

SWEDEN

Training and information

Location

Växjö

Programming period

2007 -2013

Axis / Priority

Axis 3 –The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

Measure

M331 -Training and information

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 75 000
RDP support 11 500
Private 63 500

Project duration

2010 –2012

Project promoter

Cooperative association
'MackeniAraby'

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A cooperative association in Sweden received EAFRD support to offer a tailored course aimed at immigrants, building on their experience of rural life and improving their language skills to increase their prospects of finding work.

Summary

The Swedish cooperative association 'Mackeni Araby' obtained funding under the Rural Development Programme to set up a new training model for immigrants living in local rural areas. It first established a steering group to explore how the training could be constructed.



To help this process, the group assessed similar initiatives, in particular at wo-year course that was set up in Östergötland, Sweden. The group decided to provide a targeted seven month training programme that would focus on practical skills to help the immigrants find work in rural Sweden. The next phase was to find allocation for the course: the local agricultural secondary school in Ingelstad, which is in the countryside just south of Växjö, was chosen. 'Mackeni Araby' continued to support the trainees beyond the duration of the training programme. In particular, it has helped with job applications and introductions, putting the trainees in to contact with companies and providing networking opportunities.

Results

- Eight immigrants received training in areas in which they had previous experience, covering agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and gardening.
- The trainees also had the opportunity to undertake internships at a range of agricultural companies for one or two days a week – a total of 37 days.
- The course also allowed the trainees to improve their Swedish language skills in a practical way.
- Such efforts led to the full-time employment of one of the trainees—who had previous experience in animal husbandry on a farm and temporary jobs for several others.
- The association is continuing to offer the training course to immigrants beyond the life time of the project.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ It is important to time the course so that trainees finish when seasonal work in agriculture will become available.
- ❑ When working with groups at risk of marginalisation, working to help them make contacts with employers can be a crucial steps to breaking down barriers to labour market access – in addition to skills development.