



The Critical Role of Municipal Support in Building Social Capital for Work Integration Social Enterprises

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The presentation

- Introduction & Added Value
- Purpose & Methodology
- Key Results
- Main Conclusions



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WISEs

Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs)

- Combine economic activity with social mission
- Focus on integrating marginalized individuals into the labour market

SEs in Sweden

From 19th-century mutual/cooperative origins to modern social economy actors

Social Capital

Networks, norms and trust facilitating cooperation and resource access



Added Value of Our Research

Focus on Municipal Role

- How local authorities foster social capital for WISEs

Case Study

- Six WISEs in a medium-sized Swedish municipality,
- serving ~200 individuals (Dec 2024)

Contribution

Practical insights for

- policy development and
- Agenda 2030 goals



Research Purpose

Primary Aim:

Examine how municipal support builds and sustains social capital in WISEs

Secondary Aim:

Assess WISEs' capacity to balance economic viability with social mission

Methodological Approach

Design

Qualitative, case-study approach

Data Collection

Semi-structured interviews with five WISE managers and two municipal officials

Analysis

Six-step thematic process (familiarization, coding, theme development, etc.)



Results I – Social Networks & Resource Mobilization

Municipality as Connector

Provides funding, links to businesses and public institutions

Resource Mobilization

Access to contracts, expertise and facilities

Trust-Based Relationships

Strong ties yield greater support and stability

Results II – Community Engagement & Social Impact

Bonding & Bridging Networks

Strengthen ties within and beyond target groups

Individual Outcomes

Improved self-confidence, skills development, employment

Community Outcomes

Reduced welfare costs, increased tax revenues, greater social cohesion

Results III – Trust-Building & Legitimacy

Institutional Endorsement:

Municipal backing confers early credibility

Mutual Trust

Reliability, transparency and shared goals

Legitimacy Effects

Enhanced resource acquisition and operational stability

Main Conclusions



Municipal Support as Cornerstone

Critical for building social capital and sustaining WISEs

Key Success Factors

Continuous stakeholder contact, strategic guidance, boundary-spanning leadership

Policy Implications

Need for long-term partnerships and formal support structures

Future Research

Rural contexts and beneficiary perspectives

Thank you
for your attention!





Questions?