

Program description SPACE

SPACE is a program that is focusing on integration to labour market through exchange. The target group of the project are people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) and who are considered to be vulnerable with regard to their chances of entering education or employment. The focus is mainly on individuals who are long-term unemployed or long-term sick and sometimes face physical, mental, social or other disadvantages and limitations. These people might be at high risk for lifelong need of extensive social resources unless appropriate activities are made available for them to meet the needs of the labour market. They are often in need of social welfare or supported by parents or other benefits.

The goal of the program is to increase the chances for people to discover themselves and their abilities, and to find their way back to education or employment.

Our organization "Sjuhärads Samordningsförbund" has been working with internship abroad in cooperation with hosting organizations since 2012. The groups normally contains of 8-12 participants. 2 months of preparation in Sweden with language training, group dynamics, intercultural training and sometimes internship at a Swedish company will prepare the participants for the stay abroad.

The participants stay abroad for an internship in a European country for three to four weeks and are initially being accompanied by Swedish personnel. Participants are also supported by the partner organization abroad, by pedagogical skilled personnel.

The activities within the project both in Sweden and abroad will develop the participants' language, intercultural and social skills and increase the chances to find the way back to education or employment. After the internship abroad, the participants start the follow-up phase in Sweden aiming to find their way to become self-sufficient.

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