International Project (2022-2023) Green Impact Measured

GOOD PRACTICES

This is a collection of Social Enterprises from Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden that represent good practices of work within the green economy and impact measurement. We hope it will inspire more enterprises to do the same.

Financed by:









Disclaimer: It is acknowledged that this a topic with space for improvement. The portrayed enterprises are open about their challenges.

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4. Denmark

 NORDJYSK **FØDEVARE-OVERSKUD**

COMEBACK



"I used to hurry through life, but when my baby came and life gave me the opportunity to stop, I finally started looking around and delving into what is important to me. This is how an inner need arose to change myself and later also influence the world around me - because I believe that my actions and voice can influence the world, even if it is just a part of it. As a result, "Burka" was born the first store without packaging in Latvia."

- Maria Soloshenko, Founder of Burka

BURKA A zero packaging shop in Riga, Latvia



WHAT IS BURKA'S ROLE IN **THE GREEN ECONOMY?**

Burka ("a jar" in Latvian) is a place where you can buy food without packaging by weight, exactly the quantity you need, as well as environmentally friendly products that help you live a greener life. Their main contribution to the green economy is the actual reduction of waste due to the reuse of packaging materials, jars, and boxes. Burka tries to promote a green lifestyle by implementing anti-waste initiatives and giving people the opportunity to exchange resources such as jars, dishes, candle scraps, boxes, etc., for free. All products are ordered from distributors or producers in returnable containers.

The products that Burka cannot source zero waste they buy in bulk to minimize packaging. They ship online purchases in paper bags and boxes that they have received products in. If they run out of boxes, they ask people in the community to bring some that would otherwise be thrown away, e.g. cookie boxes. This is how Burka avoids buying any packaging, but re-use instead.

> "We are for a life free from pollution, against unnecessary consumption of resources and finances, favouring sustainable development, environmentally friendly, ethical consumption, and lifestvle."



INDICATORS



Burka acknowledges the lack of incentives for measuring impact, however they have still decided to gather the indicators of their savings of packaging by buying products such as oats, their most selling product, in bulk. This useful indicator can show their impact, as a lot more packaging would have been used if their customers went with conventional shopping.



BURKA'S SOCIAL IMPACT

EDUCATION

Burka provides education to their community by teaching people to live greener and reuse packaging - thereby resulting in people producing much less waste.

CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY

Burka is gradually building a more environmentally conscious community that can take better care of the environment with their everyday shopping choices.

TAKE AND GIVE-APPROACH

Encourage clients and visitors to give what they don't need – for example unnecessary jars and dishes from home and bring them to the store, so that other people who need them can re-use them.

MEASUREMENT OBSTACLES

The main obstacle in measuring impact is additional work that brings back no specific benefit at this point. Burka identifies that as a small company with limited human resources, they have to choose to either make an impact or talk about an impact. Knowledge about footprint calculations and Life Cycle Assessment Method is necessary for Burka to improve their measurement strategy.



BALANCING IMPACTS

Environmental and social impacts are obviously interrelated in the case of Burka. Their mission to care about their environmental impact and to educate the community around them to find more sustainable ways to do things goes hand in hand.



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM BURKA?

Burka is one of the flagships in Latvian social and green impact field, setting an example for the society as a whole and building a community of social and green impact minded people around themselves.

Burka represents an attitude to green impact measurement that is wide spread among social enterprises in Latvia -interested to measure their green impact, but don't see such measurement as vitally important, and prioritise practical work over collecting information about the impact they bring.

In spite of tight resources, Burka does measure the indicators that are easily approachable and are more significant e.g. the amount of paper packaging saved from the most popular goods. Some of the most impressive work Burka does is about involving the community to participate in the circular economy.





A social enterprise with the mission to motivate struggling women to improve, educate and lead fulfilling lives in Latvia

"OWA is a balance of femininity and functionality. Bright water based ink markings made by artists Alisa Ādamsone and Vera Bondāre make our clothes unique and easily recognizable. We strive to create a combination of classics and extravagance, tenderness and comfort, practicality and reliability."

OWA

- Natalija Jermolajeva, Founder of OWA



WHAT IS OWA'S ROLE IN THE **GREEN ECONOMY?**

OWA is the first brand in Latvia that offers clothes with water-based ink and graphic prints transferred to fabric using the sublimation printing technique. This technique ensures excellent color fastness and the possibility of tone transitions. OWA can be proud of their many green initiatives, and they always experiment with different processes and campaigns to educate their customers and support more sustainable customer habits such as:

- Only using 100% recycled mailers for their shipping.
- No tags it is clear what their products are made of.
- Using leftover fabrics for sewing their kids' clothing.
- Paper waste is collected and donated to people who use furnaces to heat their homes.
- Smaller textile leftovers are donated for other creative projects to artists and businesses in the community.

"Our core values are beauty, quality and comfort."



INDICATORS



The indicators are quite obvious in textile industry as there is an important balance to be kept between: what is produced and what is sold, where the products are produced, cost-effectiveness of the production process, the products are sold with minimal leftovers, the use is found for leftovers too.



OWA'S SOCIAL IMPACT

DONATIONS

Products with faults that don't interfere with wearing and products that are not sold for a long time are donated to Ukrainian refugees in partnership with Omniva shipping service and Zero Waste Latvija.

Smaller textile lefotvers are donated for other creative projects to artists and businesses in the community.

COMMUNITY

OWA projects sustainable values to community by specifying their social impact with employing people with disability as a start. Later chose to install and support sustainable business practices in every way they can.

MEASUREMENT OBSTACLES

OWA sees no real to impact measurement however there are many obstacles to continuing social impact activities in the textile industry:

- Availability of quality raw materials.
- Customers' purchasing power in Latvia, customers are mostly not ready to pay more for a green approach.
- Customer understanding there are customers who want a sleek, multilayered packaging for products that has no functional meaning.

BALANCING IMPACTS

While OWA's social impact is focued around employing people with disabilities and supporting other vulnerable social groups, the green impact of the enterprise is situated around new approaches to packaging, minimizing packaging and waste, recycling and upcycling of textiles. Both impacts are natural outcomes of the enterprise's activities.



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OWA?

Owa demonstrates relentless ingenuity in finding environmentally friendly solutions that are also customer - centred.

While being a small enterprise, OWA seeks to increase their green and social impact through projects that they implement in addition to their regular manufacturing activities.

Owa's example shows how social impact and green impact are not conflicting, but instead complement each other as two aspects of one's sustainable business ethics.





Aterbruket is a hub for sustainable entrepreneurship and circular economy. It functions as a testbed for small-scale start-ups to use in order to validate or test new products or services before scaling up and launching on a bigger market.

ATERBRUKET

- Victor, Founder of Aterbruket, Sweden



WHAT IS ATERBRUKET'S ROLE IN THE GREEN ECONOMY?

Aterbruket can be seen as a sustainable shopping center. For small, sustainable companies it offers a selling platform, for customers it offers a space that unites a variety of sustainable businesses. Overall, Aterbruket contributes to the expansion of Circular Economy.



SOCIAL IMPACT

SUPPORT FOR SMALL ENTREPRISES

They offer small sustainable entreprises a selling soothat those entreprises couln't afford otherwise.

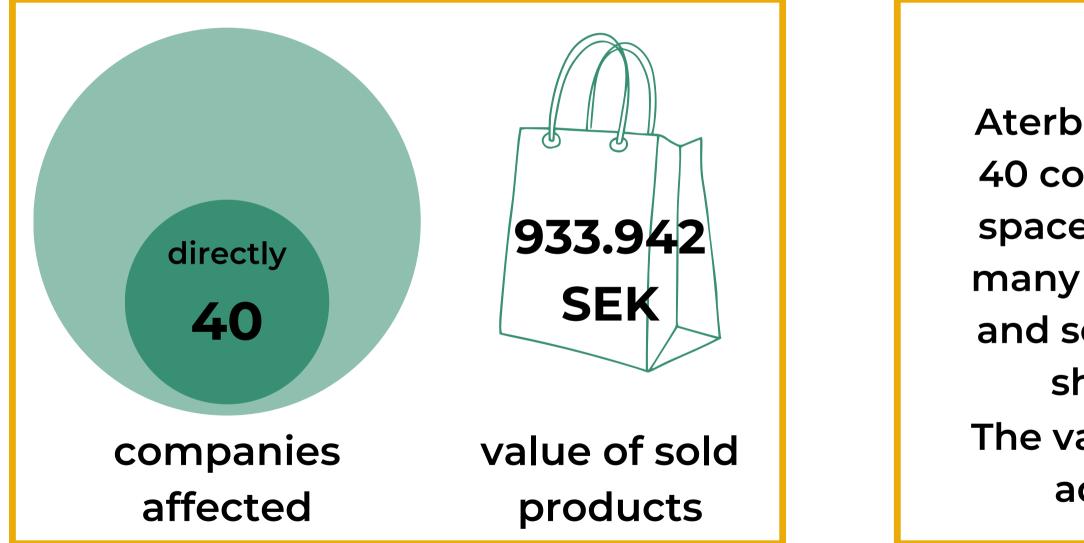
SIMPLIFIES CONSCIOUS CHOICES

They provide a space where customers can be sure that products are manufactured sustainably.

EDUCATING SOCIETY

They organize trainings, lectures and study circles to pread knowledge about the impact of consumption and educate society at all levels







Aterbruket has directly affected 40 companies by giving them a space. Indirectly, it has affected many more through giving talks and seminars, collaborations, or sharing lessons learned. The value of products sold so far adds up to 933.942 SEK.

MEASUREMENT OBSTACLES



Aterbruket is at least partially dependent on the measurements that businesses take that are renting selling space. Those are small businesses, often only 1 person, and they have constrained resources. For the businesses and Aterbruket, guidance on what to measure is required.

BALANCING IMPACTS

So far, the focus has been put on quantitative indicators because Aterbruket has faced a larger need for this type of indicators.



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM ATERBRUKET?

We need to move away from the current patterns of consumption. Choosing recycled products and adopting a circular economy goes in the right direction.

Small entreprises that devote themselves to social and environmental sustainability need a secure space to establish a foothold.

In the future, if provided with the necessary tools, Aterbruket can also support those businesses with incorporating impact measuring in daily activities.





"I couldn't find popsicles made with real fruit anywhere on the market. I decided to make them myself and do it in the most sustainable way possible."

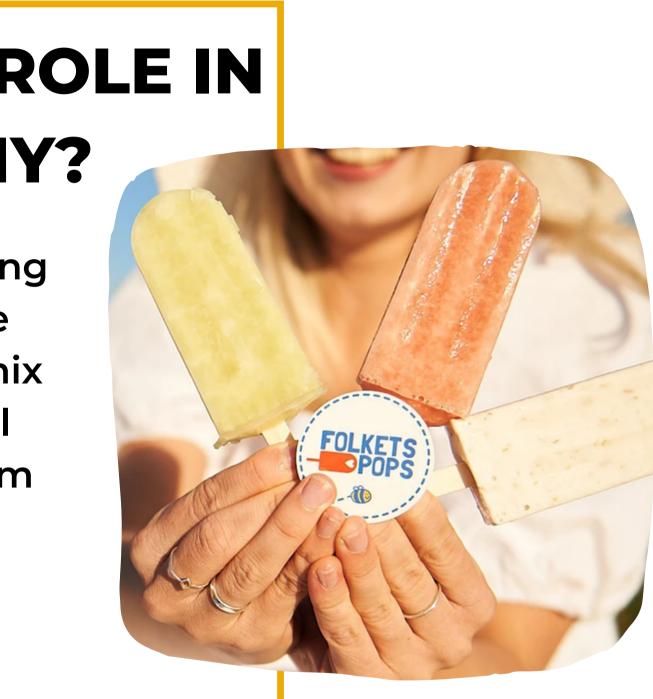
- Michelle, Founder of Folkets Pops, Sweden

FOLKETS POPS



WHAT IS FOLKET POPS'S ROLE IN THE GREEN ECONOMY?

For every popsicle sold, Folkets Pops is donating 1 SEK to Naturskydds-foreningen to save the bees. The pops are made with a sustainable mix of ingredients, such as fruit that is from local farmers, organic, wild foraged, or rescued from local markets.





EDUCATION OF CUSTOMERS

With their popsicles, Folkets Pops educates consumers about the need of protecting the bees.

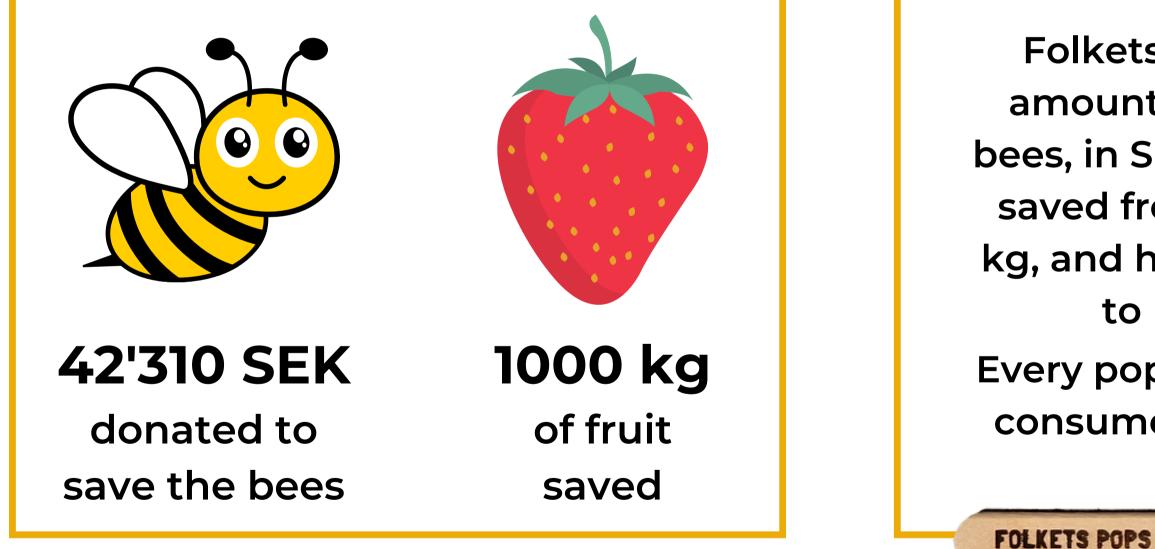
FEMALE EMPOWERMENT AT THEIR WORKPLACE

Folkets Pops has a primarily female team, which raises the voice of women in the workplace.

PROVIDING A HEALTHIER ALTERNATIVE

- In comparison to other popsicles at the stores,
- Folkets Pops has much healthier popsicles.







Folkets Pops measures the amount donated to save the bees, in SEK, the amount of fruit saved from going to waste, in kg, and how much CO2 it saves to rescue this fruit. Every popsicle stick informs the consumer about the donation

to the bees.

+îkr till att rädda bina 🖤

MEASUREMENT OBSTACLES



Folkets Pops is a small business with limited resources. Therefore, what can be measured is constrained. Similarilly, the time available to communicate their impact is constrained. For further indicators, it is unclear what and how to measure.

BALANCING IMPACTS

So far, only quantitative measures are taken. This is partly due to a lack of time and partly to not knowing how to measure other indicators. Guidance and tools would be needed.



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM FOLKETS POPS?

"Knowledge is power. The more you can record and measure, the more informed you are for making better choices." (Michelle, Founder of Folkets Pops)

What is waste for others does not have to be waste for you. It can even be at the core of your business.

Basic measurements can be incorporated in daily activities.





GYVYBĖS LANGELIS

A plant "shelter" that hosts plants, and organizes various events and educational activities such as plant and forest therapy.

"My organization rescues discarded plants accepts them, rehabilitates them and brings them back to live in the homes of other owners. I myself have always felt a strong desire to help a vulnerable person or animal. So - for the plant as well. I think we all have the right to a better life. To survive as well."

- Aistė Virketė, Head of Mes Zydim, Lithuania

MES ZYDIM



WHAT IS MES ZYDIM'S ROLE IN THE GREEN ECONOMY?

Their main work at the moment is ecological sustainability. Mes Zydim tries to advertise the forest and plants so that people want to grow and take care of them. They also organizes forest bathing. Ecological awareness and promotion of love for nature are part of the head of the organization's life.



SOCIAL IMPACT

INFLUENCING COMMUNITIES

The impact on the environment can be various higher sales of sneakers, rising sugar prices, etc. The social impact is when the changed behavior is conscious when some kind of changed behavior of a specific society is aimed at.

The fact that people want to buy rescued plants second-hand, rather than choosing to buy plants in stores, where the scale of the plants is enormous, shows that Mes Zydim has had an impact on the consumer behavior.

People want to choose new, hitherto unheard-of activities, such as the ones done by Mes Zydim. So far, no one has done this in Lithuania. However, forest guides and plant shelters are also appearing.

INDICATORS



"Since I've never had methods before, it's hard to calculate. You can probably do a little Google search monitoring of how many people are interested in my organization. But that won't reveal why they're interested - whether it's because they're curious or because they admire the ideas of my organization. Therefore, it is not enough. If I find out that there are no more plants to donate, I will probably say something has changed in my field. However, this is not yet the case."



MEASUREMENT OBSTACLES

"I think first of all we know little about the environment and method of exposure. It is talked about theoretically sometimes, but it is probably difficult to apply it. I would just like to know more about it, try to experiment, calculate, and notice. And this is not just a business problem. Too many people do pointless things without looking ahead. Aiste mentioned being not aware of such incentives to measure both environmental and societal impact. "There are some actions that might have an impact. But you never know what people will like. It seems that sometimes something goes unnoticed."



BALANCING IMPACTS

Mes zydim considers and understand the importance of both methods to measure the impact. Clearly, it is easier to collect quantitative data by knowing number of plants were rescued, and number of people who are interested in the organization. "My main focus is quality. And if the quality can suffer, I don't do the activity at all. Because ecology and quality must go together. Otherwise, no one will believe you a second time. Ecological awareness is also a moral thing, so the client must believe that you do everything from the heart and with quality". Aiste believes that shift on consumers behavior is a big example of qualitative measurement.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM MES ZYDIM?

Talking about skills and knowledge Aiste talked about the importance of measuring green impact because the social entrepreneur needs to be at the forefront. "The more I work, the more competencies I seem to want. Since the world is changing very quickly, as soon as you have competencies, others are needed. "I would still like to have basic skills - to know the basic rules and methods of impact measurement, maybe to know some social business rules that could develop the business".

TEXTALE

TEXTALE is a startup for circular fashion. They operate as an NGO (VšĮ "Resources for Sustainable development") and a social business for the development of circular textile solutions. TEXTALE collects used clothing and home textiles, prepares them for reuse, sells, distributes them to social organizations, repairs, remakes, and is actively looking for further recycling solutions.

- Viktorija Nausėdė, Founder and CEO of TEXTALE, Lithuania

TEXTALE



WHAT IS TEXTALE'S ROLE IN THE **GREEN ECONOMY?**

Textale promotes green and circular practices through its activities. There are many different activities and services offered in Textale. Those include:

- Online commerce platform and consignment services for used clothing, refurbished, remade and upcycled items (operating as B2C and C2B2C platform);
- Retail sale of used clothes and upcycled items in a store in Kaunas,
- Secondary design studio in Vilnius for repair, remake and upcycling projects, diagnostics and educations services



TEXTALE'S ROLE IN THE GREEN ECONOMY CONTINUED...

- Social support and inclusion projects (partnerships with the employment service and social organizations for the creation of jobs and traineeships),
- Expertise and advocacy in the field of waste prevention and management, circular textiles economy, sustainable fashion, social innovations and social business policy in Lithuania (active member of the Lithuanian Social Business Association),
- Non-formal education for sustainability (lectures, consultations, style and creative workshops, blog posts and communication campaigns through the media), various community events and cultural projects (studio, outbound and online activities).

SOCIAL IMPACT

CREATION OF JOBS

The main indicators we measure are the creation of new jobs in reuse sector, inclusion of socially vulnerable people, and educational activities for community implemented".

TEXTILE CYCLE

Evaluates the results of textile sorting and realization, i.g. how much textile was prepared and directed for reuse, distributed to charity organizations, what was used as secondary raw materials for upcycling, and what was sorted for downcycling or left for energy recovery.

FOOTPRINT

Savings are evaluated assuming that the number of resources returned to the economy reduces the need for new products and raw materials. It should be noted that the assessment of savings can be expanded to include savings in water, energy, and other materials.

INDICATORS

"As mentioned before, we use publicly available impact measurement tools from other global clothing reselling platforms. In our field, most key indicators are CO2, water, and material savings, calculating how many resources have been saved (reused, repaired, and remanufactured), and not become waste.

Moreover, it is easier to evaluate by defining not everything, but only the indicators that have the greatest impact. For example, circular businesses the in textile reuse and recycling sector has the opportunity to adapt impact assessment tools given by international organizations operating in the reuse/recycle and resale sector.

Even if it is not exactly adapted to our country or our business situation, it helps to calculate the main savings and the added value created. We started to create our indicator system back in 2018, and now we improve every year, based on examples of good practice".



MEASUREMENT OBSTACLES

"The biggest challenge for a more accurate evaluation today is the lack of human and financial resources. When we grow up, we hope to have access to professional, all activities impact indicators integrative welladopted evaluation system".



BALANCING IMPACTS

"Fully understanding, how it is important to find the balance, we consider to use both quantitative and qualitative methods in impact measurement. Of course, our qualitative achievements may appear to be evaluated more as declarative, while quantitative ones allow us to measure progress over the course of a year, to compare with the activities of other sharing platforms, without conducting large-scale long-term research (which would be necessary to obtain more accurate qualitative research results). However, we do not make a clear dividing line between quality and quantity, because we even can observe the links between the growth of qualitative and quantitative indicators. For example, as the impact of environmental community education grows, we aim for greater quantitative results, etc. It is also important to note the quality of the quantitative evaluation itself. For more accurate results we adhere to certain internal process standards, when we can count one or another indicator as achieved only when the activity (process, service, product) is fully implemented in accordance with the planned result from quality perspective".

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM TEXTALE?

Textale is considered one of the best practices in its field. Viktorija believes that the best training to establish strategies to measure the green impact would be to simplify the currently existing evaluation systems as much as possible, adapting them to the for small social enterprises.

"Because quite often the questionnaires adapted for large companies requires greater time costs, relevant competences, which are expensive, and small business cannot afford. And it is very important that that assessment would be inclusive, understandable to the practitioners working in the company, and not based on theoretical scientific conclusions".

Viktorija has considerable professional experience in the implementation of the principles of sustainable development at different levels and sectors. We believe Textale is ready to participate in developing qualitative measuring indicators for other social enterprises in the future.



FØDEVAREOVERSKUD The company was founded in 2014 and is based in the Aalborg area of Denmark. "At Nordjysk Fødevareoverskud we collect surplus food from the local food industry and distribute it to vulnerable families, individuals and shelters. The aim is to use all available resources for those who need it most. We distribute around 200 tonnes of surplus food a year."

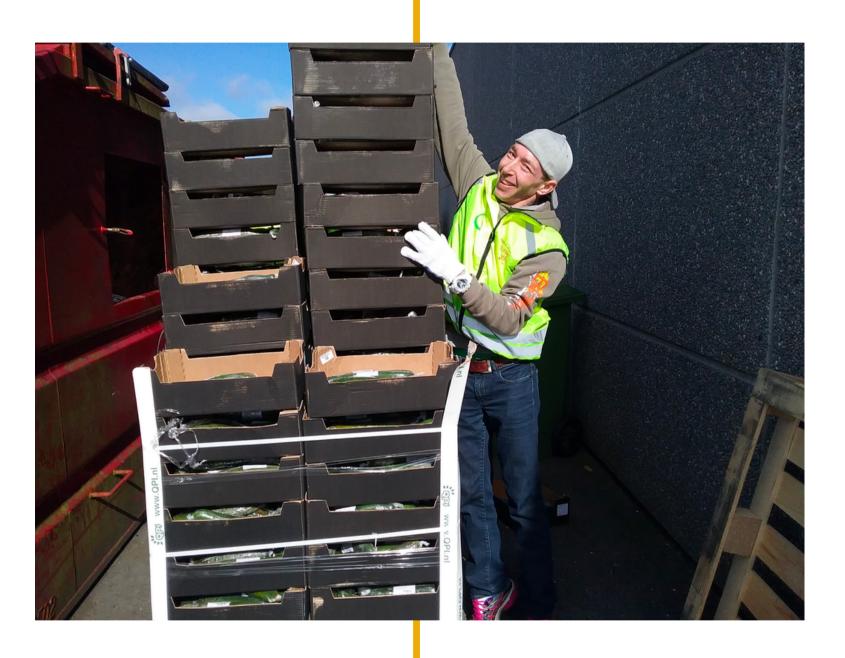
NORDJYSK

- Bente Schjødt, Founder of Nordjysk Fødevareoverskud



WHAT IS NORDJYSK FØDEVAREOVERSKUDS ROLE IN THE GREEN ECONOMY?

The company's primary role in the green economy is, of course, to save a lot of surplus food that would otherwise have just been thrown out. The surplus food comes primarily from wholesalers, producers and shops in Aalborg. There is a high demand for our boxes, which is why we can see that it makes a real difference. We track how much surplus food we collect and how much we distribute. We record which product groups this is.



SOCIAL IMPACT

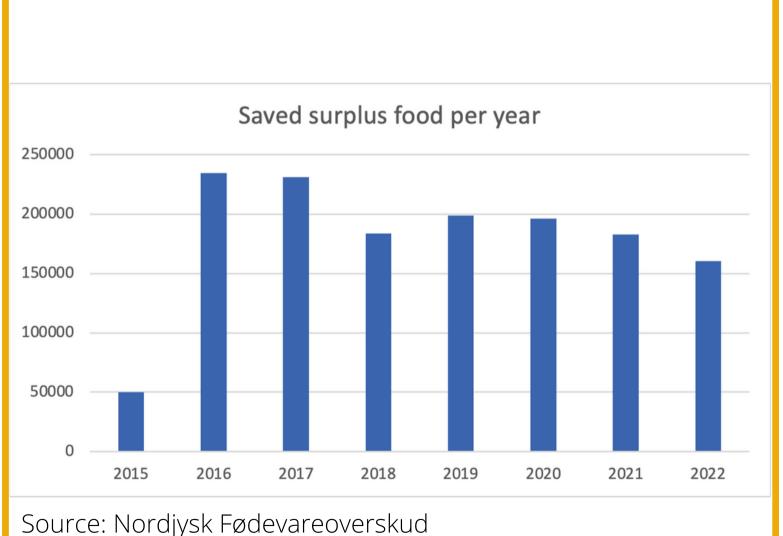
EMPLOYMENT

citizens, refugees, etc.

PEOPLE IN NEED

- Nordjysk Fødevareoverskud help citizens who find it difficult to enter the labour market to get a job. This can be, for example, vulnerable
- Nordjysk Fødevareoverskud distributes the surplus food to vulnerable citizens for a small fee. In total they distribute 35 boxes a day. Right now there are a lot of Ukrainian refugees who receive food from them, together with vulnerable families, individuals and shelters.

INDICATORS



"We do not have the resources to be able to examine what real impact we have socially or on the green economy. We have been in contact with "Economists Without Borders", a Danish organisation that could help answer these questions, but have not yet received an answer. In addition, we have a collaboration with Aalborg University (AU), where we hope that at some point there will be students who will look into our figures. We'd like to be able to work out how much CO2 we're saving the climate. There are many factors in this, which makes it difficult

*Please note, that this graph is from early November 2022



for us to calculate."

MEASUREMENT OBSTACLES

The obstacle for Nordjysk Fødevareoverskud is that there are many variables to measure and take into consideration. For example, a tomato is not just a tomato. It also depends on where the tomato is from, what time of year it is produced and how it is produced.





BALANCING IMPACTS

Nordjysk Fødevareoverskud primarily measures quantitative data, but qualitative data is also measured in terms of which families come and pick up a box. It is important that the help reaches families who actually need it.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM NORDJYSK **FØDEVAREOVERSKUD?**

The biggest problem for Nordjysk Fødevareoverskud is that the complexity of tracking CO2 impact can be incredibly difficult to define. They know they are making a difference, but don't have the resources to quantify this. Environmental specialists are therefore needed to help define the carbon impact of surplus food being thrown out, to make it more quantifiable and reportable. This will certainly also apply to other social enterprises.

The company already has a strong social focus. This is, as discussed, both in regards to the staff and their target customer groups. However, Nordjysk Fødevareoverskud is already measuring a part of their impact on the food they collect. It is an initiative that is small, but super important as the data collection is valuable for investors, cooperations and future measurement.



A company specialising in helping marginalized young men aged 16-35 to take responsibility for their own development, based in Aarhus and Copenhagen, Denmark.

"I started the first project in the company in 2010, and we have since then developed into many different spheres with our work. We started as a social enterprise, but later changed this, however we still do have a part of the company registered as a social enterprise. Everything we do in the company is with a social mindset."

COMEBACK

- Poul Kellberg, Founder of Comeback



WHAT IS COMEBACK'S ROLE IN **THE GREEN ECONOMY?**

Part of Comeback's work is the production of facade elements for buildings made of recycled wood. COMEBACK collects surplus wood from various contractors, processes it, builds new and then their partner takes care of selling it to the construction industry. They work with Gentræ, Stark, A. Enggaard and BurntWood. They also produce clothing where they have ensured that the quality is high and the manufacturer is sustainable. But it is a longer process, also to involve young people in this.

It is young people on transfer income who do this work. They are paid to do the work, and Comeback employs some of them in flexible jobs afterwards.





SOCIAL IMPACT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MEN

Comeback is delivering courses for the municipalities of Aarhus and Copenhagen specifically designed for socially vulnerable and marginalized young men. The purpose is to initiate positive development in their lives

BOXING GYM

Comeback Gym gives young people with an interest in training an opportunity to develop and act as coaches alongside their permanent trainers. In addition, young people have the opportunity to be part of the community around training.

COMMUNITY CREATION

Comeback provides a framework in which young people can get to grips with the fundamental elements of their lives, as a prerequisite for launching a positive development with greater mental resilience and increased identity in relation to a future on the labour market.

INDICATORS

Key indicators	Yea r 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Social benefit-cost ratio (SCBR)	0,4	1,4	2,3	3,2	4,0	4,8
Social return on investment (SROI)	-5 %	17%	32 %	33 %	32 %	30 %

Comeback sees great value in measuring their impact and have had reports done on social and financial impact in the Danish society. The results on SCBR and SROI are the following: Over a five-year period, society thus gets a • return of DKK 4.8 for every DKK invested in Comeback.

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Source: Comeback SROI Report 2019 done by Økonomer Uden Grænser



Over a five-year period, the project will thus provide a return on investment of 30% per year. An annual return of 30 per cent each year for five years consequently generates a greater return than 33 per cent per year for three years.

MEASUREMENT OBSTACLES

The obstacle for Comeback in measuring is having an employee, with the right skills, dedicated to doing so. The measuring requires a lot of qualitative data such as interviews with the young men taking part in the courses, as well as calculations of the quantitative economic measures.





BALANCING IMPACTS

For Comeback both quantitative and qualitative measures are important. The quantitative data is what is needed for their stakeholders to continue the projects, and the qualitative data evaluates the soft values impact they have.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM COMEBACK?

Comeback's work with socially vulnerable and marginalized young men has a major impact on the group and the society in general. Their work shows the importance of motivating and designing a better future for these men. As Comeback consists of several different departments and ways of engaging the target group into various activities, which also include work in the green economy, it is a great example to follow and get inspiration from for other social enterprises.

Comeback has been measuring their social impact and they are very much aware of the possibilities of measuring even more of their activities. The challenge is to find the right way to do this with their target group, and which of the parameters to focus on. Measuring the impact of their course is primarily on the soft skills gained by the participants.



The Project "Green Impact Measured" is financed by the Nordic Council of Minister programme Nordplus Adult 2022

