

## Sustainable Models of Non-Formal Education in Local Communities – A Case Study of a Local Learning Hub

Sara Bertoncelj

MFDPŠ, Slovenia

sara.zavec@gmail.com

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### Abstract

*In the context of managing change in a complex world, accessibility to lifelong learning is a cornerstone of social resilience and community empowerment. This paper presents a case study of a local learning hub as a sustainable model for non-formal education. Originally developed through transnational funding, the initiative successfully transitioned to a self-sustaining model after the project concluded — new resources were secured and it never stopped. This demonstrates how a project can endure beyond its initial funding when the community takes genuine ownership of it.*

*The core principle of the hub is to decentralise knowledge and bring it directly to people. Thanks to municipal funding, participation is free. Without formal programme requirements, organisers can respond flexibly to community suggestions and offers of local expertise. By actively recruiting locals as teachers, they build a strong sense of community. The organisers implement a diverse, demand-driven curriculum designed to empower citizens of all generations through intergenerational knowledge transfer, organised around four pillars:*

- *Artistic Expression and Heritage Preservation: felting, calligraphy, embroidery, mosaic art, and macramé.*
- *Health and Holistic Wellness Literacy: therapeutic massage, chair yoga, dementia awareness, and cognitive training.*
- *Ecological Sustainability and Practical Life Skills: herbal medicine, natural cosmetics, sustainable orcharding, and home organisation.*
- *Digital and Linguistic Competencies: mobile photography, video editing, and language courses led by native speakers.*

*Through photos of seniors achieving digital literacy or engaging in traditional crafts, the organisers provide a visual narrative of the human impact of localised education. This*

*reflects their journey in building an intergenerational ecosystem that fosters active citizenship..*

**Keywords:** non-formal education, lifelong learning, local learning hub, community empowerment, intergenerational learning, sustainability