International STRATEGY in Jönköping municipality

The purpose of the international policy is to increase exchange, understanding and cooperation among people, cultures and nations as well as to develop the municipality’s operations and interests through cooperation, network and projects.

The objectives with the international activities are:

“To increase the local inhabitants and especially young people’s tolerance, understanding and exchange of different cultures and ways of life”

Good understanding about other cultures, languages and traditions is essential for successful international activity. This awareness has a specific value, particularly in an increasingly international labor market. Thus, it is important that young people are given the opportunity to establish international contacts and exchange. Every school shall therefore have regular contact with at least one equivalent organization outside of Sweden. The municipality’s cultural activities shall contain international elements, exchanges and contacts, as well as other departments within their area of responsibility.

“To stimulate citizens, associations, companies and University College to establish international contacts, to benefit from structural funds and other resources for development and to facilitate foreign corporate establishments”

Jönköping is to be considered as a welcoming and attractive municipality that offers good opportunities for cooperation, investments and student exchange. The municipality shall also be able to support the internationalization of local trade and industry companies by supplying contacts and support their participation in structural funding programs and similar development efforts.

“To provide the municipal departments with competence, resources and perspective on their activity through an active engagement in different international projects and cooperative actions”

The departments of the municipality shall be knowledgeable regarding EU structure and relevant funding programs for international projects. Cooperation with other municipalities and regions within Europe should be a natural part of the operational development. International cooperation raises the municipal competence, adds resources and can be beneficial when competing over international labor. The municipality’s departments shall also have procedures for an efficient competitive awareness in order to comply and observe events or decisions that may influence the activities in the municipality.

“To contribute to a democratic social change that is socially, economically and ecologically sustainable”

Jönköping municipality shall be a good representative for a society based upon the conviction of equal value of all human beings and every individual’s opportunity to participate in the social process. The municipality shall strive for long-term sustainable social change regarding
social, economical and ecological dimensions, within the municipality as well as in the
surrounding world.

**Regional cooperation**
Jönköping municipality shall support the evolvement of cooperation within a international
environment. This may include operational joint efforts with the Regional Council of
Jönköping County or neighboring municipalities in EU projects of common interest.
Jönköping municipality shall also look out for the interests of the municipal inhabitants in EU
matters by being an active participant in relevant networks.
Information about the municipality and the departments shall be available in other languages
than Swedish.

**Jönköping municipality’s twin cities**
Jönköping has twin city agreements with Bodö (Norway), Koupio (Finland), Svendborg
(Denmark) and West-Virumaa County (Estonia). Additional twin city agreements will not be
made.
Cooperation is also taking place with the previous twin cities Slagelse (Denmark) and
Valkekoski (Finland).

**Additional international cooperation**
The municipal executive board is responsible for the established contact with Gorzów
Wielkopolski (Poland), Graz (Austria) and Tianjin (China). New cooperation cities can be
added.

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