

## **Non-governmental organisations**

### ***The Federation of Private Enterprises - Företagarna***

The Federation of Private Enterprises in Sweden, for short, is a non-government organisation for entrepreneurs and business owners. 55 000 owners of small and medium sized private enterprises are members in Företagarna. The overall aim of Företagarna is to improve the climate for entrepreneurs through lower taxes, less bureaucracy, an improved venture capital market, and an effective labour market. The two main tasks of the organisation are to give advice and service to members, and lobbying. Företagarna is represented in public commissions and presents its views on committee reports and directly to politicians and official authorities.

More information: [www.fr.se](http://www.fr.se)

### ***Teknopol***

Teknopol provide competence support to entrepreneurs and new research- or high-tech based companies. With extensive knowledge of how to get from an idea to a successful business foundation, Teknopol try to create the optimal environment for every project. Teknopol work as coaches and help you focusing on the questions you'll have to answer before your idea can be put into a real business project. Teknopol's well-developed network makes it easier for entrepreneurs and innovators to reach their market and be successful there.

More information: [www.teknopol.se](http://www.teknopol.se)

### ***The Association of Co-operative Development Agencies (Föreningen Kooperativ Utveckling i Sverige, FKU)***

FKU is an established national organisation in Sweden which is open to, and serves, 25 Co-operative Development Agencies in Sweden. The Association of Co-operative Development Agencies has a co-ordinating function, for example, in arranging two-way contacts within relevant areas outside Sweden and compiles and disseminates national and international information. It also supports the development of networks at the national level. The Association operates through its own network, the member Agencies, and carries out agreed practical tasks and pursues matters of mutual interest to member Agencies.

More information: [www.fku.se](http://www.fku.se)

### ***The Swedish Inventor's Association***

*SUF* is an active and recognised partner in the field of development and innovation and an inventor's natural contact at the early stage of the chain of innovation. *SUF* plays an important role in promoting innovation in the Swedish society. *SUF* aims at improving the conditions for inventors and has unique knowledge and contacts within the field of innovation. Furthermore *SUF* provides service and information regarding innovation and covers questions regarding patent legislation and acts in the interest of inventors. As a *SUF* member you'll be supported with special training courses, organised for inventors who want to improve their knowledge of the different stages in developing an idea into a product. *SUF* is also networking between its individual members and the different parties within the field of innovation, such as financing, marketing, by organising meetings, seminars, visits and by participating in fairs. Special activities and projects concerns only women.

More information: [www.uppfinnareforeningen.se](http://www.uppfinnareforeningen.se)

### ***The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise (Svenskt näringsliv)***

The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise is a probusiness interest organization representing close to 60,000 Swedish companies. It consists of 48 trade and employer association members. The Confederation's mandate from its member companies is to continuously heighten public and official awareness of the importance and value of Swedish enterprise. The organization exerts tremendous effort in shaping public opinion and educating both government officials and the Swedish public. The Confederation develops new ideas and produces concrete proposals for improving the business climate.

More information: [www.svensktnaringsliv.se](http://www.svensktnaringsliv.se)

### ***Jobs and Society (Stiftelsen Svenska Jobs and Society)***

Jobs and Society's objective is to promote entrepreneurship and the creation of new enterprises. Jobs and Society stimulates and facilitates the growth of healthy business ventures and helps regenerate Swedish trade and industry. Furthermore they strengthen the sense of local community, thus helping the entrepreneurial spirit to propagate from community to community. This has been accomplished by starting and running Nyföretagarcentrum in different locations in Sweden. Central operations focus on counselling and support provided by a network of expertise regarding enterprises, both from experts and entrepreneurs. The Jobs and Society model is based on the presence of local industries in each area but is also sponsored by national authorities.

More information: [www.jobs-society.se](http://www.jobs-society.se)

### ***Venture Cup***

VC is a business plan competition that helps students, researchers and others to take their business idea from concept to actual start-up. Venture Cup motivates participants to develop their ideas by hands-on coaching and feedback as well as inspirational events and workshops. Venture Cup has a large network of entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and professionals within a wide range of fields devoted to making your business idea become a reality.

More information: [www.venturecup.org](http://www.venturecup.org)

### ***Young Achievement – Ung företagsamhet***

Young Achievement is working all over Sweden and is part of an international network. Their objective is to enable students at grammar school level to start and run a business for one year. Many competitions and awards for the best cases are arranged.

More information: [www.ungforetagsamhet.se](http://www.ungforetagsamhet.se)

### ***Open for Business***

Open for Business aim is to teach young people more about entrepreneurship by the model of "learning by doing". A number of special activities have been developed around this project. In Sweden, the local projects are run by a number of co-operating organisations.

More information: [www.ofb.nu](http://www.ofb.nu)

### ***Greenhouses - Drivhus***

In several university cities, so-called "greenhouses" (drivhus) have been set up by students with the aim to support practical entrepreneurship amongst students. Through incubator activities, exercises, business idea competitions and other projects, students are encouraged to start their own businesses. The "greenhouses" are managed as foundations and are mainly financed on a regional basis and to a lesser extent by national authorities or organisations.

More information: [www.drivhuset.se](http://www.drivhuset.se)