Business Services for Immigrants in Helsinki Region

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EnterpriseHelsinki

- Our mission is to make conditions for beginning, developing and growing of small businesses and people with ethnic background in Helsinki region by providing business counselling, training and incubation activities.
- Immigrants from more than 110 countries
- Biggest groups from Russia, Estonia, Somalia,
- About 3000 immigrant’s entrepreneurs in Helsinki region
- Mostly micro enterprises in service field,
- But also KIBS-(Knowledge Intensive Business Services) and expert enterprises.
- Many entrepreneurs high qualified and high educated
NYP Business Services (Enterprise Helsinki)

- NYP Business Services started in 1993
- Part of Planning and Economic Center, City of Helsinki
- Number of employees 10 (8 advisors)
- New name Enterprise Helsinki since 2008
- Annual budget about 700,000 € (2008)
  Financed by City of Helsinki. About 40% of all costs are covered by subsidies.
- About 1000 clients annually in business counselling
- 350-450 new enterprises annually
- About 50% of all clients are immigrants
- Survival rate about 80% after 5 years from starting

Services of Enterprise Helsinki

- Business counselling for start-ups
- Business counselling for operating entrepreneurs
- Confidential counselling in Finnish, Swedish, English, German, Russian, Estonian and Arabic.
- Counselling free of charge
- Business training
  - Integrated courses (30% immigrants)
- Courses for immigrants
- Supplementary courses
- Business incubator services
An obstacles for success in business

- Lack of local language skills
- Lack of experience and skills
- Insufficient knowledge of Finnish business culture
- Insufficient knowledge of Finnish legislation
- Financing
- Bringing of customers
- Copying of business ideas directly
- Black economy?

Results and opportunities

- Well functioning training and counselling concept
- Good contacts with different authorities, schools and immigrant organisations
- National and international partnership
- Regional business services for immigrants Caisa Enterprise Centre since 1.1.2008
- Mentoring
- Business advisors with ethnic background
- Multilanguage training and informational materials
Thank You!

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