

Göteborg 2018-02-01

Communication on Engagement (COE) to the Global Compact 2016-2018

Medborgarskolan Region Väst has been a Global Compact participant since 2016 and we fully support the UN Global Compact and the ten principles of UN Global Compact regarding human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

Medborgarskolan is a *study** association with humanistic values that provides lifelong learning and thereby contributes to societal development and growth. This kind of learning is of great value to the individual but also has an intrinsic value because well-informed and active citizens constitute the core of democracy. Our humanistic values mean that the individual is the central focus and we take into consideration everyone's needs, preconditions and wishes. We base the development on interaction with others. Ideas and opinions are developed and formed through communication. We believe that the basis for good relations with other people is mutual respect. Humanism involves an understanding of differences of opinion and of other cultures. We strive to achieve an increased openness for international cooperation and cultural diversity. Our activities are open for everyone on equal terms. Our ambition is to stimulate the search for knowledge, to encourage individual creativity and social involvement.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Birgitta Andrén Åkerblom
Executive director Medborgarskolan Region Väst

* We use the Swedish term "folkbildning" instead of "study" since the word study is more connected to formal learning in schools. "Folkbildning" means non-formal adult education and it doesn't have an equivalent in English.

Description of Actions 2016-2018:

- We have, through internal communication to all employees within Medborgarskolan Region Väst, informed about UN Global Compact and our commitment to actively apply its ten principles in our activities.
- We inform our stakeholders about our commitment to Global Compact, for example through our annual report and promote the 10 principles.
- As an organization working with non-formal adult education, we also meet and have the possibility to influence many persons participating in our activities. For example, all our course leaders get basic training, including an introduction to the methods of "folkbildning" (non-formal adult education), our core values (listed below) and our commitment to sustainability (UN Global Compact and Environmental certificates).
- Through actively using and referring to our core values (listed below), especially in our labour political projects and activities where we cooperate with businesses to help unemployed participants establish themselves on the labour market, we continually show our commitment to the UN Global Compact (especially the principles on human and labour rights).
- We actively promote the UN Global Compact in our study rooms and on our website: http://www.medborgarskolan.se/regioner/region-vast1/region_vast/hallbarhet/
- During the above-mentioned period, Sweden as a country accepted a large group of refugees that applied for asylum. We arrange cultural activities and courses in the Swedish language and about Sweden for asylum seekers during their waiting for the application to be granted or not. The study material we use include a section about human rights.
- Our core values include:
 - o Focus on the individual
 - o Interactive development
 - o Mutual respect
 - o Intrinsic value of knowledge

Measurement of Outcomes 2016-2018

- **105 employees** have been informed about UN Global Compact and our commitment to apply the ten principles in all our activities.
- **3072 course leaders** have, through our basic leader training program, been introduced to our core values and commitment to sustainability (UN Global Compact and Environmental certificates).
- **4141 asylum seekers** in our refugee program have, through our study material and course leaders, been informed of our stand on human rights.