


European Social Firm of the Year Award 2007

Best overall winner

Kuntoutuskeskus
MENTAL  Finland




CEFEC
AWARD



Rehabilitation Centre Mental Ltd Is the Year's European Social Enterprise

Rehabilitation Centre called Mental Ltd in the neighbourhood of Tampere has been selected to the Year's European Social Enterprise. The selection was made by CEFEC, the European umbrella organization of Social Enterprises, on the 12th of October in Linz in Austria.

CEFEC selects every year the best European Social Enterprise. In addition, it selects the best big and small Social Firm, being the limit ten employees per enterprise. Mental Ltd won the title of the best European Social Enterprise. Last year Finland was successful in the series of small Social Enterprises thanks to the win of Carfix Ltd from Vaasa.

Mental Ltd produces private housing service of social welfare to mental health and intoxicant trainees, and homecare to persons living in the support residences of the Enterprise. It also provides institutional child welfare service. The target of the Enterprise is to enlarge its activity to intensified housing service of aged people. The services are bought by municipalities.

Mental Ltd was founded and is owned and led by two women: Päivi Mäenpää and Päivi Aaltonen. They have a long working career in hospitals and treatment institutions as nurses and mental health nurses.

Mäenpää and Aaltonen started the activity of Mental in 2005 with five employees. Today the Enterprise employs 40 persons, so that its rate of growth has been enormous. Also the turnover will be rising this year from 1,2 millions of euros of the last year to 3 millions.

The successful activity of Mental has been noted also in the home country. Last spring it was selected to the National New Enterprise.

At present, in Finland are working about 140 Social Enterprises in different lines of action. The name of Social Enterprise can only be used by the enterprises in the register of Social Enterprises. Into the register maintained by the Ministry of Labour will be accepted such enterprises that fulfil the conditions of the Act of Social Enterprises from the year 2004: at least 30 per cent of the employees of the enterprise must be disabled, or disabled and long-term unemployed. Otherwise the Social Enterprise works with the same commercial grounds as other enterprises.

Further information:

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