



## Headlines

- How Swedish accountants help SMEs to adopt sustainable business practices
- 50% of UK entrepreneurs aim to make a difference socially or environmentally
- Tuscany: small business networking on CSR
- New publication: "Best CSR Practices in Public Services"

### **How Swedish accounting firms help SMEs to adopt sustainable business practices**

The European Federation of Accountants has published a short paper explaining Sweden's concept of the Miljö Engagerad Revisor (MER) - or Environmentally Committed Accountant. The MER consists of a series of Excel based questionnaires that help accountants to identify the potential for environmental savings and reductions in business costs. Freely available in Swedish and English.

[http://www.fee.be/publications/default.asp?library\\_ref=4&content\\_ref=1242](http://www.fee.be/publications/default.asp?library_ref=4&content_ref=1242)

<http://www.merverkan.se/tools.php>

### **50% of UK entrepreneurs aim to make a difference socially or environmentally**

The authors of this survey call them "hidden social enterprises" – the large number of mainstream enterprises, set up by mainstream entrepreneurs, but with the aim of making a difference socially or environmentally. Delta Economics surveyed over 2000 mainstream UK entrepreneurs and found that nearly 50% had "to make a difference either socially, environmentally or in terms of job creation" as one of the primary triggers for setting up their business, and for 20% this was the primary trigger

<http://www.deltaeconomics.com/COGS/Hidden%20Social%20Enterprises/Hidden%20Social%20Enterprise%20Report.aspx>

### **Tuscany: small business networking on CSR**

The Italian region of Tuscany has a strong record of supporting CSR amongst its many small and medium-sized enterprises. A regional grant now supports a network of SMEs actively committed to CSR, and particularly those with SA8000 certification. The activities of the SA-RETE network include sharing a database of responsible suppliers, and sharing communication and lobbying strategies in order to have more power with big retailers and with public administrations.

<http://www.sa-rete.it/en/what-sarete-project>

### **New publication: "Best CSR Practices in Public Services"**

A new collection of CSR best practices from companies involved in public service provision around the European Union, compiled by CEEP (the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises Providing Public Services).

<http://www.discerno.eu/images/stories/pdf/WEB-bp-ceep.pdf>