

# Steps to empower SMEs in Sundsvall: the case of immigrant low-income entrepreneurs

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Forskningsworkshop, Hallstaberget, Sollefteå, 22-23 september

22/09/2016

# Number of Syrian citizens who have sought asylum in Sweden 2001-2015

Antal syriska medborgare som sökt asyl i Sverige 2001-2015



Source: Statistiska centralbyrån : <http://www.scb.se/sv/Hitta-statistik/Artiklar/Syrier-vanligast-bland-asylsokande-under-2015/>

## *Etableringsersättning* to certain newly arrived immigrants

	2016	2017	2018
Etableringsersättning till vissa nyanlända invandrare	5 738 000	7 843 000	8 404 000

(Tusental kronor)

Source: Arbetsförmedlingen, Budgetunderlag 2016 – 2018.

<http://www.arbetsformedlingen.se/>

- The work aims to explore the **mental visualization for perspective of the immigrant low-income entrepreneurs**. Therefore, an exploration of the individuals' views who are expected to establish SMEs over the next few months has been done.

- Two methods are used : **sentence completion** and **word association**.
- ✓ **Sentence Completion (SC)** : 9 uncompleted sentences have been used.
- ✓ and **word association (WA)**: 6 words have been chosen.

- In order to stand on the right uncompleted sentences and words which need to be used in both **WA** and **SC**, a focus group has been hosted in the Centre for research on Economic Relations (CER) in Mid Sweden University.
- **A group of Syrian residents in Sundsvall** who already guaranteed their permanent residency in Sweden due to their case as asylums seekers or refugees; all of them **are currently working to establish their own businesses in Sundsvall.**

- The discussion has been conducted **by their mother tongue “Arabic”** to ensure that the participants can express and talk freely and accurately.

Rely on the talks and dissuasions that have been done during the focus group. **The author has developed 9 items to represent the uncompleted sentence and 6 words to generate the word association.**

The author uses **the sense-for-sense translation** to ensure the accurate transfer of the issues which have been mentioned by the participants during the focus group.



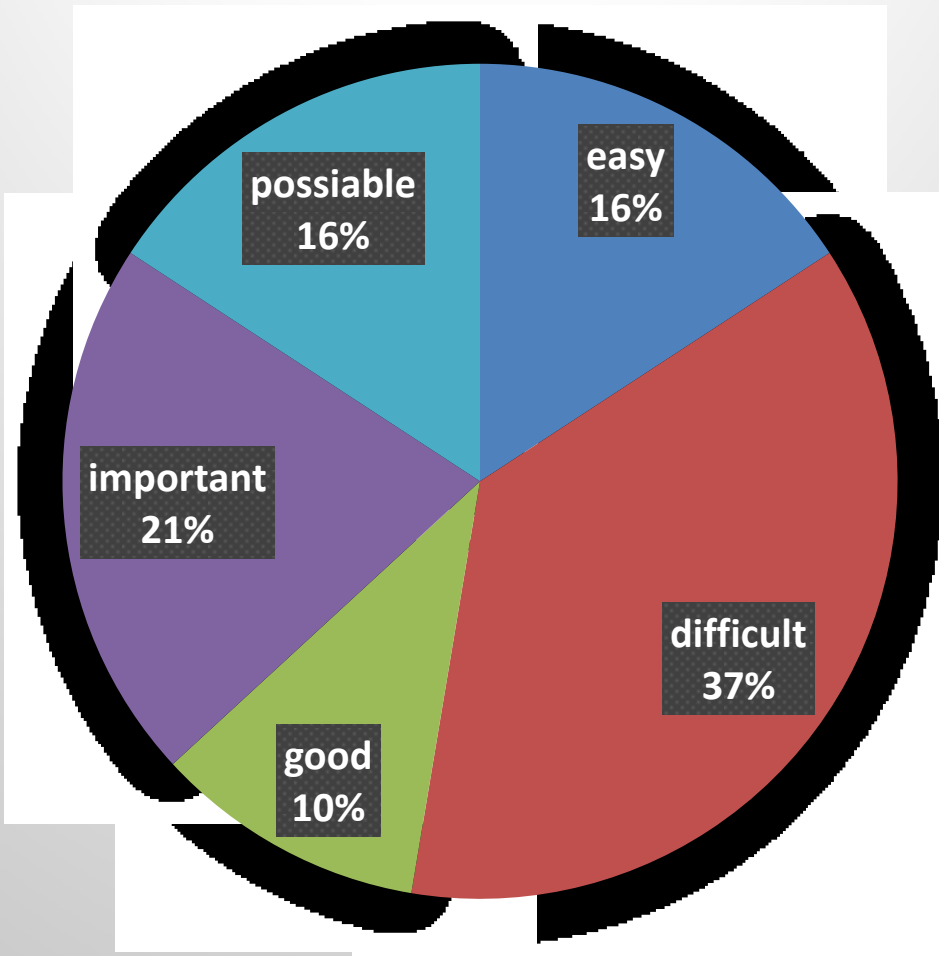
- The survey administered to the respondents consisted of two parts. **The first part was designed to understand immigrants' mental states** in particular, their beliefs and personality assessment.
- The second part of the survey included 6 words that were used to help the author **to reveal the private world of the individuals.**

- The populations from which our sample was chosen is formed by people who are currently in the progress of establishing stage "etablering" .
- The questionnaires have been distributed to 25 respondents . 19 respondents returned the questionnaires.

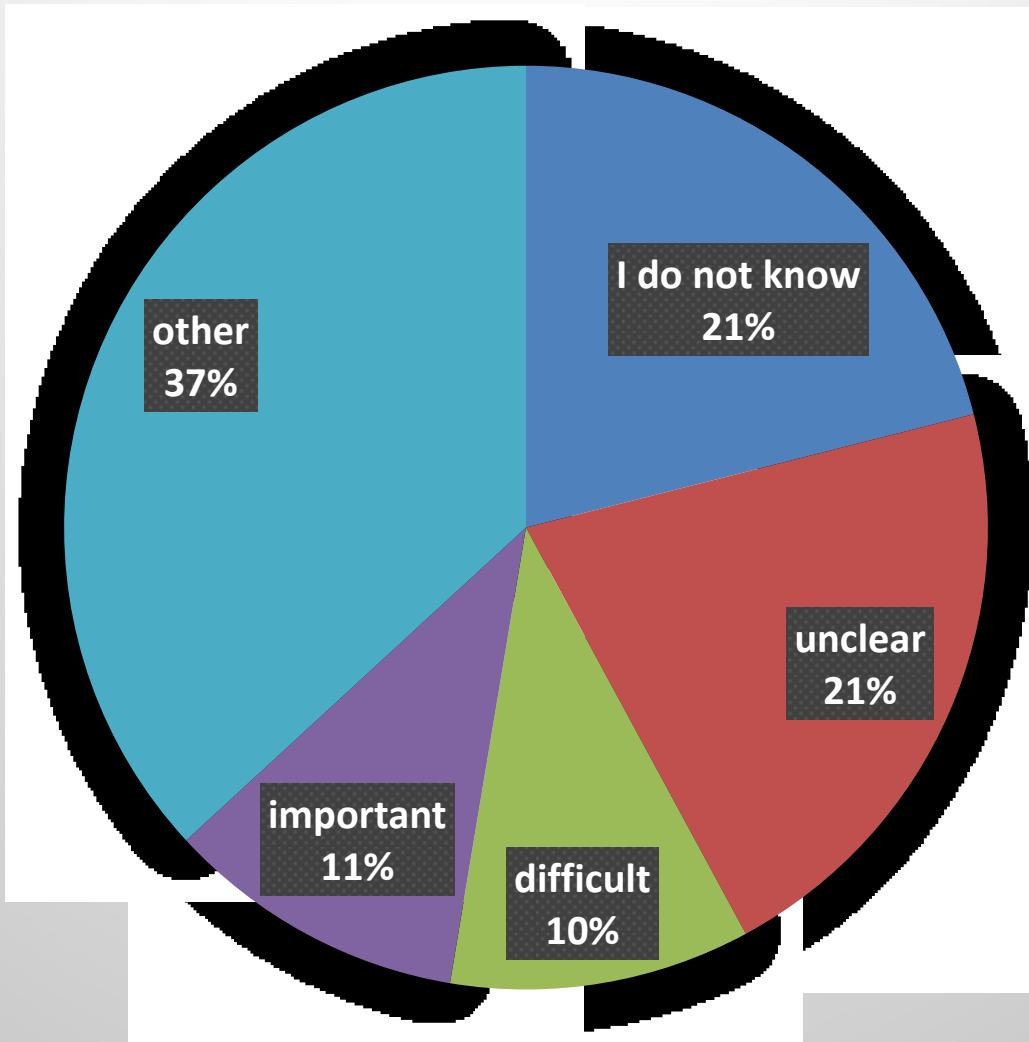
# Sentence Completion

1. Establishing a small business in Sundsvall can be described as
2. Information related to how you can establish small business - such as tax information and so- is
3. Getting the opportunity to take courses at the area of establishing a small business can be described
4. The most important skills that need to be empowered and enhanced in order to help those who would like to establish their own business are
5. The major sectors which are suitable for small investment in Sundsvall are
6. The main obstacles that might face establishing small business in Sundsvall are
7. The main advantages for establishing small business in Sundsvall are
8. Getting a fund to start a business in Sundsvall is
9. Working on my own business

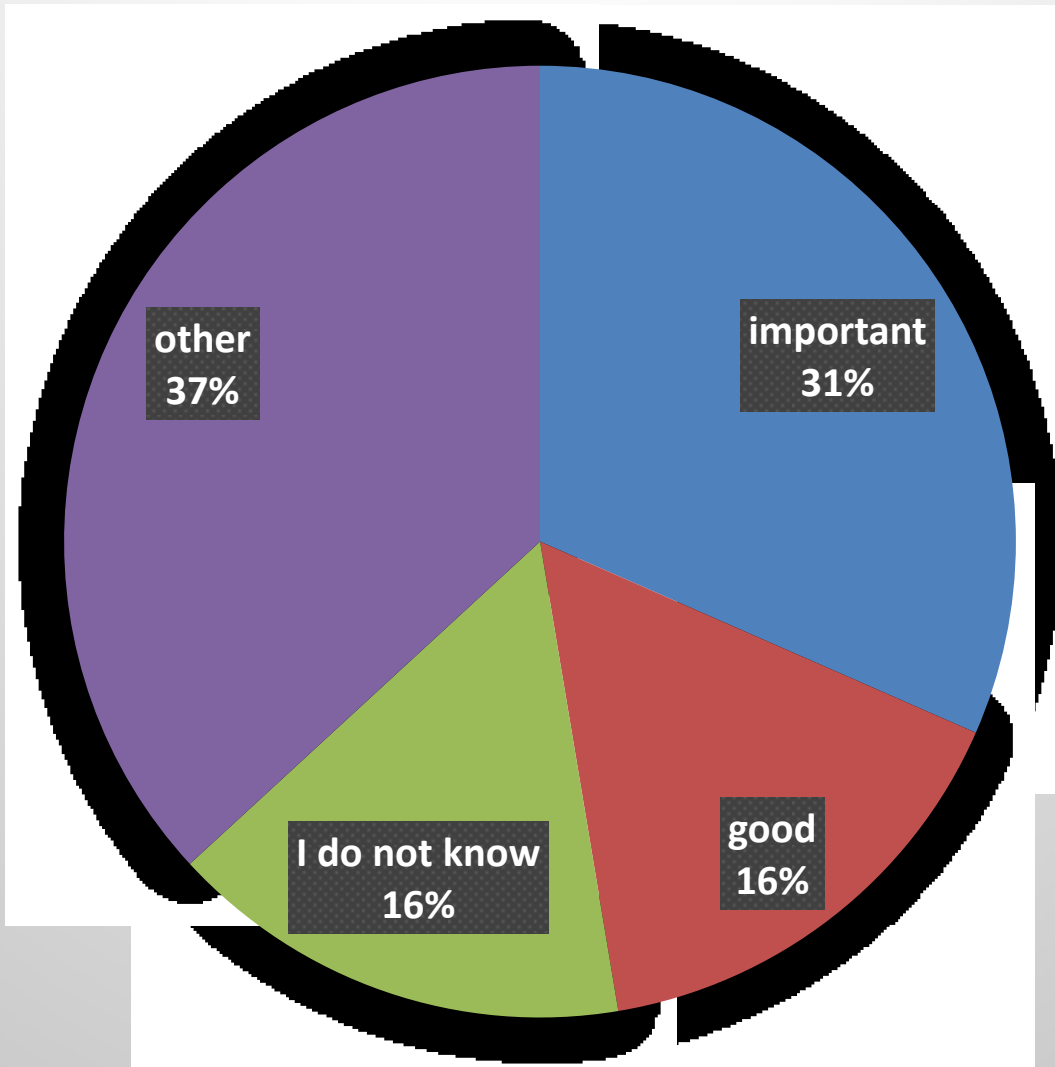
## 1. Establishing small business in Sundsvall can be described as



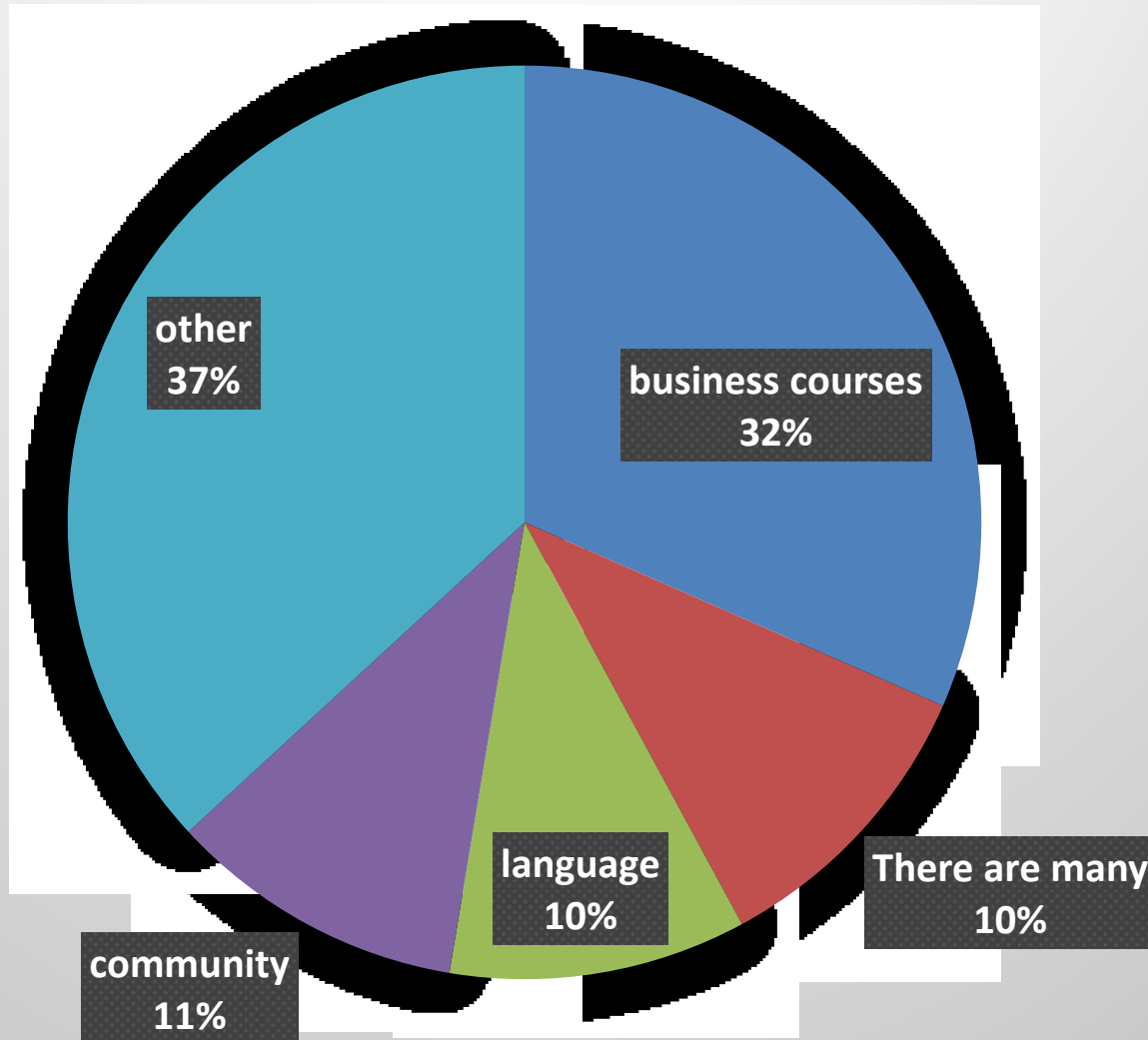
## 2.Information related to how you can establish small business - such as tax information and so- is



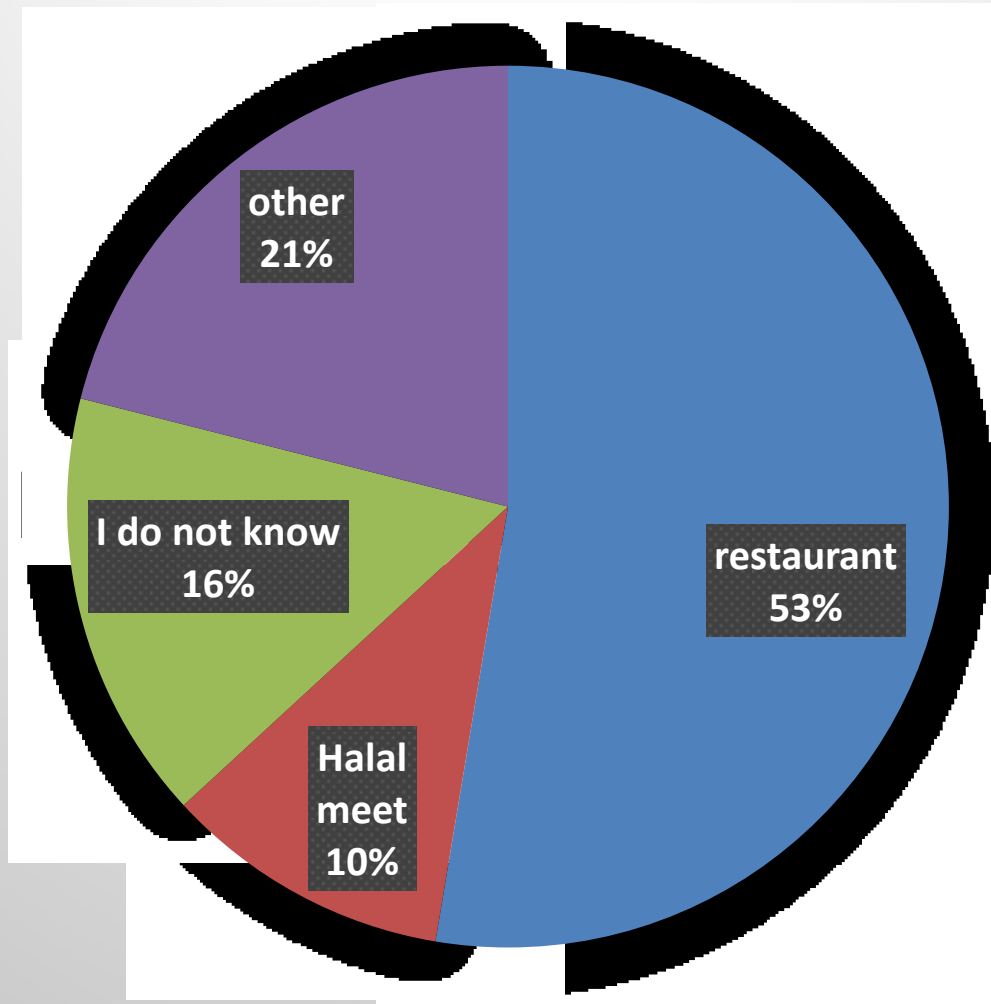
### 3. Getting the opportunity to take courses at the area of establishing a small business can be described



4. The most important skills that need to be empowered and enhanced in order to help those who would like to establish their own business are

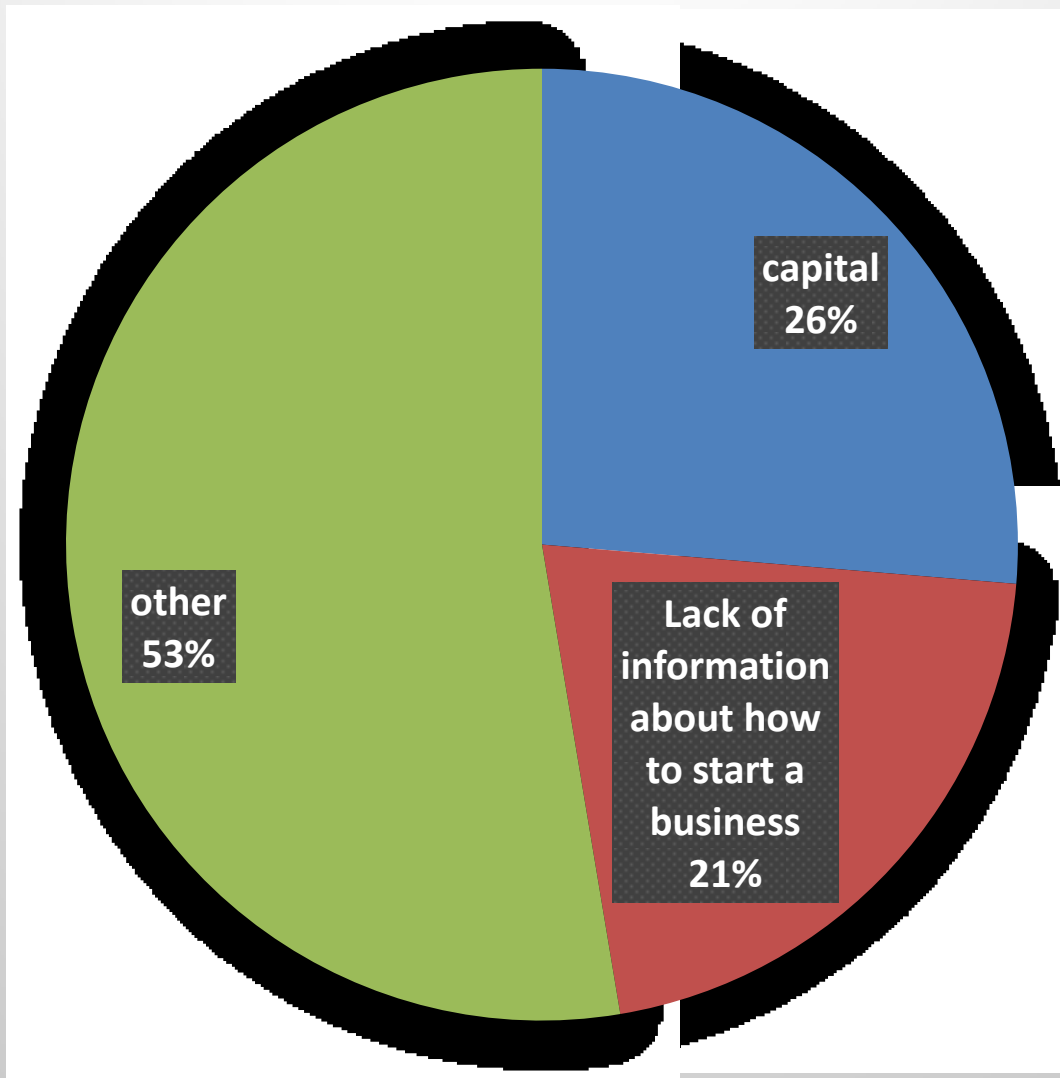


## 5. The major sectors which are suitable for small investment in Sundsvall

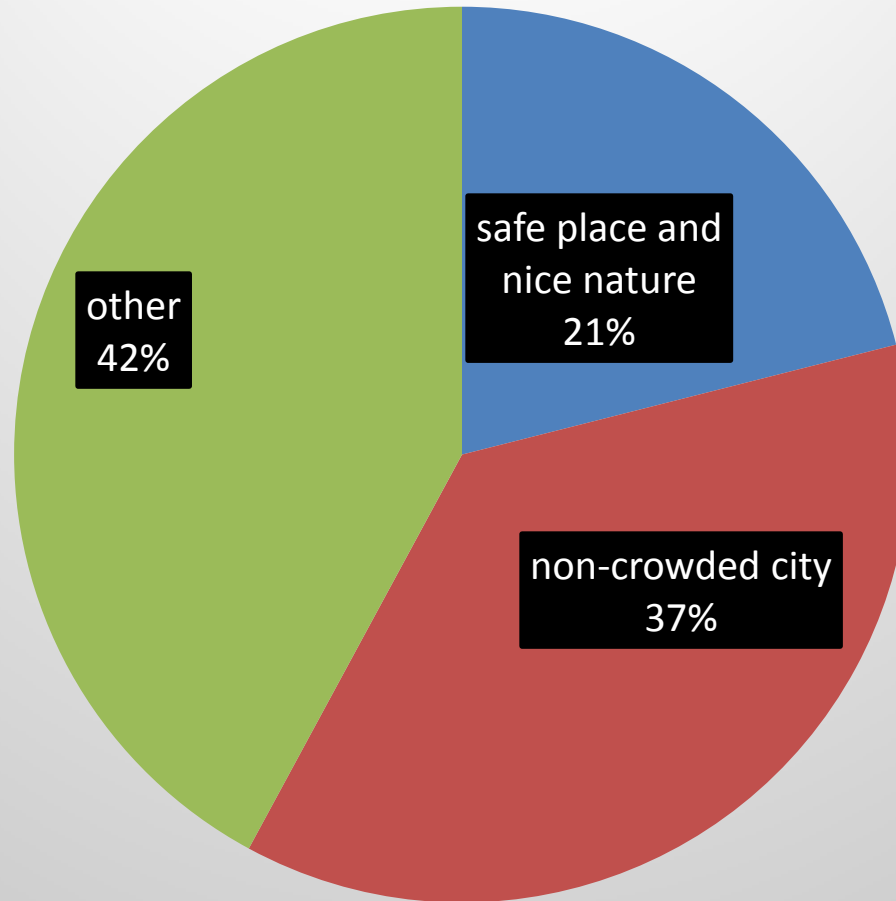




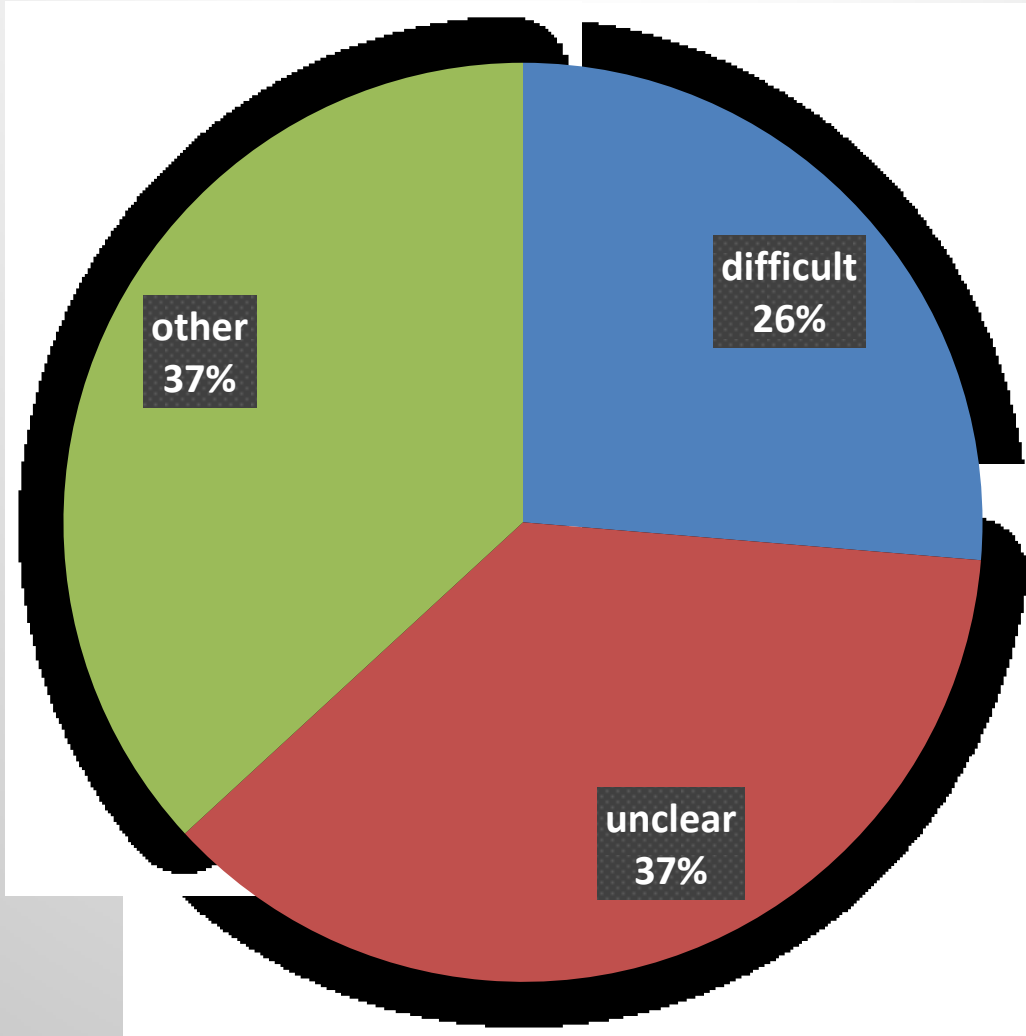
## 6. The main obstacles that can face establishing small business in Sundsvall are



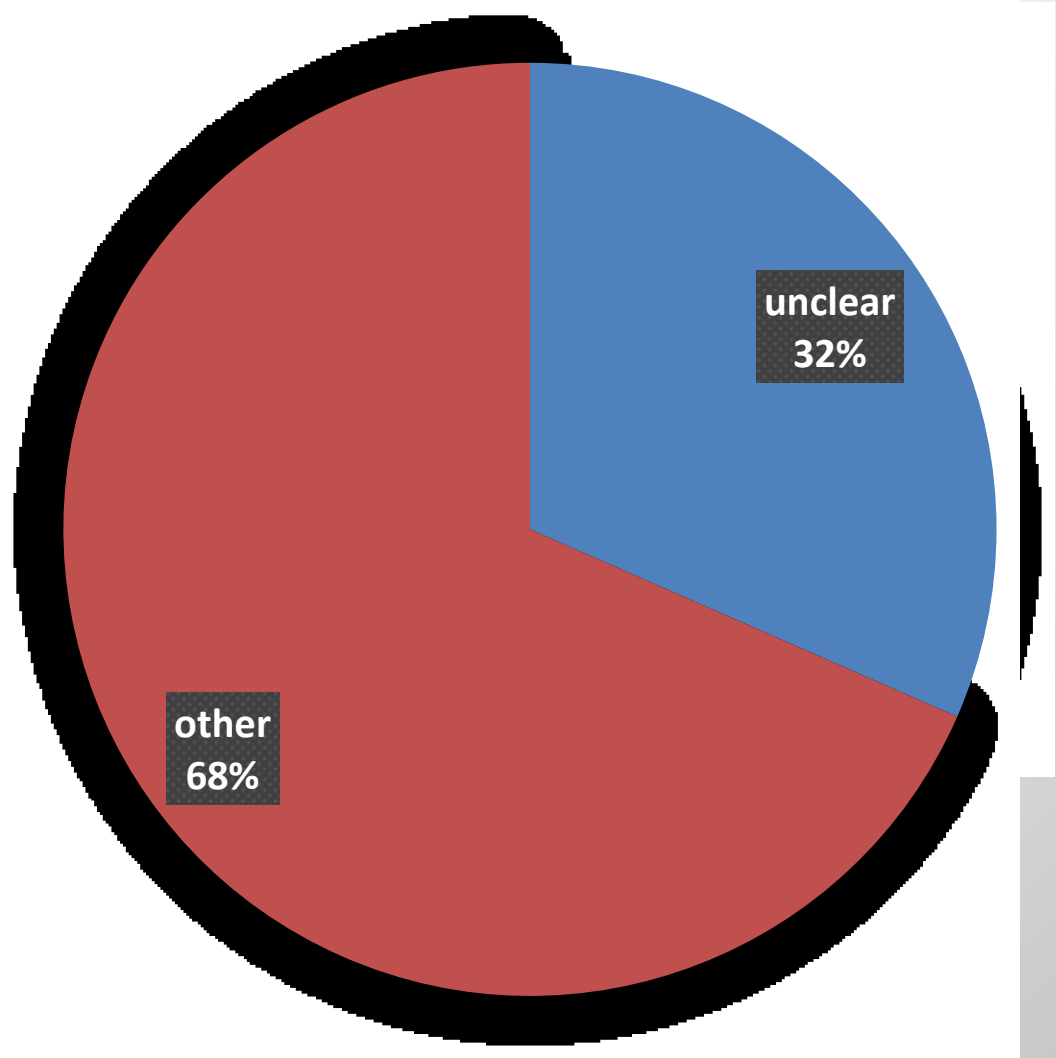
## 7. The main advantages for establishing small business in Sundsvall are



## 8. Getting a fund to start a business in Sundsvall is



# 9. Working on my own business



# Part II

## Word Association

Tax

My own business

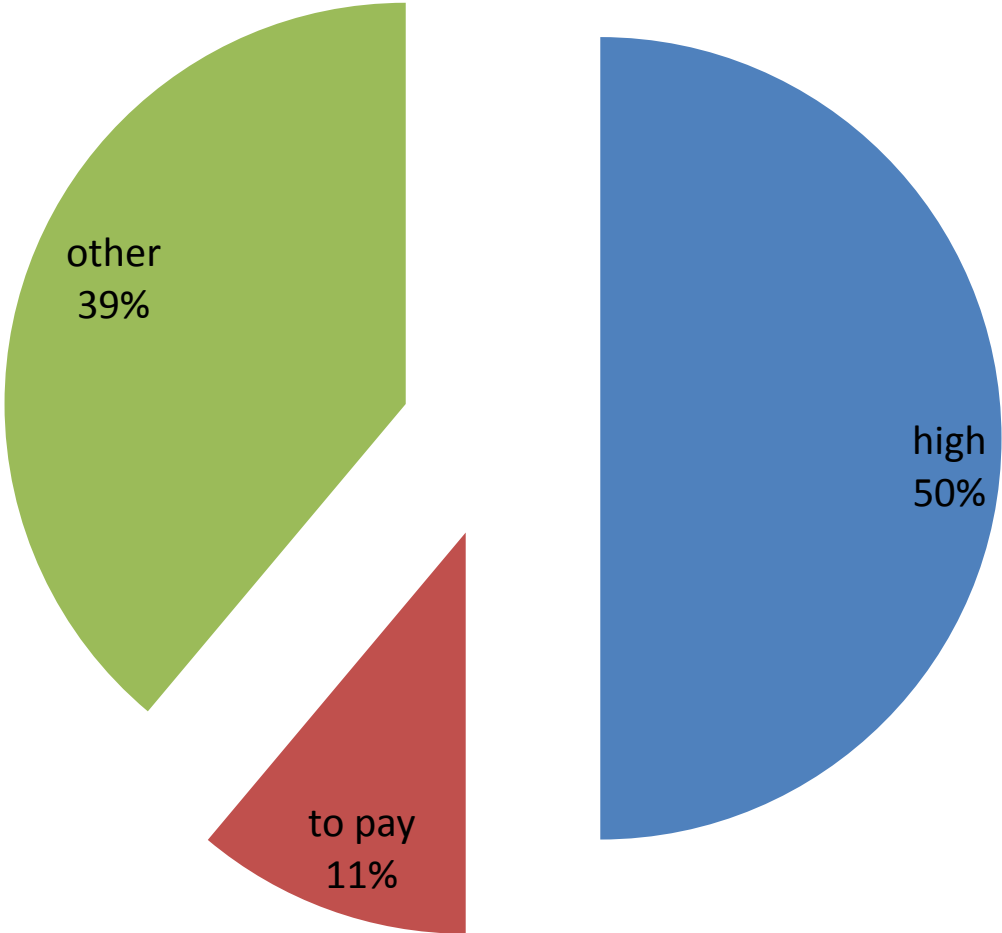
Facilities for establishing small business

Obstacle for establishing small business

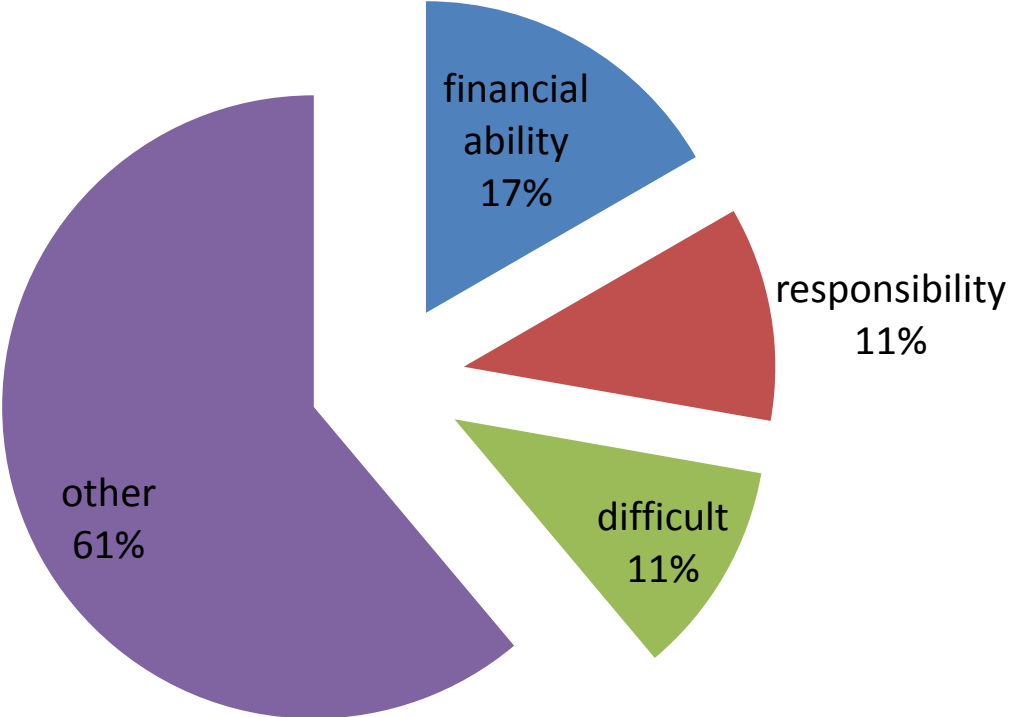
Courses to help in establishing small business

Arbetsförmedlingen

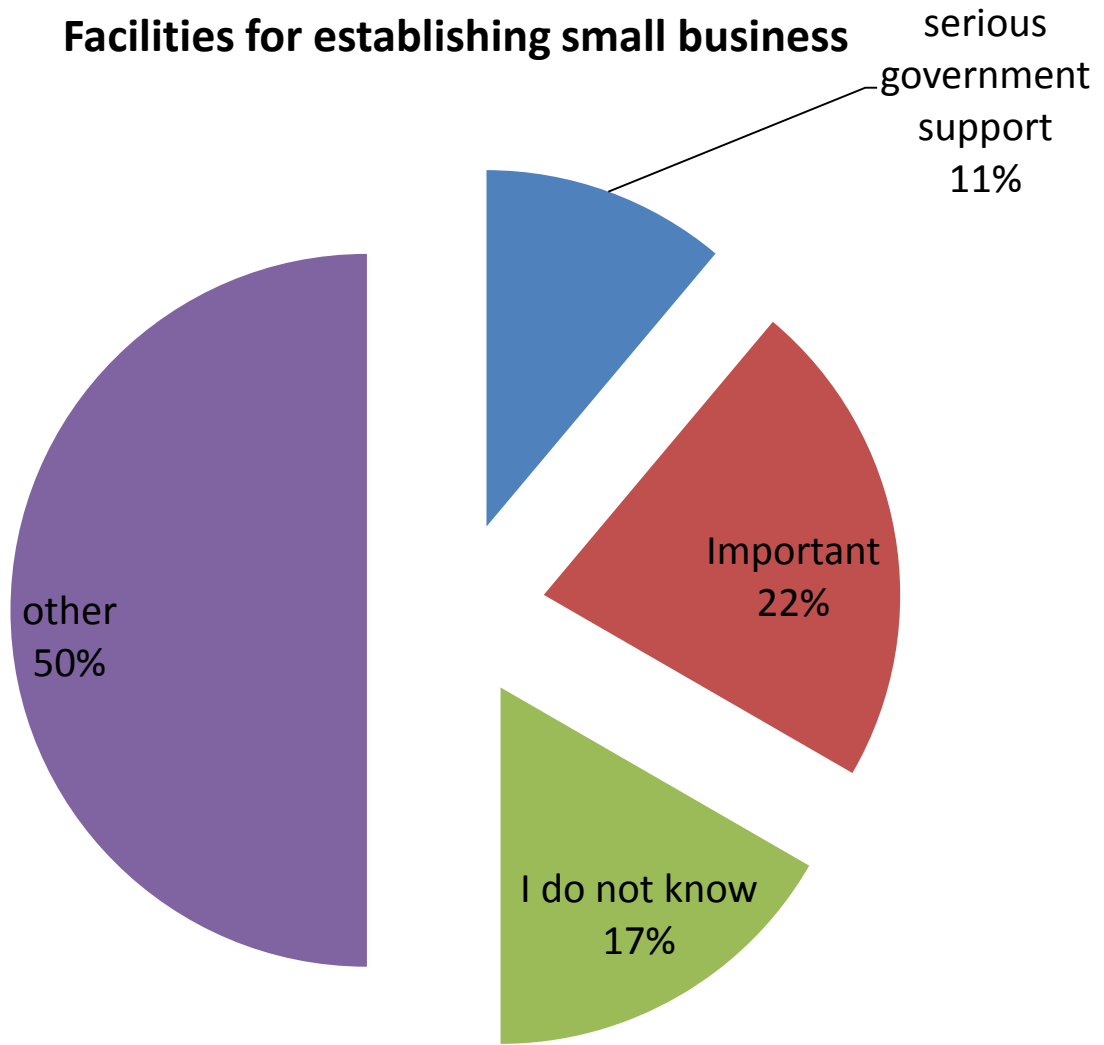
# Tax



# My own business

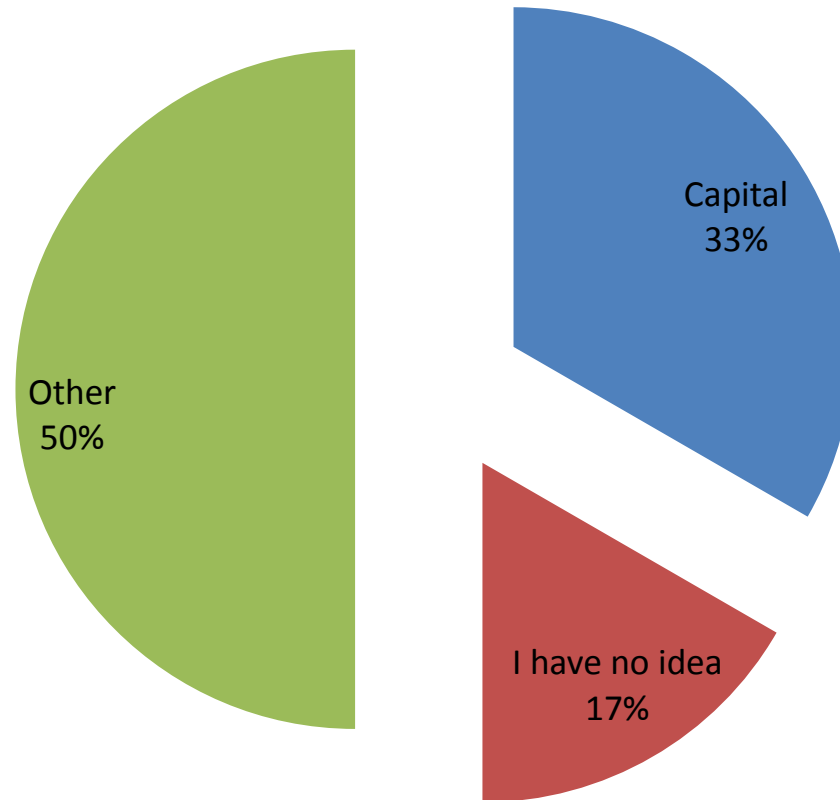


# Facilities for establishing small business

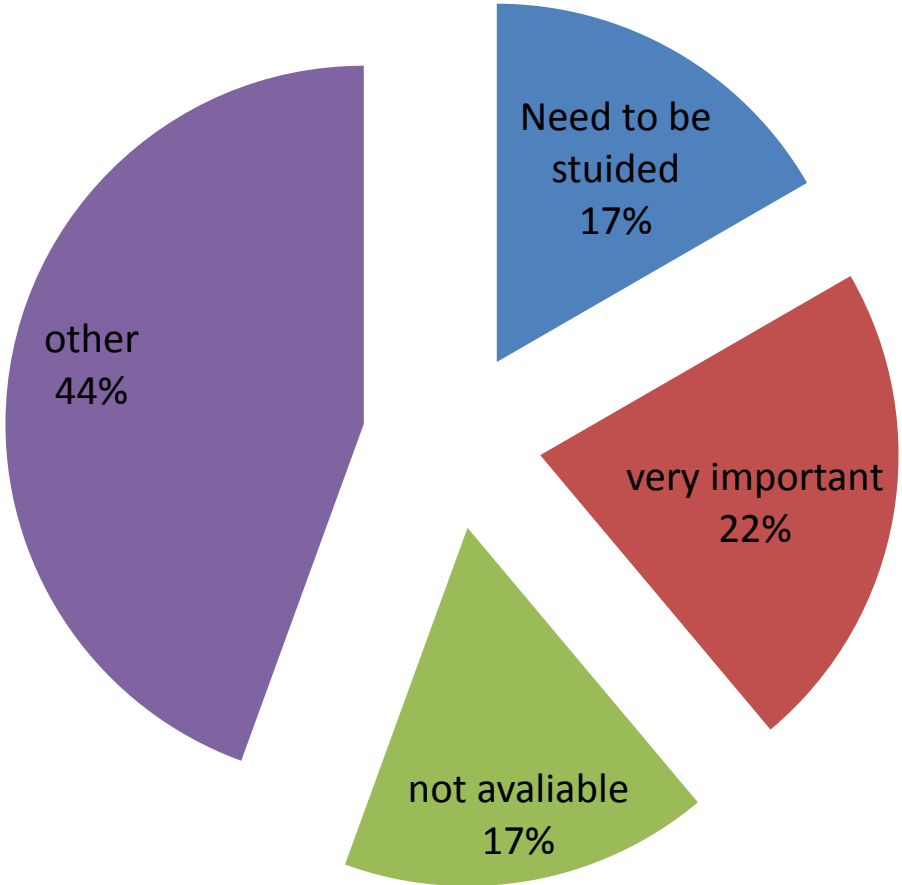




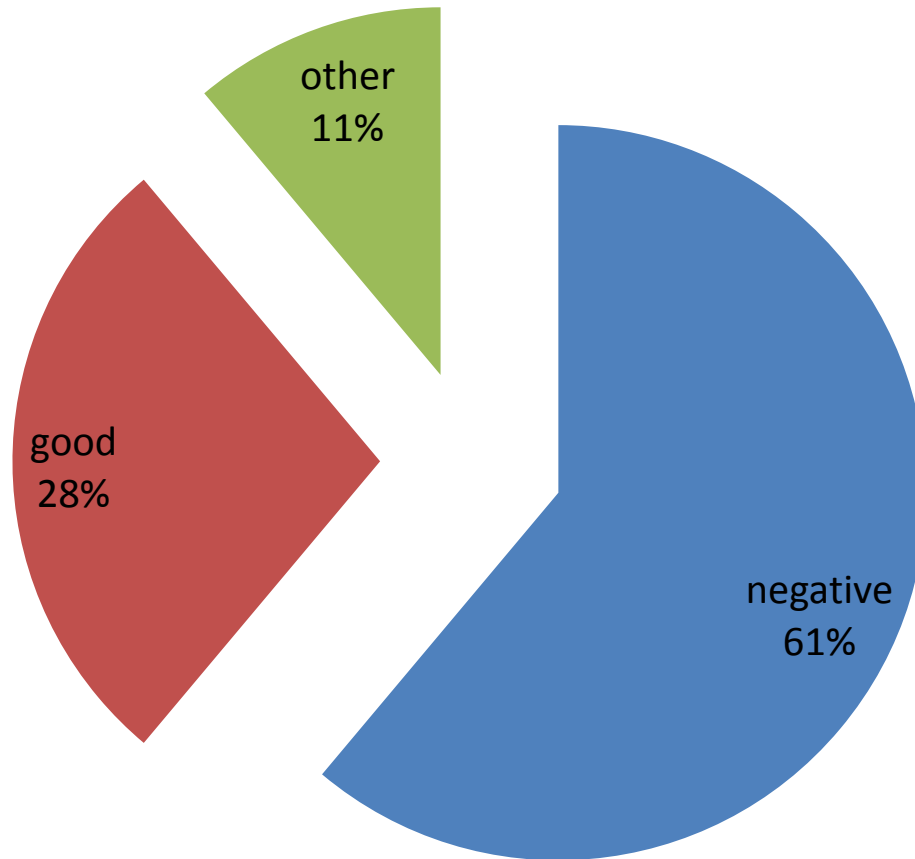
## Obstacle for establishing small business



# Courses to help those who would like in establishing small business



## Arbetsförmedlingen



# Results

1. Immigrant low-income entrepreneurs ILIE need **to be supported with accurate explanation on how to establish SMEs in Sundsvall**; this might help them to pass the obstacles and to get the ability to treat the difficulties. Seminars, public talks and open discussions can help ILIE to get the required skills to start their own business.
2. Extensive **courses need to be offered for those who would like to start SMEs**. It is important to take into account that these courses have to develop the main managerial skills
3. **More internships need to be offered to those who are planning to open restaurants** in order to provide them with necessary skills.

**4. Sundsvall Kommun needs to lead serious discussions with banks and others parties that might be interested with ILIE in order to provide ILIE with a funding program which can help them to start their business.**

**5. Series of educational lectures have to be offered for immigrants to explain why members of any society need to pay taxes; particularly for those who came from countries where the concept of tax is not explicit.**

6. It can be very supportive plan to develop more **flexible programs by Arbetsförmedlingen**. New strategies can lead to a better situation, in particular strategies which might be found according to the people previous skills.

# References

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- Holaday, M., Smith, D. A., & Sherry, A. (2000). **Sentence completion tests: A review of the literature and results of a survey of members of the Society for Personality Assessment.** *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 74(3), 371-383.