

To whom it may concern

Searching for cooperation and exchange of experience

The municipality of Söderhamn and its unemployment department Resurscentrum is currently running a *European social fund project, Högtrycket* (i.e High pressure) The purpose of our project is to reduce youth unemployment and to develop a common work procedure for public authorities who are working with the target group in order to assure intervention in an early phase of young peoples unemployment. Overstepping public-authority boundaries for the benefit of young people and for society as a whole, is a main objective. One of our key words is cooperation.

The project also include some transnational activities and the municipality is therefore searching for other ESF- projects, public authorities, networks etc working with the same target group, unemployed youths, between ages 18-24, in order to visit and exchange experiences with others that are working with similar issues and hopefully thereby building a platform for eventually future cooperation.

In order to make this meeting within the limits of this year's project-budget the municipality is hoping/planning for a meeting taking place sometime between November-December 2009.

Public authority, organisations, projects etc interested in exchange of experience and possible future cooperation are welcome to contact

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Söderhamn is a coastal municipality two hours north of Stockholm on the east coast of Sweden with roughly 26 000 inhabitants, a lively and vibrant place where anything is possible, and the impossible just takes a little longer.

Söderhamn is an old industrial district, but few places have undergone such dramatic structural changes. Where large companies, mainly in the forestry industry, once dominated the local economy, small and medium-sized businesses now play an increasingly important role, bringing with them greater economic diversity. However the

unemployment rate, especially among young people is still very large 21% (incl labor market measurements) among young people up to 25 years old

Resurscentrum is a department within the municipality of Söderhamn and its board Learning & Employment. Resurscentrum (i.e. Resource centre) is looked upon as an internal resource for the municipality of Söderhamn and its organisation, providing the following services:

- Internal administration of short term vacancies,
- Internal occupational rehabilitation programmes
- Administration of the municipality carpool and,
- Providing labour market measurements (the ESF-project is included within this framework)