

STATE OF THE ART SURVEY

QUALITY INTERVIEWS

JSKD, SLOVENIA REPORT

Case study, co-creative activities,

Methodology, Target groups

To come to grips with the overview of the co-creative activities in Slovenia we checked the JSKD activities – if any of our running project can be recognized as co-creative activity as is defined in scope of the Bridging project. The second step was to get acquainted with other projects in NGO sector that fit the definition.

We decided to do a case study of G2G (generation to generation) project. We made interviews with stakeholder, learning provider and 2 learners from the project (all together 4 interviews regarding G2G). Other interviewees are involved in different co-creative activities.

In accordance with project methodology we used Interview guides designed for different target groups. We conducted 6 video interviews and made 3 in-house interviews with JSKD staff that work on or are involved in relevant projects.

• **Overview on social relevance of creative activities**

In the interviews we asked about social relevance, the atmosphere and long lasting impacts on the participants of the cultural activities. The most common answer is building a social network. “Safety nets are built within groups that offer help to all members.” (LP1). The other most common notion is self-realization. Being involved in cultural activities fulfills the participants ‘individual need to be creative. “A space to give them voice” (S1) and “space where they can express themselves” (LP2) is created in the projects. The environment where they can feel free is good for their social and language skills. All the interviewees see active participation in culture as quality use of free time. In some cases it is also a ground for good health condition of older participants (that would be the case of folklore dancing that can be considered as regular body work (LP1)). All the learners pointed out that their communication skills improved. For some learners being involved in cultural activities is an informal education, which will serve them with their future career decision – they want to become professional artist (L1) or are interested to work in culture (L2) or they see themselves being involved in amateur culture projects as adults (L3).

• **Tradition / Experience in terms co-creative activities**

Traditional form of active participation in amateur culture in Slovenia is by becoming a member of a cultural society in your local community (more elaborate history and present situation is given in Overview document on Amateur culture in Slovenia). There are some projects that are run mostly by NGOs in amateur (LP1) and professional (LP2, L2, L3, S1) organizations (in all cases involving professional mentors) that work with nonprofessional participants and we should consider as co-

creative activities. JSKD as a nationwide organization also implements new practices in amateur culture. New activities that involve co-creative elements are designed in educational programs for learning providers (different educational programs and conferences are dedicated to educate teachers working with children with methods of active participation in culture within school environment (S2), and mentors dealing with amateur groups in local communities (cultural societies etc.) (LP3). There are also some projects with long-standing traditions that have all the elements we are searching for when talking about co-creative activities. Some of traditional projects would need a slight shift in accessing key learners and have potential to be relevant co-creative activity.

- **Examples of co-creative activities**

Most of the projects we have analyzed have roots in theater (G2G project (LP2, S1, L2, L3), Mostovi / Bridges (L1), Gledališka pedagogika / Theater pedagogics (LP3)). Co-creative activities with youth are also very present in dance (International Dance Pedagogy Conference) – nonverbal art forms can help with language barriers for participants.

There are some interesting developments and new projects in folklore dance (LP1), such as working with youth and elderly on the same project. There are also talks of getting over the national aspect

JSKD as a nationwide organization also implements new practices in amateur culture. NIP Umetnost / Un-Mandatory Elective Subject Art (S2) is a project where JSKD educate learning providers (teachers in primary school) on how to combine multiple art forms (dance – fine art, film –music, folklore – theater, etc.)

- **Needs of the sector in terms of co-creative activities**

Projects are getting too big for being run as a project.

The new forms should get institutional support, where the all-around care for the learners should not be lost.

There should be an education system where you would be able to present all the latest methods of work to mentors who already work with groups.