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| Country: | Sweden |
| Member/Company | Confederation of Swedish Enterprises |
| Initiative | <i>Multiple Initiatives</i> |

Overview

About Ung Företagsamhet (JA Sweden)

Ung Företagsamhet (Junior Achievement Sweden) provides educational programs in entrepreneurship for elementary to high school students to ensure the progression of entrepreneurship education within the Swedish school system. The programs are designed to stimulate creativity and entrepreneurship, give students insight into business conditions and driving forces and to raise awareness of the importance of entrepreneurship.

The program is run by Ung Företagsamhet/Junior Achievement Sweden, a non-profit organization working to promote entrepreneurship among Swedish students and to facilitate relationships between industry and the Swedish school system. Junior Achievement Sweden is part of the global organization Junior Achievement Worldwide.

450 000 students

Ung Företagsamhet/Junior Achievement Sweden's most recognized educational program is called the Company Program (UF-företagande). The Company Program provides high school students the opportunity to start and run a business during an academic year. Students experience firsthand an entire life cycle of a business from recognizing an unfulfilled market need, writing a business plan, setting up their company, raising capital to produce/develop the product, marketing and sales of the product and finally liquidating operations and paying out any dividends.

Through trade shows and competitions, students focus on product innovation, entrepreneurship and commercial competencies. In 2019/20 school year, over 33 700 students have participated in the Company Program and more than 450 000 students have participated in the education program since 1980.

Karl Wennberg (PhD, Stockholm School of Economics Center for Entrepreneurship) has studied and released two studies on Junior Achievement Sweden Company Program graduates. The 2011 study reported that Junior Achievement Sweden Company Program graduates were more likely to start a company than people without Company Program experience and that those companies started by Company Program graduates had higher revenue, job creation and company longevity.

The 2013 study reinforced that Junior Achievement Sweden Company Program graduates were more likely to start a company. In addition, the study found that Company Program graduates who chose to seek employment had a higher level of labor market establishment than those students without Company Program experience. These studies showed entrepreneurship training has a positive role in the individual's entrepreneurial career and also in workforce readiness and reinforces that Junior Achievement Sweden's mission is important for the continued entrepreneurial development of Sweden.



PRAO

PRAO (Praktisk arbetslivsorientering in Swedish, lit. familiarization with working life) is a mandatory part of the Swedish compulsory school system by which schools are required to at least 10 days where students in year 8 or 9 work in a real job. The program became mandatory in 2018 after a successful campaign from the Swedish business community including the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise (Svenskt Näringsliv).

Each student can choose and apply to their work independently and has to sign a contract with both the school and the employer. Often students end up working with a relative or friend of the family, but many students also find job opportunities by contacting local businesses themselves.

Students working in the program receive no salary or allowance except costs covering a daily meal.

The purpose of the program is to introduce students to real-life working environments where students normally have up to a six-hour workday in a safe and not to physically challenging workplace.

Key Messages

N/A