



Voluntary Sector Organisation Public Partnership (VSOPP)

Society is more than the State

Welfare is more than what the tax money pays for, always has been and always will be. The primary basis for welfare is that we humans are members of a Society and that we care about each other. One form of that solidarity is the act of paying taxes. But it is not the only one. Giving time and dedication, often as volunteers within the civil society, is another form of solidarity.

Society is more than the Market

The ambition to broaden the range of actors active in Society often leads to market solutions. These market solutions are often justified. Not always though! There are other types of relationships to fund and regulate diversity besides the Market. These relationships are built on the notion that not all social problems are best solved through competition and the provision of services in a market.

Voluntary Sector Organisation Public Partnership is a non-market solution

Each regional/local authority shall, according to the EU Commission's legal experts and Swedish government, first and foremost consider what the purpose of an activity is and the person's/patient's needs and rights, then decide which financing tool that fits. Public authorities are therefore not obliged to procure all activities from external parties. The partnership relationship is a possibility especially if:

- The operation is initiated by the Voluntary Sector Organisation
- The activity can be seen as a step in the realization of a political program or plan in which the Voluntary Sector Organisations are specifically mentioned
- There is not a market or a competitive situation to nurture
- Both parties are involved in financing activities (via money or other contributions, i.e. "in kind")
- Operations are not regulated in detail by the public authority

Voluntary Sector Organisation Partnership should not be confused with Public Private Partnerships which are already regulated, nor the more general Agreements/Compacts that have been created to shape the general relationship between public authorities at various levels (national, regional and local) and the Voluntary Sector Organisations. VSOPP's are often formed between one public authority and one or in some cases a few Voluntary Sector Organisations, focusing a certain activity/operation.

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Forum general webpage <http://www.socialforum.se>

Brief info in English: http://www.socialforum.se/?custom_page=in-english

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