

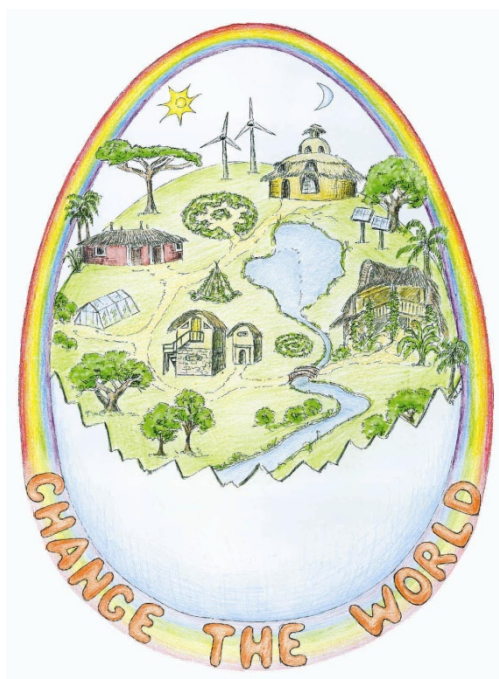


LIETUVOS SAVIVALDYBIŲ ASOCIACIJA

PROGRAMME "CAPACITY-BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN BENEFICIARY STATE AND NORWEGIAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES"

ANALYSIS AND REVIEW OF THE COUNTRY AS AN SMALL NORWEGIAN MUNICIPALITY APPLY PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND PUBLIC SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

Oslo, Dec. 2015- Mar.2016



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Introduction to the Municipality of Sagene

The Municipality of Sagene was an industrial area, but today it is mainly residential, with public and private services such as schools and kindergartens. There have been new commercial and business activities, as well as infrastructure such as roads and public transport. Since 2001, there have been built around 5500 new homes in the district, and there will probably be built more than 3,000 over the next ten years. The Municipality of Sagene is Oslo's most densely populated district. Over the last decade, Sagene has grown by 8,000 and has now over 37 000 inhabitants. According to Oslo's population projections (2013-24), we can expect to be 44 000 inhabitants in 2024.



The Sagene Municipality has become a very attractive place to live, and the high demand for housing leads to higher property prices. The square meter price has more than doubled over the last ten years.

Growth - both in the number of homes, residents and price of apartments are reflected in the population in many areas. Changes are seen in, among others: Household types, age composition, education, health, employment and income levels.

Sagene is a district with high population density and large social span within its population. The differences between people can be seen in larger fields such as house quality, income, education, health and opportunities for active participation in society.

Sagene has Oslo's highest density of public housing, with approximately 2300 apartments. Communal apartments are assigned to people who have the lowest incomes. When the district's residents otherwise become richer, it makes those who have least become more visible and the differences are made clear. This is especially important to take care of the kids, who meet daily in schools, kindergartens and in their spare time. Major differences can lead to someone being excluded from participation in the community.

The Sagene Municipality has recently been Oslo's cultural district, and has hosted and facilitated a varied cultural life for different ages and interests. In addition, the district has for several years focused on sustainability and the environment, and has won the prize "Oslo's greenest district" twice.

Age groups: The district has changed from having a large elderly population to have many young adults and many children. 55% are in the age group 20-39 years. 8% are children under school age and 6% of children and adolescents aged 6-19 years. 24% are adults aged 40-66 years. Only 4% are aged 67-79 and 2% are over 80 years.

Children and young people: We now have just over 3,000 pre-school children, 1300 children in primary school, 400 children in middle school and 650 young people aged 16-19.

Household Types: Many in Sagene live alone. 66% of the district's households are single, 18% are couples without or with adult children and 14% are households with children. Average in Oslo is 53% single, 21% of couples without or with adult children and 21% are households with children.

Level of education: 58% of the district's population has a higher education and this is among the highest share of Oslo. The average in Oslo is 47%.

Income: The income for those under 40 years is slightly higher or about the average, while those from 40 years and above is below average.

Employment: Sagene has a high percentage of the population in work, at 73%, against 69% on average in Oslo.

Health and life expectancy: In ten years, life expectancy for men increased by five years, from 68 to 73 years, while life expectancy for women has increased from 78 to 79 years. The district still has the lowest in Oslo, but the trend is moving in the right direction.

Immigration: 25% of the district's residents are immigrants or first-generation Norwegians.

Child poverty: 22% of the district's children are considered poor. It means approximately 870 children. By comparison, the average in Oslo is 15%



1. Municipality of Sagene buys services from NGOs.

1.1 The Municipality of Sagene supports two volunteer centers.

a. Sagene's International and Multicultural Volunteer Centre, SAIFF



Sagene International and Multicultural Volunteer Centre (SAIFF) is a politically independent ONG and characterized as a partnership between volunteers and various organizations.

SAIFF is a link between the district's residents, NGOs and associations, politicians and administration in the environmental, cultural and developmental work. The objective of the collaboration is to find common platforms, focusing on strengthening of the volunteer involvement and the recognition as actors in a participatory democracy and sustainable development process in the community.

SAIFFs task and function:

- Coordinate the networking among volunteer, to improve the knowledge of volunteer work and administration of voluntary activities. Stimulate to coordination and exchange of experiences with other NGOs in the South and North.
- Recruiting volunteers with minority backgrounds/multilingual.
- Motivate local children/adolescents involvement as volunteers.
- Public information through seminars, conferences, campaigns and communication projects.

SAIFF has a strong collaboration with the Municipality of Sagene, especially through The Sagene community house and the Housing Office. The agreement had been extended in the form of swaps, where SAIFF becomes a tool to strengthen volunteer activities in the house, through courses, advertising, assistance to various events and projects, and to raise funds.

SAIFF was founded in June 2008 as a collaborative partnership by LAG-Oslo, Change the World and Sagene Local Agenda 21.



SAIFF receives funding from the Municipality of Sagene, the Ministry of Culture and The Unit for Diversity and Integration. SAIFF has its own headquarters at Drøbak Gata 1, Oslo.

Some of SAIFF activities:

SAIFF homework help for kids and children, volunteer work in public place, Christmas festival, contemporary circus workshop, snake sculpture, soup and food making, competition for children and youth, soccer tournament, adventure show, Wednesdays club for youth and children, doll workshop, redesign and creative workshop, allotment for growing vegetables, among others.

b.- Sagene's Volunteer Centre



Sagene Volunteer Centre (SVC) is a meeting point in the community run by the Norwegian Lutheran Mission, with support from Sagene's Municipality and the Ministry of Culture.

Objective: The voluntarily Central wants to be a meeting place for building community, creating commitment, and motivate volunteer work for the community, alleviate distress in the immediate area, so people who live here can get a better life.

The motto of the central is "A better everyday".

Activities and offers from the SVC:

- The local community café: Here the neighbor can come and buy a waffles, sandwiches, coffee and soup, among other things, at a reasonable price. The café has special offer on Fridays with lunch in a nice community atmosphere around a long table with good food and simple raffles. At the local community café people can come over and have a nice chat.

Everyone is welcome!

- Daily meeting in quiet rooms at 1200 and 1500.

- Metropolis Youth Club: The club's mission is to be a free and creative place for children and young in the neighborhood. The Club wants to encourage fellowship and unity across cultures, beliefs and social status, through relationship building activity. The club offers computers with internet



access, playroom, outdoor activities, tennis, arts & crafts workshop, carpentry, baking, and opportunities to strengthen fellowship with others.

- Participation in the Municipality Days Celebration. The volunteers hold a stand serving soup, coffee and cakes to the visitors.

- Lending Central: The SVC received funding from the municipality to start up and run a sports equipment lending center. After a while, the SCV got even more support from Sparebank DNB foundation, to provide an even better offer lending sport equipment. Now is even possible to borrow juice press machines to make your own natural fruit juice. The lending is free of charge but the people have to leave a deposit that will be reimbursed back when they return the equipment.



- Rent of facility: The SVC has 2 facilities to rent out. One is for non-alcoholic events during weekends or in some evenings of working days. This place “The café”, has a capacity of approximately 60 people with catering. The other place is “The Peisestua” located on the 15. floor, and offers wonderful panoramic views and can accommodate small parties or meetings of about 20- 25 people.

- Homework help for school children: It is a program to help children and youth to do their homework with adults and other students within the community. The teachers are volunteers from the local community and they do the work for free.

- Other Activities: Norwegian courses for emigrants, knitting group, practical assistance, tracing service, visit and take elderly people to walks, drawing and painting classes, celebration of Festivity days, and so on.



1.2 Purchase of specific services from ONGs

The Municipality of Sagene purchases services from NGOs for the implementation of specific project with the focus on community participation. We will now see two examples:

a. The permaculture structure with youths in public spaces.

The Municipality of Sagene hired the organization “Change the World” to design and implement a project with youths in public spaces. The result was the implementation of an innovative project with

the participation of local youth. This consists of permaculture sculpture techniques in the district parks. The goal was to make out of the green spaces something productive, and instructive. The project's name was "Adolescents in Oslo: Make the parks bloom!"

The project was divided into various phases. The first phase was a motivation phase. The youngsters got to see examples of some of the techniques that would be implemented. We visited Hurdalsjøen Ecological Village where several families had decided to live in a different way in communities. The youth could experience that it is possible to live with other values and challenges.

The youngsters were given an introduction into decision making through consensus and conflict resolution. A tool they can use in many other situations in the future. They used these techniques several times during the project.

They learned different concepts and through practice they got to learn about planning and design. An important part of the challenge was to carry out work in the community and get a good result. We had to collect materials together, be creative and distribute tasks among the youths in the group. The youngsters got the opportunity to try several techniques. Several times they could choose according to interest and desire: Recollection of materials, working with cement, watering the plants in the greenhouse, planting, make mosaics, builds structures with tires and chicken wire, etc. This meant that the program was very varied and attractive. Meanwhile, the project gave them new skills and a new experience in a fascinating and enjoyable way.

Working with young people is in itself a major challenge. There were young people with different cultural backgrounds: Ethnic Norwegian and immigrant youth.

An important part of the process was to motivate young people to play an active role in the implementation of the project. Being involved in a project which they are an important part of, and where they can express their opinions and ideas, can give a good boost their confidence and support development of their personality. They had to take decisions by consensus and conflicts were resolved in a non-aggressive manner. They had to resolve more problems and take responsibility and respect for themselves and the community. The collaboration worked well, with regard to the different work rhythms.



This kind of project showed great potential to execute social and environmental processes right in the heart of the city. The project created a stir curiosity and aroused more involvement of the urban population to protect the public areas, and have a different relationship with the environment

This pioneering project was a small flame that lighted up in the middle of town for more participation from the local community, who showing important values that can spread within the city's population. The Municipality of Sagene was satisfied and proud of this good example of sustainable development and the implementation if the Local Agent 21.

This project was located in two different parts of the district that was mighty visible to the public.

Some innovative techniques and concepts for sustainable design was used. It was made more interesting textures and shapes; pyramids, spirals, circular bed and house shoes bed with the mix of: Vegetables, flowers, fruits, medicinal plants, kitchen herbs, berry bushes and climbing plants. The project used recycled materials like tires, construction waste, cardboard and organic waste.

Project won a national prize for the most innovative project in public parks in Norway.

We hope that the seeds sown in the heart of Sagene district, can sprouts and spread around the rest of the city.



b. Park with castle and labyrinth with small kids

The Municipality Sagene hired the organization “Change the World” to design and implement a new playground in a public park with the participation of small kids from the community.

The aim was to establish a jungle area/mini forest as part of “Bjølsten” Park, based on the principles of urban ecology, sustainability and universal design. This includes conditions such as choice of materials, accessibility for all user groups, participation and involvement of users and other stakeholders in relation to the design and choice of solutions.



Other objectives:

- To engage various user groups - with a focus on children in the community (kindergartens and school) in the planning, design and implementation of the project.
- To upgrade and develop a limited area in “Bjølsten Park” to become a meeting / destinations and activity area for children in the community.
- Establishing cooperation with kindergartens and schools on a specific project to be developed. It can also be the basis for other joint projects in the area.
- To provide work experience and develop skills of creation of installations based on principles of urban ecology solutions, sustainability and universal design.

The project would be conducted in four phases:

- Presentation Stage: Presentation of the project, obtaining feedback and establishment of collaborative partnerships (January-March 2009)
- Planning Phase: Implementation of preparatory work, participation processes, preparation of the sketches, entering into agreements etc. (February-May 2009)
- Implementation phase: Construction, planting, establishment of installations etc. (June to October 2009)
- Evaluation phase: The project is evaluated in relation to children's needs and degree of participation and achievement. The participants will also give they evaluation of the project. There will also be an evaluation of a possible continuation of cooperation partnership to other projects in the area, like a playground and a football field in “Bjølsten Park”. (October 2009 - February 2010)



There was great participation and input from children from kindergartens and small children from schools. It was made several workshops where children could paint more bricks that were used in the maze. There were also organized several breaks with games and lots of fun. The children came in different groups to build the maze and they could even place the painted bricks in the ground in the park.

To make the fortress they used a technique called super-adobe. It consists of sacks filled with soil that then were used like large bricks in a structure. The children came in different groups to help fill up the “super adobe bags” with soil and jump in it to make this very compact.

The chosen area in the park lei very close to several kindergartens and one school, so that the maze and the fortress becomes a gathering place, meeting and destinations for various activities in the community.

Time has passed and you can still see small children and others not to small using the playground made by themselves.

We can conclude that the project created empowerment and appropriation of public spaces for future generations.

c. Making a square with kids from the community

The Municipality of Sagene hired the organization “Change the World” to design and implement a new square in a public spaces with the participation of small kids from the community.

The aim of the new square “Arne Gjestis” was to be a social meeting spot, where several activities could be hold. This was done through the creation of green and pleasant urban spaces with different play opportunities for children and a meeting and recreation space for parents and other adults from the local community.

The “Arne Gjestis” square will create the new play and recreation opportunities in the area, both attached to the municipal social dwellings in the area (with special focus on Drøbak Gata 1), and in relation to the activity in Sagene community center. There are many persons who live in small public houses and who have no place to play, so this makes it extremely important to them. This project gathered children and adults from the neighborhood around Sagene Community to create a vibrant new meeting point.

The square included several elements: Sandbox with rocks, a green pergola, low green fence facing the street, 2 table tennis tables, a big outdoor chess, flower boxes and a climbing tree.

Over 30 children between the ages of 8-12 participated in the workshops guided by adults. Some of the practical activities were to decorate flower pots with mosaics, to make flower boxes and plants herbs and flowers.



It was also a special workshop to build compost bins where the children learned about composting. The compost bin was placed near the community center and it was used to compost some of the organic waste from the kitchen of the Sagene community center.

Younger children from kindergarten have sown seeds and planted vegetables, flowers, herbs and berries in this new square.

This project allowed working for a social sustainable community through civic participation to safeguard the public areas.

The kids expressed a sense of ownership for the area they eagerly help to construct in such a neat manner. They became quite protective of the area, and that exactly part of our philosophy here at the community. The intention is to work as a team within the community.

One of the slogans of the project was:

Public areas are for all of us! Use them well and take care of your community!

We expect that these seeds which are sown in the heart of the city will sprout and spread further.



1.3 The Municipality of Sagene advices to groups, NGO's and private individuals.

The Sagene Civil Center from Sagene municipality is a meeting place for various activities, and many nonprofit groups have their activities here. They also help ONGs and people who want to start up activities, lend facilities at low cost, and they will gladly give guidance on how to organize and publicize activities.

a. Day singers choir

The director of the choir, Bree Switzer, studied vocals and composition at Selkirk College in Canada, pedagogy and choral directing in England. She has led choirs and taught music and singing for 12 years.

Bree was looking for a spot for her choir to practice. That's how she ended up at Sagene Civil center and filed up her case.



The responsible at the Municipality of Sagene considered it a good idea and decided to lend a place at the community house where the choir could practice one a week. They also helped with networking and giving advice to the choir. In exchange the choir should made several presentation free of charge for the municipality.

The choir's philosophy is: Everyone can sing. Regular singing is good for the body and the mind, and singing, especially with other people, makes people happier. Singing with others enhances listening skills, and releases endorphins, which give a lifted feeling and reduces stress. It also brings more oxygen into the bloodstream to improve circulation, which tends to promote a good mood. The participant gets energized by singing.

The participants tell Bree that they get energy from singing. They say things like: “ I’m so glad that I came to choir today. I was tired that I almost didn’t come. And now I feel so much better, and full of energy!”

The choir “Dag-sangerne på Sagene” are international, multilingual and is run in English in order to be open to those who have recently come to Norway, but we speak both Norwegian and English during the practices. This choir has become a joyful and sweet part of many of the members’ lives and is something they look forward to each week.

The choir aims to serve Sagene residents, but is open to everyone.

This partnership between Sagene Civil Center and the choir “Dag-sangerne på Sagene” has functionated in this way since 2015, successfully and with many happy participants.

This is a good example of partnership between an NGO finds a place to carry out their activities and the municipality that can give a cultural offer to the community without major use of human and material resources for the development of the of local artists.

You can read more at: www.silverkingsinging.com



b. Sagene Art Gallery

Torshov Kunst og Kultur Forening (TKK) is an NGO located in the Municipality of Sagene working to spread the art of local artists from the city of Oslo. This organizations work to make art exhibitions for their associates.

In 2010, the TKK made their first contact with the Sagene community house. They wanted to make an art exhibition and wished to do so on the walls of this popular place. The responsible for the Municipality of Sagene considered it a good idea and lent the place for the exhibition.

After making various exhibitions Sagene municipality proposed to TKK if they were interested in pursuing this initiative on a regular basis. The TKK would receive the requests from the artists, make an annual schedule and be responsible for all the practical details. The municipality would grant access to the location for free, provide a key to the facility and make advertising through social

media. In addition, a general agreement was made where the TTK guaranteed that the exhibition would be pluralistic and put focus on local artists.

Sagene Civil center's gallery has been functioning on these bases since 2010 until today without interruption, successfully and with many visitors throughout its existence.

This is another good example of a partnership between an NGO which finds a place to carry out their activities and the municipality that can offer cultural activities. All this without excessive expenditure on neither human or material resources, while still contributing to the development of local artists.



2. How the Municipality of Sagene finances NGOs' projects and activities

2.1 Green fund for Sustainability projects

The goal is to support projects that activate the community in their commitment to the environment in the Sagene district.

Criteria for project:

The project must have a local presence in the Sagene district and engage the district's residents, must create positive impact on the local environment with a start and a finish date., and have a start and end date.

Criteria for priority applications:

Projects aimed at children and young people, the elderly and vulnerable groups, projects aimed at the general public, rather than private individuals / groups, projects that are innovative and future-oriented, the applicant's degree of self-financing (such as own funds, volunteer efforts, funding from

other sources, premises , donated materials) and projects that create a positive impact on the community as a whole

Which kind of projects can apply for a grant:

- Small or large projects outside of the organization's ongoing activities. Examples include educational, cultivation projects, green roofs, social entrepreneurship, arrangement of courses and workshops, and projects that promote environmentally friendly transport, environmentally friendly trade and the reduction of consumption and waste.
- Project funding for the study and implementation of the project

Which kind of projects can not apply for a grant:

- Projects that are not primarily involving the district's residents. Projects outside the district's boundaries must document how the district's residents should be involved and how big proportion of participants will be from the district.
- Projects which have already been implemented.
- Organizations regular operational expenses.

Who can apply for funding:

Organizations and institutions, individuals and informal groups, industry and green entrepreneurs, cooperatives and condominiums, and service unit from the Municipality of Sagene.

OTHER CONDITIONS

- Projects can be short-term (which takes place in the fiscal year) or long term (that extend beyond the financial year).
- Applications for grants of less than NOK 20,000 can be sent whenever. A limited amount is allocated for this purpose.
- Applications for grants of more than NOK 20,000 handled by district committee.
- For grants of NOK 100,000 or more required audited accounts and signed reports. For other applications, it is sufficient that the leader of the project and a person to sign the accounts and reports.
- It is required that the applicant is registered in the National Register, with its own bank account.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANT

- Municipality application form shall be used to seek grants.
- The final report submitted no later than one month after the end date and must include accounting.

2.1.a Cycling without borders (CWB)

The CWB is about young volunteers bringing elderly nursing home residents out for a tour in the surrounding area with an electric bike, and with this type of environmentally friendly transport go searching for areas of town that have a significance for them as memories of their earlier days.

During the project year SUA excited and engaged residents, volunteers, employees and dependents.

There are many residents in Sagene Elderly Center who during this year have been fulfilling dreams they thought were unattainable. They've got to know the feeling of being on a bike again, -Seek out their favorite places from earlier in life, socializing with other generations and feel the wind in their hair.

CWB has got new people to become volunteers and feel the joy of being able to please others. Only just by seeing the rickshaws passing by, curiosity is awaked to many people wanna volunteer to do the same. Employees at Sagene Elderly Center has been taking bike tours with residents for the sake of pleasure and additionally has mean of transport to / from barber / dentist / post officemail instead of using a taxi. Relatives have taken with their loved ones out on bike rides and thus gained a new dimension in enjoying each other's company. It's good to be able to share good experiences together, regardless of age!

SUA has aroused great interest, both in Oslo and nationwide. There has been high demand with the need for information and the desire even to start with SUA in other nursing homes.

Oslo is now working on a project in collaboration with SUA and Bicycle Project in "Bymiljøetaten", where it has being purchased 10 bicycles and initiated with SUA on 5 other nursing centers in the municipality. Media has been more than happy to cover success stories where residents on Sagene Elderly Center come home from cycling with rosy cheeks and a smile on their face and exclaimed: "So much fun!"

The project has mainly only been a success. The only difficulty that can be mentioned is that there were so many who wanted to hear about the project and implement something similar. It was quite overwhelming in the beginning.

The project was run by **Tonje Bjertnes**, a worker at the Sagene Elderly Center with the support of Green Fund.



2.1 b. Growing vegetables in the district's kindergartens

The idea for the project was originated as part of the annual school parcels meeting where the initiator Elin Tyse and “Oslo and Surrounding Ecological Horticulture Association” (OOØH) has played a central role.

Parallel to the work for saving the local school garden at Getmyra area, the association came with the idea of a cultivation project in the Sagene municipality's kindergartens. The application was written down and was sponsored by “Green funds”. The purpose of the project is to engage the kindergartens to take advantage of facilities at Geitamyra school garden and/or create their own vegetable gardens in their kindergartens. OOØH has assisted with planning, guidance, plants, pots and pans mm. The organizers found that many people were interested in cultivating, but they lack the elementary botanical knowledge to go ahead. In cooperation with the municipality and the Foundation “Ideas Bank”, it was arranged an experience and inspiration workshop focusing on kindergarten work on green initiatives: Kitchen garden in kindergarten? Inspiration day for kindergarten staff, parents and other interested parties. In terms of content, it was linked to the national curriculum for kindergartens where there is a requirement to promote a basic understanding of sustainable development, including an understanding of the interplay in nature and between nature and man. The program was flexibly adapted to how much time the individual kindergarten or participant could have. It consisted in the following three activities with the possibility to choose:

- Green future: Exhibition with practical tips and tastings from the kitchen garden, exchange and mingling.
- Workshop 1: Experience and practical tips from including 3 pilot kindergartens in the district of Sagene.
- Workshop 2: The road ahead, "Open Space" - dialogue and networking.

There was great interest in the project and there were discovered a lot of great resources among our new immigrant. Several of these are a wonderful resource regarding cultivation. For example, it was tip from a Vietnamese woman that it was a god idea to invite the Vietnamese ambassador who is an expert on food. Maybe they can take a round at several embassies in the next project.



2.1 c. Food Guild against famine

The initiator of this project was Svein Elias Gautefall with support from Green Found from the Municipality of Sagene

The project "Food guild against Famine" converts food that should have been thrown away into the delicious dishes that turns into money that goes to feed people in famine areas throughout the world. One billion people are suffering from chronic hunger. Meanwhile, close to fifty percent of the food produced in the world is being disposed. Here in Norway we throw nearly a thousand tons of good food every day. Through the project "Food guild against famine" we put the spotlight on this sad paradox and try to help solve it. We hereby hold of two of the largest - and inextricably interwoven - challenges facing the world today: poverty and environmental degradation.

In the week before the event takes place, gathering groups in different locations in Norway into fully usable food which selected stores would otherwise have thrown away. The food is distributed and prepared by a network of volunteer chefs who offer their private kitchens and restaurants. After they brought the food to arrangement areas in which they take part in large world buffets. Guests are encouraged to donate a sum of money for the meal they enjoy. The collected money goes to emergencies in areas affected by famine.

The first "Food Guild against Famine" took place in Oslo, on the Sagene Municipality in 2011. In Somalia there was famine at that time due to drought and internal strife and millions were forced to flee. "Food Guild against Famine" was made, the event was a success and the following spring, we held "Food Guild" in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Tromsø and Stavanger. The idea had spread and 8 groups coordinated from Oslo organized a National Food Guild against Famine in 2012 and 2013. They have created great awareness of unnecessary food waste through broad media coverage and serving of "expired" food to thousands of people in the public spaces.



Results so far: Wide media coverage is an important secondary goal of "Food Guild against Famine". This is to put the spotlight and attention to the problem. So long have over 20 different media reports covered our events. The project has also received much attention on social media. A video report made by Aftenposten TV, was for a long time the newspaper's most shared link on Facebook (1836 shares). Two documentaries made about the project and will be the one shown on TV2 next year. We collected NOK 211 000. The money we have relayed to NCA and their work in Somalia (2011), Mali (2012) and Syria in 2013 and 2014. We were nominated for KPH-Awards 2012, an award that celebrates social and cultural entrepreneurship in Scandinavia.

In conclusion, the organizer of "Food Guild against Famine" are very happy to see that the project, with its positive and creative approach to our greatest challenges, is a success. It attracts a lot of attention, creates enthusiasm, and will hopefully lead to concrete, positive changes.



2.2 Grant for Volunteering work

Goals: To encourage volunteer work in the district, creating commitment and good experiences for the district's residents.

Who can apply for funding: Both NGOs, groups and associations can apply. Service unit from the Sagene Municipality may also apply for funding for specific tasks that trigger a substantial element of volunteering.



Which kind of project can't apply for a grant: Grants for the operation (administrative expenses) of the ONG, activities or projects that take place in the district of Sagene, with voluntary work.

- Support for the operation (administrative expenses). Grants can be given to engage organizations and their ordinary activities related to the purpose of the organization.
- Support for events and projects. Support can be given to organizations and groups to carry out individual projects or larger events outside organizations' ongoing activities. It is particularly relevant when action/event helps to trigger activity involving more than the organization's own members or audience.
- Support for the implementation of specific tasks where the service unit from the Municipality of Sagene engages volunteers create a good neighborhood environment. The initiatives must trigger a substantial



element of volunteering.

- Support for the establishment of cooperation project. The district committee intends to support project that develop cooperation to solve common tasks and establishing social contact.
- No support is given to commercial or business-like activities.

Reporting requirements: The Municipality of Sagene shall be allowed to inspect how voluntary funds are used and may require appropriate documentation. This also applies after the funds are spent.

It should be reported on results of the activity and the accounting submitted. Reports should have information about the number of events, participation on events, number of members, collaboration with other groups and organizations.

Revenue and expenditure shall be documented and vouchers attached to financial statements.

For grants of NOK 100 000 or more requires audited accounts and signed reports. For other applications, it is sufficient that the head of the organization and the chief accountant (or other member) signs the statements and reports.

If supported events or projects end up in surplus it shall be informed to the Municipality of Sagene . Unused funds may be sought reallocated or transferred to the next calendar year or other voluntary activity.

The Municipality of Sagene may demand unused funds repaid. Funds that have been used in ways that do not meet the application can also be recovered.



2.3 Grant for children and youth in larger urban communities

Goals: To improve childhood and living conditions of children and youth by establishing or developing an open meeting spot.

This meeting place should be a social arena where children and young people from all social strata can meet and



participate on equal terms. The meeting point will particularly facilitate inclusion and participation for children and youth who are unable to and do not take advantage of other recreational activities.

The meeting point will be a low threshold service where there isn't requirement of knowledge, political opinion or religious backgrounds to participate. The offer shall as far as possible, have low or no cost to participants.

The target group: Children and adolescents aged 10 to 20 years with special needs, vulnerable youth groups and youth in general.

Who can apply for funding: Government and private agencies, neighborhoods, NGOs and youth groups can apply for funding.

Which kind of project can apply for a grant:

- Initiatives / projects that develop or establish open and inclusive meeting places for the target group.
- Investments in facilities and equipment to develop or establish open meeting places for children and adolescents. Application for clean investment grants are awarded only for one year.
- It can be sought and granted funds for up to three years (one to three years).

OTHER CONDITIONS OF THE PROJECT:

- There must be no requirement for pre-registration to participate.
- The meeting place should have regular opening hours and be a year-round offer.
- The meeting place should have a permanent home / local.
- The meeting point will recruit broadly.
- Contribute to a more inclusive leisure.
- Contribute to the participation of children, adolescents and youth groups who have little use of the existing cultural and leisure activities.
- Contribute to the promotion and inclusion of youth through the establishment of alternative mastering venues.
- Contribute to social inclusion and prevent undesirable social behavior, such as violence, bullying, crime and drug abuse, and combat prejudice, discrimination and promote mutual acceptance.
- Promoting equality and equal opportunities for girls and boys.
- Promoting participation and equal opportunities for children and young people with disabilities.

Criteria for priority applications:

- Children and adolescents with immigrant backgrounds face special challenges, and work that promotes integration is a priority.



- There will also be an emphasis on cooperation between municipalities and voluntary sectors.

Some example of project supported for kids- and youth:

Homework help, youth house, school tuition, tutoring for Tamil children and parents, graphic workshop, skate park, motorsport activities, media and communication workshops, dance Lighthouse, tour and weekend events, among other things.

2.4 Grant against child poverty

Goals: It is to prevent and / or mitigate the consequences of poverty among children and adolescents. The subsidy shall be an instrument to improve the chances that more children and youth will participate in important social arenas, holiday and leisure activities, regardless of parental income and social situation.

The target group: Children and youth who are affected by poverty problems. Along with those affected, included their families in the audience when the measure is aimed at culture, leisure and holiday activities.

Who can apply for funding: Government agencies, private companies and NGOs can apply for funding.

Which kind of projects can apply for a grant:

- Projects that help children and young people and their families affected by poverty to participate in cultural and recreational activities.
- Projects that help children and young people affected by poverty and their families to participate in holiday activities.
- Projects that contribute to participation for children and youth affected by poverty problems on alternative mastering venues.

Criteria for priority applications:

- Projects that promote the integration of children and young people with immigrant backgrounds.
- Projects aimed at children and young people who grow up with parents with addictions / mental difficulties.
- Projects in a partnership between the voluntary sector and preventive services from the Municipality of Sagene .

Some examples of supported projects:

Day trips, vacation club, tour to the island of “Hudøy”, family trips, weekend offers, free activities, young at work, children in violent environment, insights workshop, football and fitness equipment lending center, among others.



2.5 The community center rent facilities at low cost to NGO

Partnership Contracts, agreements of obligations and reduced prices, are important tools for attracting new and old users to the house, and to create active civil society participation.

The community house of Sagene is a meeting place for many of the district's groups, clubs and associations.

Subsidized rent of the community house of Sagene applies to organizations, groups, projects, local businesses and individuals who:

- Contribute to Community house environmental and human resource development.
- Work with environmental information to the public in the form of lectures, courses, performances and exhibitions.
- Contribute to the local cultural development and local cultural diversity.
- Contribute to create safe living conditions and social inclusion across generations, social and economic conditions, ethnicity and disability.
- Contribute to the development of local democratic activity, information and networking.
- Contribute to local community development of the district of Sagene.

Priority target group: Youth from the district of Sagene.

Experience so far:

This kind of cooperation with voluntary NGO has resulted in an increase in the community house revenue opportunities, as it has helped to make use of the house's availability without incurring the extras expenses. These new possibilities for cooperation have led to bringing in more and new groups and communities to house. This has also lower the operating costs for the community house by volunteer work or by a give performance for free.

The community house of Sagene had established as a meeting point for several of the district's groups and associations, and to achieve this we have adopted.

The use of the various cooperation and discount agreement must be adapted to the overall business of the community house. The scope of this cooperation must at all times be controlled by the manager in relation to the financial objectives in the community house.

The agreement was unanimously approved by all political parties represented at the district management board.

2.6 Free places for growing food

The Municipality of Sagene installed cultivation box in public parks in the district, which are provided for free to the inhabitants of the district.

The loan of the culture box begins with the promoting to the community announcing the opening of postulation for the cultivation boxes. Subsequently it makes a selection of the candidate taking into account the proximity to the place of the boxes, gender diversity, among other criteria. Subsequently the people is invited to sign an agreement for one year where the chosen people commit to use and care for their crops.

Most of the work carried out on a voluntary basis by those who will cultivate. This creates commitment and ownership of the project and their district, in addition to the creation of new meeting point and acquaintances.

The Municipality of Sagene started with a pilot project on urban cultivation. The project consisted of:

- 20 cultivation boxes in public places, which have been adopted by the locals.
- A parcel garden in the abandoned children's park.
- Berry-producing shrubs on public areas.
- Fruit trees in the "Bjølsten Park".
- Establishing a gardening crop network in the district of Sagene.

The district has now completed the pilot project with great success and it will expand during the next year.

The administration believes that this kind of project will facilitate cultivation in many different public places and increase the interest of the people in the sustainable development.



3. How people (NGOs leaders) are involved in processes of decision making at a local level.

3.1 Open sections at the municipal board

The district committee's top local political body in the Municipality of Sagene is directly elected by the municipal elections every 4 years. The committee manages the district's budget and district administration, and has overall responsibility for monitoring municipal services related to early childhood, health and social issues.



The Municipality of Sagene has two major departments: Children and youth department and health and social department. Most of the budget (about 990 million NOK) are used here to create the best possible services for the district's children and this who need care.

In addition, the district has a small cultural and community department, including responsibility for cultural and voluntary funds, consultations in planning and building matters, park management and operation of the community house of Sagene.

Direct participation of residents:

All meeting of the district committee starts with an "Open Quarter" (15 minutes) where the residents can come to ask questions or to make some propositions. In addition, the elderly council, the children and youth council or handicap council, can make statements on current issues concerning them.

The district committee meetings are held in the community house of Sagene and they are open to the public.



3.2 Kids and youths Council

The kids and youths council is the voice in Municipality of Sagene. The council has 10 members (with 8 members + 2 substitutes) who fight for a good life for the district's children and youth. Members of the council can be from the age 12 to 19 years.

The goal of the council is to ensure that children and youth in the district are happy and feel good. Therefore, they are fighting to maintain the good deals we have today, as well as improve those that are not good enough. This is why the Council has fought for a better swimming training and more swimming pools in the district.

The council meets about once a month. Anyone who wants to come and give their opinion has the opportunity of do that under "Open quarters", which are at the beginning of each meeting. Anyone can also apply for funding to support events or other good measures for, by and with young people in the district. The council receives the applications and can donate funds for events that fulfill the guide lines.



The council may make statements on matters like annual budget, and plans in nursery, leisure sector, transport, cultural and other measures relating to children and adolescents.

The council works also with profiling political issues towards of the municipality board. The most passionate cause the past year has been a better swimming training and several swimming pools in Oslo, and continues to struggle for this cause.

The Sagene kids and youths council was created in 1995 and is the oldest council in Oslo.

3.3 Elderly Council

The Elders is an advisory body to the municipality board. It is composed primarily of retirees.

According to the law on municipal and regional councils of elders of November 8th 1991, it shall be a elders council in every municipality in Norway.

All matters relating to the elderly living conditions will be considered by the elderly council before the board treats cases. The council could take up cases on its own initiative.

The council makes statements on matters concerning the elderly living conditions, such as budget, measures and plans in the healthcare, housing programs, transportation issues, communication plans and cultural initiatives.



The elderly council may also on its own initiative raise concerns and get answers from politicians and district administration.

3.4 Handicapped Council

The Council for Disabled is an advisory body to the Municipality board. The member of the council consists mainly of representatives from advocacy organizations for people with disabilities.

The council deals with matters that are particularly important for people with disabilities, like accessibility, services for people with disabilities and efforts to combat discrimination for people with disabilities.

The council makes major statements in overarching issues like finance plan, annual budget and the impact of project in the building sector, transport, kindergarten, school, culture, sports, recreation, health and nursing and care. The council members may also take up matters on its own initiative and receive answers from politicians and district administration.



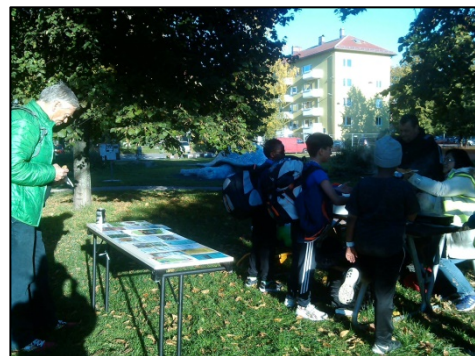
3.5 Turtle Council

As part of a process of empowerment and participation, a turtle's sculpture was made in a public park in the Municipality of Sagene .

The sculpture was made with the participation of many people in several workshop involving schools, kindergartens, universities, local politicians, etc. The people did small mosaic with ceramic tiles in the workshops and used it to make a big mosaic at the end. There were set up stands in the street, square, library and in a market, where the people who passed by could come and make a little mosaic. It was important not to hurry, and use the opportunity to talk and to get to know people.

The sculpture was implemented in a public park and inaugurated in an official ceremony with the participation of local people, newspaper, municipality workers and local politicians.

This project created an ownership, raised the expectation about what is going on, and empowered the local community showing that it's possible to make something nice together, that little by little we can make something big together.



When the project was finish, the municipality saw the need to continue the process and decided to make a stand near the turtle to maintain the presence of the municipality in place. Based on the Norwegian tradition of old democratic organization "Ting" and the turtle, the stand was called the "Turtle-ting".

The objective of the stand (Turtle-ting) was:

- To have direct contact with the local community.
- Provide information on the various activities occurring in the community.

- Listen to the needs of the inhabitants.
- Direct contact between the NGO sector and municipal officials with the inhabitants.

The stand offered free coffee and cocoa for the visitors and was done outdoors once a week.

The stand became a meeting place, a safe place for participation of the local community where they could express their views, wishes and recommendations. It was also a unique opportunity for public workers to make contact with the local community for which they work.

Given the success of this project, it is considered the possibility of a temporary place to further develop this successful meeting point between officials and local community.



4. Conclusion

It is important to mention that the way of working from the Municipality of Sagene with civil society and NGOs is an exceptional case in Norway. The situation presented in this document is the result of about 20 years of work. There have been many individuals, organizations and community employees who have made it possible to achieve this success.

Today Sagene municipality is nationally and internationally recognized for its way of working. They often receive visits from other municipalities from Norway and other countries to learn from their experience.

One of the lessons from this process is that all change takes time and requires a lot of perseverance.

It is known that the situation in Norway is special for its long tradition of democracy, economic power and political concerns, which makes possible this rich interaction between Sagene

municipality and local NGOs. But we believe it is valid as an example of what can be achieved if there is an active participation and empowerment of the local community and a political will from the local authorities working together in a long-term process for the well of the entire community.

To finish I want to mention that the purpose of this document is not to be a guide to be copied step by step, but it will be a source of inspiration to other NGOs, municipalities and individuals who want to create a better world.

5. Acknowledgment

Thanks to everyone who made this project possible, especially to Martinas Žaltauskas from “Nevyriausybinių organizacijų informacijos ir paramos centro direktorius”, who made this dream come true. Also a big thanks to the people who participated for their enthusiasm and desire to help to create a better life for all in Lithuania.



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"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." (Margaret-Mead)

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