

Social bistro Strecha

Description:

Strecha is a vegan social enterprise, which is runned from February 2018 in Zizkov by a social cooperative Strecha. Homeless people, people after serving a sentence or on condition find an employment here.

Target:

- 1) To employ as many people who are disadvantaged in the labor market as possible, to offer them a decent wage. Target groups are homeless people; people after serving a sentence; people on condition.
- 2) To actively cooperate with employees in solving their debts and housing situation, helping them to pay their debts, to look for dignified and affordable housing and, possibly, to help them pay a real estate agency commission and a bail.
- 3) Offer employees self-fulfillment within our cooperative, which they can enter after six months of employment and participating in six cooperative meetings, thus becoming a co-owner of a social enterprise and participating in its democratic governance and development.
- 4) Offer ecological and nutritional food at affordable prices to step up against gentrification and privilegisation of veganism.
- 5) Communicate the social and economic topics with which our project is related, to the public. Show how a socially, economically and ecologically democartic and solidary society could work.

Financing

We have founded the project partly from our own and family resources and partly from the crowdfunding campaign. From February 12, 2018, when we have opened the bistro, we cover most of the costs with the enterprise earnings, or with catering earnings. Money from fundraising and crowdfunding is about 17.2% of the turnover. This income is therefore so far indispensable to us.

Structure

The cooperative now has five members. They are all on the board of directors of the cooperative, and they all have the same right to vote, which is primarily consensual, or 2/3 majority. There are 11 more people in the company, two of whom have already applied for entry into the cooperative after meeting the conditions (six months of employment and attendance of six meetings). Cooperative meetings are open to all employees in the company where they can suggest and comment suggestions and they can participate in the management of an enterprise even without official membership of the cooperative. We have different workgroups (eg kitchen, bar, PR, fundrising, accountant, catering, etc.) in which they can engage freely.

Mission

We want to help homeless people and ex-convicts achieve a decent life with stable housing. We want to dust off the cooperative form of ownership and get democracy in the workplace. We want to show people that veganism, ecological form of eating, can be affordable, tasty and nutritious at the same time. We want to prove that business doesn't have to be about profit and competition, but that it can be built on cooperation and solidarity.