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HHGS Sustainability Certification

Hi, happy to find you here! Before you get started with the certification, we would like to share some practical and important information for you to be able to fill out the certification tool properly. The following document is not to be used to fill out your application, to receive the certification tool (an Excel/google sheet file) please contact the Vice President of HHGS at vice@hhgs.se. The usage of the certification should begin as soon as the planning of the event starts.

The idea for the sustainability certification was formed at one of HCS meetings in the fall of 2020. We realised that the certifications available on the market were both costly and not always appropriate for the different activities, fairs and 'sittningar' sittings that take place at Handels. We wanted to create a tool that could be used by all associations, projects and companies for both small and large events. The main purpose of the certification is to make it easier and more distinct what sustainability means within our organisation, how we improve and what associations can and should work towards in sustainability. The HHGS Sustainability Certification, in addition to HHGS Sustainability Policy, reflects the ongoing work with sustainability within our organisation which aims to be more cohesive, ambitious, and inclusive.

To begin with there are statements regarding your event where you will have the option of choosing 'fulfilled', 'not fulfilled' and 'not relevant'. For many of the statements you need to be able to argue and show proof of how you have fulfilled something. This can be done by a shorter motivational text or with more extensive documents. It is always possible that more information is asked for by the auditor.

The option of marking something as 'not relevant' means that when you are organizing an event where the statement is not applicable, for example that if there will be no food, the question of choosing Fairtrade food is 'not relevant'. You cannot choose 'not relevant' just because you are not able to impact what food is ordered.

Some of the questions are marked with an (M) which means that they are mandatory in order for you to receive the certificate. In total you will need to fulfill 70% of the statements to receive the certificate. Please note that your answers need to be truthful since the certification is meant to help and guide your event towards sustainability more sustainable practices.

The certification will be controlled reviewed and either approved or denied by the Vice President of HHGS when the event is organized by an association, project or company at HHGS. When HHGS themselves are organising an event GMV (Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development) will be reviewing the application for a certificate.

If you have any questions throughout the process of filling in the certification, you are welcome to contact the Vice President of HHGS.

Good luck!

HCS through the Vice President of HHGS