each year.
- Follow up undertakings and measures via the implementation and follow-up indicators in accordance with the Action Plan
- Provide information to all the parties concerned each year.
- Revise the Action Plan every third year.



Would you like to know more about the Agreement?

Go to our website: [www.vgregion.se/overenskommelsen](http://www.vgregion.se/overenskommelsen) or contact one of our process leaders:



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Camilla Olsson  
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Is your organisation interested in signing the Agreement?  
Contact one of the above process leaders.

25-11-2014

Agreement adopted by the  
Västra Götaland Regional Council