



SUST_ENT

[Dainiko]

Best Practice in the Aizkraukle District Partnership

Activity 2. Survey

[Ilvija Ašmane]
9-2-2025



Best Practices Collection Template – SUST_ENT Project

1. General Information

Best Practice Title:

Production of high-quality custom furniture for children

Reference Sector: (e.g., social, environmental, economic, technological)

Manufacturing / Furniture & Wood Products; Technological (CNC, laser cutting etc.)

Country/Region of Implementation

Latvia, LAG “Aizkraukle District Partnership”

Responsible Entity/Organization:

SIA DAINIKO

Board members:

Kristaps Kovaļevskis, phone number +371 20192222

Niklāvs Vingris, phone number +371 28675966

E-mails: devekids@gmail.com , info@devekids.com , devekidsshopping@gmail.com

Websites: Dainiko.com , DeveKids.com , Etsy.com/DeveKids , also can be found on Amazon.com (DeveKids)

2. Best Practice Description

Main Objectives:

(Specify the general and specific objectives of the best practice)

Provide precision parts and furniture components using advanced manufacturing techniques.

Offer a wide range of services: CNC services, laser cutting and engraving, coloring, post-processing, planing boards etc.

Deliver individual, high-quality work with an experienced team and strong customer communication.

Brief Description:

(A brief overview of the practice, including key information on implementation, methodologies, and tools used)

SIA DAINIKO is a Latvian company (founded 31 May 2021) operating in childrens' furniture manufacturing. They use CNC and laser cutting/engraving, board planing, and other post-processing techniques. They also offer coloring and finishing services. They emphasize precision, wide service range, and personalized approaches in dealing with clients. Their operations are based in Koknese.

Main Target Groups:

(Indicate the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the practice)

Direct beneficiaries: Furniture makers, plywood-working businesses, customers needing custom furniture components, designers who need precision cut/engraved parts, families with children.

Indirect beneficiaries: Local economy (jobs), suppliers of raw wood/materials, possibly the childrens' furniture export market.

Duration and Implementation Period:

(Start date and estimated or ongoing duration)

Start date / Founded: 31 May 2021 (company registration)

Current status: Ongoing operations

3. Impacts and Results

Main Results Achieved:

(Concrete examples of improvements, numerical outputs, testimonials)

Established service portfolio including CNC, laser cutting and engraving, post-processing etc.

Over **100+ collaborations** realized according to the website.

Operating with few employees (around 4 on average recently) but showing growth and covering various services.

Success Indicators:

(What metrics were used to assess the effectiveness of the practice)

Number of completed collaborations/projects (100+).

Precision, quality of work, customer satisfaction (though only loosely documented via testimonials)

Financial indicators (turnover, profit) are not fully public, but company is active, registered for VAT etc.

Personal growth for the business since been founded.

Benefits and Added Value:

(e.g., social, environmental, economic impacts, replicability)

Economic: Provides specialized manufacturing support to furniture & design sector; likely helps reduce need for outsourcing to foreign providers.

Social / local: Creates local employment; supports regional business in Koknese.

Quality / design: Enables more customized, higher precision furniture and parts; may support innovation in furniture design through availability of precise cutting/engraving etc.

Replicability: The business model of combining multiple finishing and precision cutting techniques is applicable elsewhere, especially in regions with woodworking tradition or furniture industry.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Main Obstacles Faced:

(What difficulties were encountered and how they were overcome)

As a newer company (founded 2021), challenges included establishing reputation, acquiring clients, scaling operations.

Provide a smooth work environment and manufacturing of the furniture.

Staffing: obtaining skilled workers for CNC / laser / coloring work.

Recommendations for Replicability:

(Recommendations for other entities/organizations interested in implementing the practice)

Start with strong service offering and quality — precision, variety, good communication helps build trust.

Invest in versatile machinery (CNC, laser, post-processing) to be able to serve diverse client needs.

Operate lean at first; small team is viable if coordinated well.

Ensure registered status, VAT, legal registration etc., to enable larger / institutional clients.

 **Phuong** on 09 Aug, 2025

★★★★★

Just got our wardrobe! It was easy to put together. I asked for a second self near the bottom for extra shoe storage and the owners were very accommodating. My toddler loves it! Really promotes independence. Would recommend for sure!

 Contact buyer  Remove response

 **KristapsKK** responded on 10 Aug, 2025

Thank you for the kind words, Phuong!



Kids Closet Rack | Wooden Toddler Armoire | Montessori-Inspired Clothes Rack | Versatile Kids Wardrobe Solution

 Report this review

 **Severine** on 05 Aug, 2025



Trouver des articles similaires

L'offre de 30% de réduction se termine le 23 juil. 23

118,99 €+ 109,99 €+

Tour d'Apprentissage 2-en-1 avec Toboggan et Tableau N... par DeveKids (2,8k ventes)

1 livraison est... Evaluations

★★★★★

Very good seller, professional, nothing to complain about I highly recommend it. My grandchildren have a lot of fun with the tower slide and enjoy being at the height of the central island to share a moment with their parents.

See in original language

 Contact buyer  Remove response

 **KristapsKK** responded on 05 Aug, 2025

Merci pour les mots gentils, Severine! :)



A Slide for Kids Towers KLOK2 and KLOK2ss

 Report this review

5. Attachments and Resources

Reviews from happy clients all around the world, from the DeveKids Etsy shop.

DeveKids ensures friendly and trustful, as well as client-serving service for all. There come times when clients want something individual for a product – no problem, we can do it!

DeveKids' newest product – a washbin for toddlers, available in three finishes: Black and wood, White and wood or All lacquered.



DeveKids' bestseller, the KLOK2 – a 3in1 learning tower – comes in 19 different finishes/colors, completed with safety rails, safety legs, a blackboard and can also come with a slide!

A big part of SIA DAINIKO – laser engraving. Offering individual laser engraving to match a clients' wants and needs. And it is also one of Niklāvs' favorite hobbies to do, as shown in the photo.





SUST_ENT

[Farm Egīši]

Best Practice in the Aizkraukle District Partnership

Activity 2. Survey

[Ilviņa Ašmane]
9-1-2025



Best Practices Collection Template – SUST_ENT Project

1. General Information

Best Practice Title:

Sustainable Sea Buckthorn Farming and Rural Hospitality at Just Bio (ZS “Eģīši”)

Reference Sector: (e.g., social, environmental, economic, technological)

Environmental (sustainable farming), Economic (rural entrepreneurship, product diversification), Social (community hospitality, health promotion)

Country/Region of Implementation

Latvia, LAG “Aizkraukle District Partnership”

Responsible Entity/Organization:

ZS EĢĪŠI

egisi@inbox.lv, +371 28365877, www.justbio.lv

2. Best Practice Description

Main Objectives:

(Specify the general and specific objectives of the best practice)

General objective: Develop a sustainable and diversified family farm, combining ecological production with rural tourism.

Specific objectives:

- Promote sea buckthorn as a valuable, eco-friendly product for health and well-being.
- Ensure sustainable and certified organic farming practices.
- Offer visitors a unique rural tourism experience through the *Smiltsērķšķu namiņš* (Sea Buckthorn Cabin).
- Strengthen local identity and customer relations.

Brief Description:

(A brief overview of the practice, including key information on implementation, methodologies, and tools used)

Just Bio is a family farm that started operations in 2016 after being passed down from the parents. Initially focusing on grain cultivation, the farm diversified by planting a 4-hectare organic sea buckthorn garden in 2020. With EU and LEADER project support, the farm invested in new equipment and developed *Smiltsērķšķu namiņš*, a guesthouse surrounded by sea buckthorn fields, opened in December 2023. The farm produces certified organic products from sea buckthorn in cooperation with other raw material producers and offers guests relaxation, hot tub experience with sea buckthorn tea enjoying.

Main Target Groups:

(Indicate the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the practice)

Direct: Consumers in Latvia and abroad seeking healthy, organic products.

Direct: Visitors looking for eco-tourism, wellness, and rural experiences.

Indirect: Local community benefiting from entrepreneurship and tourism.

Duration and Implementation Period:

(Start date and estimated or ongoing duration)

Farm management takeover: 2016

EU small farmer project: 2018

Sea buckthorn plantation started: 2020

Smiltsērķšķu namiņš opened: 2023 – ongoing

3. Impacts and Results

Main Results Achieved:

(Concrete examples of improvements, numerical outputs, testimonials)

Established 4 ha certified organic sea buckthorn plantation.

Diversified from traditional grain farming into health-oriented products.

Opened a rural guesthouse offering tourism and wellness experiences.

Won local award “*Draudzīgs klientam*” (“Friendly to Customers”) in Aizkraukle district.

Developed a trusted brand promoting Latvian organic products.

Success Indicators:

(What metrics were used to assess the effectiveness of the practice)

Organic certification of products.

Expansion of sea buckthorn plantation to 4 ha.

Launch and visitor uptake of Smiltsērkšķu namiņš.

Recognition through customer-voted award.

Benefits and Added Value:

(e.g., social, environmental, economic impacts, replicability)

Environmental: Promotes biodiversity and sustainable farming.

Economic: Diversified income streams from farming and tourism.

Social: Strengthens rural life, creates welcoming hospitality services.

Health: Provides natural products that support immunity and well-being.

Replicability: Shows how small farms can combine eco-production with rural tourism to ensure sustainability.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Main Obstacles Faced:

(What difficulties were encountered and how they were overcome)

Main Obstacles Faced:

- Transition from conventional farming to diversified, organic production.
- Need for investment in equipment and infrastructure.
- Building recognition for sea buckthorn products in a competitive market.

How They Were Overcome:

- Participation in EU small farmer project (2018) for equipment investment.
- LEADER project support for rural tourism infrastructure (guesthouse).
- Strong customer engagement and branding (local awards, media presence).

Recommendations for Replicability:

(Recommendations for other entities/organizations interested in implementing the practice)

Use diversification (combining farming, processing, and tourism) to increase resilience of rural enterprises.

Apply EU and local support programs (e.g., LEADER) to invest in innovation and infrastructure.

Build strong customer trust and local recognition before scaling.

Highlight cultural and natural uniqueness (like tea rituals, wellness traditions) to differentiate from competitors.

5. Attachments and Resources

- "Stiprie stāsti" ("Strong stories") interview

[Iršu pagasta "Eģišu" saimnieki bioloģiski audzē labību un kopj smiltsērķšķu dārzu / LR1 / / Latvijas Radio](#)

- Aizkraukle district local award event, where won award "*Draudzīgs klientam*" ("Friendly to Customers")

[Apbalvo sekmīgākos Aizkraukles novada uzņēmējus. Ne tikai sapņo, bet arī uzdrošinās pārvērst savus sapņus realitātē - Staburags.lv](#)

- Inspiring story, how to change work 9 to 5, to own business in countryside

[Darbu bankā nomaina ar saimniekošanu laukos. Smiltsērķšķi mundrumam un palīdz atvairīt slimības - Staburags.lv](#)

- Testimonial of Sea Buckthorn Cabin from guest:

“A wonderful atmosphere, in complete harmony with nature, away from civilization, yet still so close. The evening hot tub under the starry sky was magical. The morning birds chirping and the curtains fluttering were enchanting. Thank you to the hosts for their creativity in the most exquisite design solutions!” Ilze

- Highlight from Instagram. Latvian influencers share their thoughts about our products:

https://www.instagram.com/just_bio.lv/ in highlight “Atsauksmes” (“Feedback”)

also, in Highlight section “Viesi namiņā” (“Guests in cabin”) you can see our guest experiences in our cabin.



SUST_ENT

[Farm Lipši]

Best Practice in the Aizkraukle District Partnership

Activity 2. Survey

[Ilviņa Ašmane]
9-2-2025



Best Practices Collection Template – SUST_ENT Project

1. General Information

Best Practice Title:

Innovative Fruit and Berry Processing with Freeze-Drying (Sublimation) at “Lipšu dārzs”

Reference Sector: (e.g., social, environmental, economic, technological)

Agricultural, Economic, Technological, Environmental (sustainable use of harvest, no-waste approach)

Country/Region of Implementation

Latvia, LAG “Aizkraukle District Partnership”

Responsible Entity/Organization:

Farm LIPŠI

Contact Information:

aatslena@gmail.com +37126323805

2. Best Practice Description

Main Objectives:

(Specify the general and specific objectives of the best practice)

General objective: Create added value for locally grown fruit and berries by introducing innovative processing technologies.

Specific objectives:

- Install and operate a freeze-drying (sublimation) unit for berries, fruits, and vegetables.
- Expand the farm’s processing capacity with juice and oil pressing.
- Ensure sustainable and nearly waste-free production.
- Develop new, healthy food products for local consumers and niche markets.

Brief Description:

(A brief overview of the practice, including key information on implementation, methodologies, and tools used)

“Lipšu dārzs,” managed by Anita Atslena, is a small organic farm (~4 ha) growing sea buckthorn, strawberries, raspberries, apples, currants, potatoes and garlic. In 2018 the family acquired the property and started restructuring it into a sustainable berry farm. Through the **LEADER project**, the farm purchased a **freeze-drying machine (sublimator)**, an **oil press**, and made renovations to processing facilities in a historic stone building. Complementary equipment (juice press, freezers) was obtained through local competitions and family investments. The project enables longer storage, innovative product development, and efficient use of harvest.

Main Target Groups:

(Indicate the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the practice)

Direct: Consumers of healthy, natural foods; families with children; healthy lifestyle followers.

Indirect: Local community (new jobs, local added value), regional producers (possible cooperation for raw material supply), tourism/visitors to farm events.

Duration and Implementation Period:

(Start date and estimated or ongoing duration)

Farm established: 2018

Project approval and equipment installation: 2022–2023

Implementation: ongoing, with further facility improvements planned until 2029

3. Impacts and Results

Main Results Achieved:

(Concrete examples of improvements, numerical outputs, testimonials)

Introduction of freeze-drying technology for berries and fruits – rare among small Latvian farms.

Processing capacity includes sublimated strawberries, raspberries, apples, as well as juices and sea buckthorn oil.

Publicity and tasting events organized to showcase products.

Diversification of products: sublimated berries, juice, oil, experiments with yogurt and vegetables.

Success Indicators:

(What metrics were used to assess the effectiveness of the practice)

Functional processing facility approved by PVD (Food and Veterinary Service).

Acquisition and operation of sublimation, oil, and juice processing equipment.

Successful pilot batches of sublimated berries and oils.

Consumer feedback during tastings and local events.

Benefits and Added Value:

(e.g., social, environmental, economic impacts, replicability)

Social: Promotes rural living, inspires small farmers to innovate, creates potential for family relocation to the countryside.

Economic: Higher added value for local harvest; diversification reduces risks from fresh berry seasonality.

Environmental: Supports sustainable, no-waste farming – by-products used for oil extraction or other purposes.

Replicability: Demonstrates how even small farms (4 ha) can integrate advanced food technology to expand markets.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Main Obstacles Faced:

(What difficulties were encountered and how they were overcome)

Main Obstacles Faced:

- High costs of equipment and building renovations.
- Unexpected construction requirements (needed full building project instead of small repairs).
- Rising material and equipment costs due to external factors (war in Ukraine, inflation).
- Delays in equipment delivery (e.g., oil press from Ukraine).
- First-time experience in construction management and project administration.
- Attracting labor and ensuring full wages during the winter months.

How They Were Overcome:

- Combining EU funding with **family financial support** and an **Altum loan (€50,000)**.
- Step-by-step project execution, with plans for second renovation stage by 2029.
- Flexibility and continuous experimenting with new products to ensure competitiveness.

Recommendations for Replicability:

(Recommendations for other entities/organizations interested in implementing the practice)

Small farms should not fear advanced technologies – freeze-drying can create niche, high-value products.

Combine public support (EU funds, local competitions) with private investment to cover real costs.

Engage family members and diversify products to make operations more resilient.

Consider added-value chains beyond food (e.g., cosmetics from oils, use of by-products).

Start with small-scale processing but plan for gradual facility expansion.

5. Attachments and Resources

- Links to documents, reports, articles
<https://staburags.lv/staburaga-projektu-raksti/kokneses-pagasta-lipsos-top-veseligi-partikas-produkti/>
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/directory/publication/organic-operator/LV-BIO-01.428-0000572.2025.001.pdf>
- Photos, videos, or supporting materials
https://www.instagram.com/villa_garden_lipsi?igsh=cGYyM3EweWM0bHlq

Title:	A2. Survey		
Authors:	Giorgia Marchionni, EGINA		
Date	28/02/2025	Deliverable:	A2.4
		Version:	1.0
			Page: 5

- Testimonials or interviews
<https://replay.lsm.lv/lv/skaties/ieraksts/ltv/358719/dienas-zinas> from 19 min



SUST_ENT

SKRĪVERU HOME-MADE ICECREAM

Best Practice in the Aizkraukle District Partnership

Activity 2. Survey

[Ilviņa Ašmane]
9-2-2025



Best Practices Collection Template – SUST_ENT Project

1. General Information

Best Practice Title:

Skrīveru Homemade Ice Cream – Local, Natural, Family-Made Ice Cream

Reference Sector: (e.g., social, environmental, economic, technological)

Economic / Food Production / Local & Artisanal Products

Country/Region of Implementation

Latvia, LAG “Aizkraukle District Partnership”

Responsible Entity/Organization:

SIA Rozīne

e-mail: skriveri@majassaldejums.lv

ph.: +37128361561

web.: www.majassaldejums.lv

2. Best Practice Description

Main Objectives:

(Specify the general and specific objectives of the best practice)

General objective: Produce high-quality, natural ice cream using local ingredients.

Specific objectives:

- Promote locally sourced ingredients (milk from nearby farms, berries from their garden).
- Avoid chemical additives and artificial flavors.
- Provide educational and engaging experiences for visitors, including school tours.

Brief Description:

(A brief overview of the practice, including key information on implementation, methodologies, and tools used)

Skrīveru Homemade Ice Cream is a family-owned business producing artisanal ice cream in Skrīveri, Vidzeme. Their ice cream uses fresh, local ingredients like milk, berries, and real vanilla beans. The company emphasizes natural flavors and traditional recipes. Beyond production, they offer tours and activities for school groups and visitors, sharing the process of making ice cream and highlighting healthy eating and family values.

Main Target Groups:

(Indicate the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the practice)

Direct: Consumers of natural, healthy, and artisanal ice cream in Latvia.

Indirect: Local community, schools, and visitors interested in agritourism and food education.

Duration and Implementation Period:

(Start date and estimated or ongoing duration)

Started as a family initiative in 2006.

Ongoing operations, continually producing and engaging visitors.

3. Impacts and Results

Main Results Achieved:

(Concrete examples of improvements, numerical outputs, testimonials)

Main Results Achieved:

- Established a recognized local brand for natural ice cream in Skrīveri.
- Attracts school visits and local tourism through interactive experiences.
- Uses fully local and natural ingredients, promoting sustainable consumption.
- Positive reputation for quality, family values, and education.

Success Indicators:

(What metrics were used to assess the effectiveness of the practice)

Number of visitors/tours hosted.

Customer satisfaction and repeat business.

Use of local ingredients and production scale.

Benefits and Added Value:

(e.g., social, environmental, economic impacts, replicability)

Economic: Supports local dairy farmers and berry producers; creates local employment.

Social: Provides educational experiences for children and families; strengthens community engagement.

Environmental: Encourages local sourcing, reducing transport-related emissions.

Replicability: Small family businesses can combine artisanal food production with local education/tourism to add value.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Main Obstacles Faced:

(What difficulties were encountered and how they were overcome)

Main Obstacles Faced:

- Competing with mass-produced ice cream brands.
- Maintaining high-quality standards consistently with local ingredients.

How They Were Overcome:

- Focused on quality, natural ingredients, and family values.
- Engaged local schools and tourists to strengthen brand loyalty.

Recommendations for Replicability:

(Recommendations for other entities/organizations interested in implementing the practice)

Emphasize local sourcing and artisanal production for differentiation.

Combine product sales with education and visitor engagement.

Build a strong story around family values and sustainability to attract loyal customers.

5. Attachments and Resources

The interview with almost all our family members: <https://ir.lv/nauda/saltais-pikis-un-prieks.212649>

History of "Skrīveru home-made icecream":

<https://www.majassaldejums.lv/kontakti/sotnieku-gimene/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a14Mrv3b26M&t=1s>





SUST_ENT

[Skrīveru Pārtikas Kombināts]

Best Practice in the Aizkraukle District Partnership

Activity 2. Survey

[Ilviņa Ašmane]
9-2-2025



Best Practices Collection Template – SUST_ENT Project

1. General Information

Best Practice Title:

Revival of Traditional Latvian Candy “Gotiņa” at Skrīveru Pārtikas Kombināts

Reference Sector: (e.g., social, environmental, economic, technological)

Economic (local entrepreneurship, traditional food production) and Social (heritage preservation, community employment)

Country/Region of Implementation

Latvia, LAG “Aizkraukle District Partnership”

Responsible Entity/Organization:

SIA Skrīveru Pārtikas Kombināts

Contact Information:

info@skriverugotina.lv

+371 27827363

www.skriverugotina.lv

2. Best Practice Description

Main Objectives:

(Specify the general and specific objectives of the best practice)

General objective: Preserve and revive Latvia’s traditional confectionery heritage, especially the iconic “Gotiņa” candy.

Specific objectives:

- Restore production based on original recipes and technologies.

- Create sustainable local jobs, involving family members and experienced workers.
- Promote Latvian-made products nationally and internationally.

Brief Description:

(A brief overview of the practice, including key information on implementation, methodologies, and tools used)

Skrīveru Pārtikas Kombināts was founded in 1956 and became the first producer of “*Gotiņa*” candy in Latvia. After difficulties in the 1990s and a complete production halt in 2004, the company was revived in 2011 by local residents Aigars and Baiba Lūši. They restored operations using preserved recipes and technological maps, relying on family involvement and experienced former employees. Production resumed on a smaller scale but with an emphasis on authenticity, craftsmanship, and heritage preservation.

Main Target Groups:

(Indicate the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the practice)

Direct: consumers in Latvia and abroad seeking authentic traditional sweets.

Indirect: local community (job creation, regional identity, cultural heritage).

Duration and Implementation Period:

(Start date and estimated or ongoing duration)

Initial founding: 1956

Halt: 2004

Revival: July 2011 – ongoing

3. Impacts and Results

Main Results Achieved:

(Concrete examples of improvements, numerical outputs, testimonials)

Resumed production of “*Gotiņa*” candy using original recipes.

Currently employs ~10 people (half family members, half experienced long-term employees).

Maintains heritage value by engaging employees with decades-long experience (e.g., an employee making Krējuma Pagale since 1978).

Preserved local identity and traditional craftsmanship in confectionery.

Success Indicators:

(What metrics were used to assess the effectiveness of the practice)

Production continuity and market presence of “Skrīveru Gotiņa”.

Employee retention (inclusion of experienced specialists).

Consumer recognition and brand loyalty for traditional Latvian sweets.

Benefits and Added Value:

(e.g., social, environmental, economic impacts, replicability)

Social: Strengthened local identity, intergenerational involvement, family-driven entrepreneurship.

Economic: Sustained small-scale local business, created jobs in rural Latvia.

Cultural: Preserved traditional recipes and confectionery craftsmanship.

Replicability: Demonstrates how heritage-based enterprises can be revitalized through family initiative, authenticity, and community engagement.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Main Obstacles Faced:

(What difficulties were encountered and how they were overcome)

Main Obstacles Faced:

- Collapse in demand during the 1990s due to imported sweets.
- Financial losses from unpaid exports.
- Halted production in 2004 due to lack of renovation funds.
- Difficulty in restoring production facilities after years of inactivity.

How They Were Overcome:

- Strong personal motivation and family dedication.
- Use of preserved recipes and know-how as a competitive advantage.
- Step-by-step restoration with limited resources instead of waiting for large-scale external investment.

Recommendations for Replicability:

(Recommendations for other entities/organizations interested in implementing the practice)

Value and preserve original recipes, technologies, and cultural assets – they can become the cornerstone of business revival.

Engage family and community members to build resilience.

Start small and grow sustainably, prioritizing authenticity and quality over mass production.

Document and protect historical knowledge to ensure continuity across generations.

5. Attachments and Resources

- Links to documents, reports, articles
- Photos, videos, or supporting materials
- Testimonials or interviews

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8vWDhgTcBE>