



**POST-HUMAN
ARCHITECT**

**GOOD PRACTICES
CASE STUDY COMPENDIUM**



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introduction

Following is a good practice case study compendium that was developed as part of developing the Post Human Architecture competence framework. Partners developed the good practices through interviews and desk research related to each case focusing on community setting and design and relevance to PHA competencies and skills. The main goal of this compendium is to provide reference materials and narratives from real communities and practices that can be applied to the PHA trainings and skills development. Practitioners can either use them as examples in training or as model to develop their own good practices related to their own environment and context. Feel free to contact us if you need further instructions or information.

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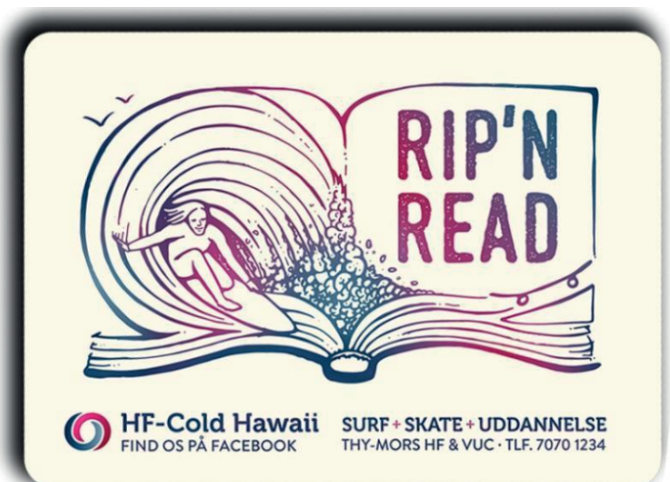


HF – Cold Hawaii Denmark

The generations of young citizens in Denmark are ever diminishing, resulting in fewer students for the youth educations such as high school and vocational studies. This has through the last 25 years resulted in some structural challenges, especially in Northern Jutland, as it is the most vulnerable region in Denmark. An often-used solution has been the standardisation, fusion, and centralisation of youth education institutions around the larger cities. However, this strategy presents consequences for the rural local areas: 1) Longer commutes for young students, leading to a decline in application and graduation rates; 2) Lower settlement rates in local rural areas, as studies show that 70 pct. of all recent graduates stay in the region where they were educated, and approx. 40 pct. stays in the same municipality; 3) Decreasing supply of labour and available jobs; 4) Diminishing local growth. These effects are all interrelated, creating a downward spiral that is difficult to turn around. [1,2]

An initiative working against these prospects is HF-Cold Hawaii: A Higher Preparatory Examination program provided by Thy-Mors HF&VUC since 2014, located in Denmark's surf capital Klitmøller in the Northern part of the region, and lead by Claus Jokumsen. HF-Cold Hawaii is an alternatively structured HF education with a threefold focus: 1) Physical activities and experiences in nature, including several types of surfing; 2) A flexible and weather dependent education, with an open learning space; 3) Fostering a sense of community through living in “collectivistic student dorms” and collaborating with the local independent school and surfer association. [3]

The initiative addresses the previously stated challenges by: eliminating the need for every-day commute, achieving a higher completion rate and GPA compared to the national average, locally anchoring the sense of community among the young students, and increasing local growth in Klitmøller. [3]



UNIQUENESS

Normally, these kinds of educational offers are only given to extraordinary talents within different sports areas, so only good surfers are able to get into programs in e.g. U.S high schools and different school programs in Portugal. Thus, HF- Cold Hawaii is a unique type of surf school as it is offered to both beginners and athletes. Furthermore, the combination of surfing and high school education in this way is unique, with ordinary subjects such as mathematics, physics, and history etc. combined into interdisciplinary courses centred around surfing with focus-areas such as: calculating the breakings of waves with different slopes of the seabed; the connection between urine and wetsuits; how surfing has evolved from the Polynesians to today.

KEY FINDINGS

- Development initiatives can include the utilization of and respect for both community and ecology while also being an educational agency rooted in the local culture. This can lead to a stronger student engagement and success rate.
- The decentralization of youth education and vocational studies is a critical move towards strengthening rural areas.
- Knowledge about the local community and area is imperative to understand what is possible and useful to develop.
- A strong network with the local community can be instrumental to the start-up of a project and the ability to overcome roadblocks.
- With projects akin to these, emphasis should be put on the iterative nature of the project and how development does not stop with the kick-off but continues with smaller improvements.

An initiative that resembles HF-Cold Hawaii, although with a different athletic discipline as the main focus, can be found in Malmö, Sweden. Bryggeriet Gymnasium opened in 2006, located in an old brewery (Bryggeri), with a holistic education focused around skating. It was started by the local skate community and enthusiast who saw a need for an educative space in Malmö for underprivileged or disadvantaged students who were interested in skating. As it is not placed in a rural area but an urban district, it does not solve problems of depopulation nor works in a symbiosis with the local natures, but it provides an educational community for a group of people who have been overlooked or dismissed as juvenile and uneducated due to their involvement in the often-ostracized skate culture.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This case can present how anchoring education in local communities can increase development in rural areas as well as personal attachment to the local community. Furthermore, in contrast to similar initiatives like Bryggeriet Gymnasium, it also offers insight into how passion for physical activities can be connected to the unique nature of an area, fostering a larger appreciation of sustainable interactions with the local ecology.



Higher rate of students graduates than national average from the school with higher grade points average



HF-Cold Hawaii includes surfing lessons and other physical activities in nature.

LESSONS LEARNED

Anchoring an initiative in the local community requires an enthusiast with local knowledge and a large network.

Creative thinking is necessary to think outside the box while still staying within the bureaucratic boundaries of educational laws.

Centring education around a shared passion and inclusion in a community will increase motivation to succeed and interest in contributing to the local

REFERENCE

1. Cowi. 2020. Centralisering af uddannelser i Nordjylland. Report.
2. Jesper Sand Kjær. 2017. Debat: Uddannelse skal være tilgængeligt i hele Danmark. Information.
3. HF Cold Hawaii Klitmøller - 2 årig HF uddannelse med masser af aktivitet. HF Cold Hawaii. <https://hf-coldhawaii.dk/>

?ARK Denmark

Denmark's population is continuously decreasing in the rural districts, posing a multitude of problems: 1) Difficulties finding economic support (taxes) for e.g. the municipalities' social and cultural efforts, and maintenance of dilapidated buildings; 2) A general higher cost to keep up the public services; 3) Longer distances to institutions, difficulty selling houses, and loss of local community life. [1–3]. An example of an initiative meant to improve a rural district can be found in Vesthimmerland: The idea of a public park around the local Parish Hall came about when the building was completed in 2012, and the plans were drawn up in consultation between the parish councils, an artist, and a landscape architect.

While simply pronounced “park” the actual name of the space is “?ark”, meant to symbolise a place of wonder and an ark that, like through the ages, tells about Christianity and the stories of the three parishes; Ullits, Foulum, and Svingelbjerg. The park is, therefore, a big question mark running through the whole area, as an invitation to wonder about both creation and human life, together with an amphitheatre for outdoor activities, and different Nordic trees with lights on them.

All the elements have a symbolic or historic meaning for the local area, for example: Bird boxes will be installed to support the smaller wildlife (along with local wild flowers), as Foulum actually means bird in the old local-language (Himmerlandsk); The path going straight through the park and the Parish Hall is meant to resemble a railroad, placed exactly where the old railroad (Hvalpsundbanen) used to be, which constituted the foundation of the town but was closed down in 1969, leading to a depopulation of the area. So, including the railroad in the design, is a symbolic way of saying that they are “opening up” the city again, referencing to city development and rehabilitation.

It is a park for both wildlife and city residents of all ages, and the hope is for the park to attract at least a few people and have somewhat of an impact in the city, e.g. tourists keeping the local businesses alive and attracting people to move to and stay in the area.



UNIQUENESS

Most religious buildings and parks around Europe are either sights of historic buildings that have been restored or places mostly build for religious tourism, and they are often in a larger scale. When it comes to religious buildings and parks around Europe, most attention from studies, public news, or tourist guides seem to be aimed either sights of historic buildings that have been restored or places mostly build for religious tourism, and they are often in a larger scale. Additionally, most initiatives of creating community parks (where they are not naturally occurring) are focused on creating green areas in the urban environment of larger cities

and not as a tool to improve the recreational and cultural spaces in rural cities.

The potential uniqueness of this case can thus be seen in the combination of a recreational space for both the local inhabitants and the wildlife, with educational elements centred around the local (religious) history of a small rural city.

The incomplete ?ark in spring of 2022. The question mark has been formed with small hills and a hint of the amphitheater can be seen in the bottom right corner (the dot of the question mark)



KEY FINDINGS

- While local initiatives may start from the idea of a few enthusiasts, working professional knowledge relevant to the project is necessary to apply to make the dream into reality.
- All places have value, be it from nature, history, culture, or community. The important thing is identifying and finding new ways of utilizing or benefit from the local area.
- Even if the initiative is started by a specific part of the community (i.e. The local parish) it is critical to create an inclusive space for all individuals in a community where it is necessary for everyone to get along.
- In small local projects it is important to be able to adapt to changes, as the budget might not support all the original ideas, while still holding on to the most important values of the initiative.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The chosen case presents a way to create a recreational space, introducing culture to an area by subtly welcoming all interested in learning about the local (religious) history or interacting with local nature in the middle of the city. It illustrates the importance of not inventing something new and unrelated to the local area, but discovering and polishing what is already there, to keep the space and place alive through several generations while rejuvenating it for the use of new generations through renaissances. Further, it emphasises the relevance of focusing on the creation of smaller beautiful and wonderful spaces for local inhabitants in an attempt to improve the communal quality of life and attract new residents to mitigate some of the social and economic challenges troubling rural districts.

LESSONS LEARNED

To make these projects happen, it is imperative with a lot of goodwill from volunteers who care about the fate of the project as well as a good relationship with the local community.

The funding process for projects are difficult for those who have no prior experience with such, and initiatives could benefit from some help in this direction.



The original idea for the ?ark from 2012 with three partially connected ponds constituting the question mark, that proved too expensive.

REFERENCE

1. JKL, Miniseriet for By, Bolig og Landdistrikter, and Realdania. 2015. Det lokale Danmark.
2. Leny Malacinski. 2016. De mindste byer bliver stadig mindre. Udkantsdanmark i fire tal. Zetland.
3. Miniseriet for By, Bolig og Landdistrikter. 2015. Ny anvendelse af TOMME grunde. <https://docplayer.dk/4924079-Ny-anvendelse-af-tomme-grunde.html>

Prime Minister School Italy

Prime Minister is a politics school for young women aged between 14 and 19 who want to undertake a training course in Politics - understood as the ability to interpret and guide society - and civic activation. The students of the School thus live an experience of empowerment, which involves strengthening their knowledge and transversal skills, and creating a community ready to support them.

The school is betting on young leaders, the "Prime Ministers" of tomorrow, to generate a medium and long-term impact on the entire country. Our goal is that all young Italian women can be aware of their abilities, and become agents of change in their schools, communities, cities, nations.

Courage has been Prime Minister's watchword since day one; courage to step forward and defend an idea of society characterized by sustainability and democracy. The School of Politics for Young Women believes in the fundamental importance of education and the skills acquired through it, but also in training, in a broader sense, for a new type of leadership, inclusion and the work of team are crucial values. Prime Minister bets on the training of young women to stimulate the process of social innovation that will lead to true gender equality.



The Prime Minister Methodology includes:

- Empowerment and accompaniment workshops in the implementation of active citizenship and political projects by the Prime Minister team, which introduce the testimonies.
- Testimonials from role models and exponents of the political, institutional, cultural, entrepreneurial and scientific world. Through meeting and discussion with testimonials and mentors, Prime Minister students are encouraged to express their potential.
- Talks Open to the public, in which testimonials and sponsors take part, and which constitute for the students the point of impact of the lessons acquired during the day.
- Visits to institutions such as the Italian and European parliaments, embassies, newspaper editorial offices, civic activism projects



UNIQUENESS

The uniqueness of the Prime Minister project lies in its tailored focus on young women between the ages of 14 and 19, aiming to provide them with political training, civic activation skills, and empowerment. Here are some aspects that distinguish it and a comparison with existing or ongoing projects in partner countries:

Targeted Demographic: The specific age group (14-19) distinguishes Prime Minister. While many leadership and empowerment programs exist, not all are customized for this particular stage of adolescence and early adulthood. The project recognizes the formative years when young women are shaping their identities and beliefs.

Integration of Politics and Civic Activation: Prime Minister uniquely integrates political education with civic activation. This combination offers a holistic approach, equipping young women not only with knowledge of political systems but also with practical skills to actively participate in civic life and create positive change.

Emphasis on Role Models and Mentoring: The inclusion of testimonials from various sectors, including politics, institutions, culture, entrepreneurship, and science, sets Prime Minister apart. The emphasis on role models and mentoring provides real-world insights and inspiration, fostering a supportive network for young women.

Focus on Social Innovation and Gender Equality: Prime Minister's commitment to stimulating social innovation and promoting true gender equality distinguishes it. By encouraging young women to take an active role in reshaping societal norms, the project aims to have a lasting impact on gender dynamics. Comparatively, while there are other leadership and empowerment programs globally, not all may have the same level of specificity, integration, and emphasis on practical experiences tailored to the unique needs of young women in the political and civic spheres.

KEY FINDINGS

- Politics/political participation
- Empowerment
- Education/training
- Youth leadership
- Civic activation



PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To effectively utilize the Prime Minister case as a best practice and showcase it to relevant stakeholders in partner countries and Europe, consider the following proposed solutions and recommendations:

Documentation and Case Study: Develop a comprehensive case study that outlines the key components, methodologies, and success stories of the Prime Minister project. Include quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate the impact on participants, such as changes in knowledge, skills, and civic engagement.

Create a Digital Platform: Establish a dedicated website or online platform that serves as a centralized hub for information about Prime Minister. Include success stories, testimonials, and multimedia content showcasing the program's activities and outcomes.

Engage in Networking and Collaboration: Actively seek partnerships with organizations, governments, and educational institutions in partner countries and across Europe. Foster collaborations that can lead to the adaptation or expansion of the Prime Minister model in different cultural contexts.

Present at Conferences and Events: Submit proposals to present the Prime Minister case at relevant conferences, seminars, and events focusing on education, women's empowerment, and civic engagement. Engage with stakeholders, policy-makers, and educators to share insights and build support for the program.



LESSONS LEARNED

Empowerment and leadership

Inclusion and teamwork

Role models and mentoring

Active citizenship

Practical experiences and institutional visits

REFERENCE

1. Website: www.primeminister.it/en
2. Angela Laurenze, interview and presentation November 2022.

Borgata Paraloup Italy

Paraloup, "sheltered from wolves" in Occitan, is an alpine village located at 1360 m in the municipality of Rittana, in the province of Cuneo, in the Stura Valley.

The Borgata has welcomed shepherds and flocks for centuries and, during the Resistance, about 200 twenty-year-old (peasants, students, artisans from all over Italy) here have been transformed into partisans and went down to the valley to fight for the liberation of Italy from Nazi-fascism.

After a long period of depopulation, in 2006 the Nuto Revelli Foundation decided to acquire and recover it to create and make available to the community, schools and the general public a physical and dynamic place-witness of a double memory: that of Resistance and that of rural mountain life.

Thanks to the finding of the necessary economic resources (Piedmont Region Lr. 4/00, Compagnia di San Paolo, CRC Foundation, CRT Foundation) the village was rebuilt with an innovative and sustainable architectural project, harmoniously inserted into the landscape according to the criteria of the International Charter of the Restoration and with local raw materials, carried out by a group of architects who formed spontaneously around Aldo and Giovanni Barberis, composed of Valeria Cottino, Dario Castellino and Daniele Regis.

Paraloup is today an open-air laboratory, for a sustainable return to life, culture and work in the mountains, a return guided by the awareness and sensitivity for the historical memory of the people who inhabited this place, which has hosted a very particular of Resistance, a "Community Resistance" and which today declines this vocation among its huts in its strongly hybrid, experimental and multidisciplinary nature.



UNIQUENESS

Paraloup is an excellent reference practice for the recovery of rural villages carried out respecting the history, identity and nature of the places. In particular, it is interesting to share two aspects of the process:

the architectural approach to regeneration, carried out according to the criteria of the International Charter of the Restoration and with local raw materials;

The preservation of the original spirit of the place, both with respect to the contents - the recovery of the history of the Resistance of Paraloup, and with respect to the architectural intervention - the integration of the original ruins with the new wooden houses built during the restoration.

Paraloup is accessible to visitors and tourists and offers various activities:

- Hospitality
- Museum (free access): a temporary exhibition room and the permanent exhibition "The seasons of Paraloup", an interactive multimedia installation about the history of Rittana
- The first film library on the themes of war and resistance in the mountains
- Open air theatre
- Artistic Resistance program: artistic residencies in the Borgata
- Excursions (partisan paths)

KEY FINDINGS

- Recovering from an abandoned village
- Innovative and sustainable architecture
- Open-air laboratory
- Community resistance

Borgata Paraloup Italy



LESSONES LEARNED

Principle of sharing:
“Although everyone does their part, we all know what others are doing and we share our work”

Principle of listening:
“We practice listening as a political act: we give space, voice, and time to those who want to change things, to those who want to stay in a territory, to those who want to return.”

Principle of adaptation:
“It is necessary to know how to deal with the unknowns and adapt to them, respecting the times and characteristics of the place in which one works”



REFERENCE

1. <https://paraloup.it/> (Ita)
2. Interview with the director of Nuto Revelli Foundation and one of the architects involved in the restoration process

Nonturismo Italy

Nonturismo (Nontourism) is a project dedicated to the requalification of so-called marginal areas. The project implements a "post-Anthropocene" approach: the goal of Nonturismo is to help these places redefine their identity by involving the inhabitants in a process of recovering of memories of the past, raising of awareness on opportunities and problems of the present, foreseeing of possible future scenarios. The final output of the process is a guide dedicated to non-tourists, those who do not travel to collect postcards but to discover the authentic spirit of a territory.

One of the first places protagonists of Nonturismo has been Ussita, a town from the Region Marche located in the mountains of the Sibillini National Park, a place characterized by a geographical marginality, since it is difficult to reach, and an identity one, since it had been severely hit by the earthquakes of 2016/17.

The key word of Nonturismo's approach is ecosystem. Above all, a local ecosystem exists that is placed at the centre of participatory process of designing and storytelling: around this community has been built a trans-sectoral ecosystem, made up of an organization expert in cross-fertilization (Sineglossa), a local promotion organization (C.A.S.A.), artists who have already been authors of relational art and / or environmental sustainability projects, the municipality of Ussita, the body for the protection of the Sibillini Mountains National Park and experts from heterogeneous fields, from history to botany.

The Nonturismo project aims to contribute to the rethinking of living in marginal areas (rural areas and urban suburbs), with the aim of challenging the phenomena of depopulation and gentrification. To fight depopulation, Nonturismo acts locally on two interconnected fronts: the reconstruction of the community's identity and sense of belonging and the creation of an opportunity for incoming that is respectful of the historical, cultural, and naturalistic context.



UNIQUENESS

The innovativeness of the Nonturism project lies in the methodological approach, a framework that combines the goal of regenerating a place with the freedom of artistic research and expression, guaranteeing different contents and languages every time.

Too often, in regeneration projects, art represents an "embellishment" out of context, which does not represent the identity of the local community. At the same time, these processes too often include the inhabitants of the place in a marginal way, applying top-down models that do not dialogue with the territory and citizens.



Local tour guides organize guided walks along the Nonturismo itineraries, benefiting from a direct economic fallout.



In 2022, the local festival of Piantamaggio, a rite that had not been celebrated for more than twenty years which re-emerged during Nonturismo's process, has been recovered by the inhabitants.

KEY FINDINGS

- Requalification of marginal areas
- Post-anthropocene approach
- Redefining local identity
- Exosystemic approach

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Nonturismo methodology is characterized by being structured in steps defined by specific objectives that can be transferred and replicated in other marginal areas:

- building an ecosystem that contemplates the aspects of community management, environmental sustainability and artistic production.
- defining and re-constructing the identity of the place through the community editorial workgroups.
- content creation through artistic residencies, in order to ensure both the encounter between artists and the community and content quality.
- guide structuring from both tourist and artistic point of view (concept and itineraries).
- community engagement through corollary actions to the guide publication, with a view to relaunching for future initiatives.

LESSONS LEARNED

Multidisciplinary approach: balance between local community, environment, and artistic contents.

Community involvement: Nonturismo stimulated local citizens to re-define their collective identity.

Size doesn't matter: even a small scale project can stimulate a regeneration process.

REFERENCE

1. The case study was developed based upon Sineglossa's involvement in the project and an interview with a representative of the local promotion organization C.A.S.A.
2. <https://nonturismo.org/> (Ita)

Farm Cultural Park Italy

Farm Cultural Park is a genuine workshop, a hothouse of social innovation. It's a space in which a community of locals and creative talents work on problems and intervention strategies, seeking to make the most of their resources, to reuse, regenerate, reinterpret, revitalise and cultivate.

Our main objective is to create cultural transformations in urban places to show the possibilities of human creativity while targeting today's challenges and opportunities.

Located less than 10 km from Agrigento, in the town of Favara, with a population of around 30,000 people, and an old centre that was thriving from prehistoric times but in recent times had fallen to severe depopulation due to lack of opportunities for young people and families. We saw the opportunity to create a new path out and halt the general decay of the structural, social and economic downfall of the city by breathing new life through art and architecture.

'For a town that until yesterday was unknown even among Sicilians, this is a small miracle. In an Italy of abandoned villages, Favara is going against the trend, and it's using its past as a foundation to build a future rooted in the breathtaking energy of art and culture.'

With the motivation of Award winning successes, we are opening a second Farm in Mazzarino. Each location has its own series of experimental research project, laboratory, and creative production on the themes of arts, education, the environment, place-city making.

In your own case/idea?

- *Who will be involved and what do they need?*
- *What will be done?*
- *What is the location?*
- *When will you start? steps and milestones.*
- *Why is this service/ business/space needed (community value)?*



UNIQUENESS

Farm Cultural Park's uniqueness lies in its innovative approach to urban renewal through art and culture. Some of the key elements that make Farm Cultural Park unique include:

Recovery of Abandoned Spaces: Farm Cultural Park has transformed an entire neighborhood characterized by abandoned buildings and urban spaces, giving them a new life and a new function. This creative reuse approach is central to its uniqueness.

Intersection between Contemporary Art and Community: Farm Cultural Park seeks to overcome the traditional boundaries between art and community. It's not just about exhibiting works of art, but about integrating art into the social fabric of the community, actively involving local residents in the creative process.

Promotion of Local and International Artists: Farm Cultural Park serves as a platform for local and international artists, offering them a space to exhibit their works and collaborate on projects. This combination of local and international talent helps create a diverse and inspiring atmosphere.

Cultural and Economic Sustainability: Sustainability is a key element in the philosophy of Farm Cultural Park. It's not just about creating a temporary impact, but about building a solid cultural and economic foundation for the future, ensuring that the community continues to benefit from cultural initiatives in the long term.

Immersive and Participatory Experiences: Farm Cultural Park offers immersive and participatory experiences through events, workshops and activities that directly involve the public. This helps create a deeper connection between cultural spaces and the community, making art more accessible and engaging.

Overall, the combination of these elements makes Farm Cultural Park a unique project that has attracted national and international attention as an example of success in using art and culture to transform and enrich an urban community.



KEY FINDINGS

- Urbane regeneration
- Civic Engagement/Community
- Education/traning
- Art/Culture
- Social innovation



PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We should rediscover the authenticity of the places and people who live there and suggest to design tools and put in place not only economic but also human resources that enable inhabitants to become active citizens and, whenever possible, civic leaders.

With a Public Policy that guarantees a fair distribution of resources and possibilities throughout the national territory.

A small army of community managers and urban regenerators must be trained and enrolled and in our country there are plenty of them that until now have acted in subsidiarity and silence and who can now generate opportunities and build trust and enthusiasm. We need economic resources to hire and structure human resources.

It is not always easy to be sustainable with cultural activities, especially when, like us at Farm, we use art, culture and education as tools to redeem territories, restore identity and build future and belonging.

But at the same time it is necessary to facilitate and encourage the birth of social enterprises that can support the public in this change of perspective, which was already necessary before Covid-19



All images courtesy of Nadia Castronovo

LESSONS LEARNED

- Power of art
- The places are important
- Exhibitions
- Active citizenship
- Practical experiences and institutional
- Collaboration

REFERENCE

1. Website: www.farmculturalpark.com/
2. Andrea Bartoli, interview and
3. presentation November 2022.

Rinka Centre Slovenia

The Rinka Centre was created out of necessity, as more and more visitors came to the Solčava area - to show them in one place what they can see here. The second reason stemmed from the need for a common space for information, buying local products and socializing. The main purpose of the investment was to revive the village of Solčava by building a new multi-purpose centre Rinka, which will serve to socialize different generations of locals and visitors, education, encourage entrepreneurship and marketing of natural resources and heritage Solčava. In this way, the "Old New Rinka" project contributed to the sustainable development of the entire Solčava region and beyond.

The project was started by the Municipality of Solčava, which wanted to establish a centre for visitors and locals to guide people forward in this area - the entry point for the tourist destination Solčava. The municipality involved local people and various experts for architecture, design, mountain wood, forestry, nature protection, geology. After opening of the Rinka Center, many locals registered to sell their products, they also started to connect associations, the cooperation was strengthened. They cooperate with all citizens of the municipality of Solčava (use of exhibition space), local associations (organization of events), local providers and entrepreneurs (appearances at fairs, business gifts, room providers,...), local guides (training for guides, program implementation).

The centre was built in the same area where the buildings were already standing, there were no new interventions in the space. They used local mountain wood in the construction and furnishing of premises. The Rinka Center promotes the autochthonous breed of Solčava sheep and the local stone. They carry out the promotion of local nature conservation - raising visitors' awareness of nature conservation.



UNIQUENESS

As a consequence of Rinka Centre, some vending machines for local products have been put in place – a new selling channel for local products. There are also three wool boutiques nearby, due to the operation of the Rinka Centre and a wood centre was also established nearby. New jobs were created at Tourist info centre and at contract post office. They conduct various trainings, courses, lectures (eg interpretation of cultural heritage). Through various projects, they equipped the kitchen and event space for use by local residents.

The building itself is so well placed in the space that it has received the Constructive Alps award for Alpine architecture, and they also received the Golden Pencil award for architecture.

KEY FINDINGS

- Former abandoned area in need for revitalization.
- Decision and leading role of the municipality Solcava.
- Cooperation with local inhabitants and experts in project preparation, continuous cooperation with local inhabitants, local providers, associations, and tourist guides.
- Modern entry point for Solcava region - exploring the region through an exhibition.
- Use of local resources; mountain wood, stone, wool, ...
- New employment and selling opportunities for local providers; tourist info point, post office, vending machines, wool boutique, wood center, ...

The main uniqueness is that visitors can get to know the destination here through the exhibition, even if they can't go to the location itself. Also connection between people as they connect all the threads that make the Solčava region as it is - a connection centre.



PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This best practice applies to abandoned areas, villages that we want to revitalize.

They used to have a program of presentation of the Solčavsko good practice, anyone who is interested can still get the information, they tell about the project itself and present it.

LESSONS LEARNED

Joint decision and initiator/leader is needed for the first step.

Involvement of local people and relevant experts from the beginning.

Sustainable use of natural and human resources, awareness raising on all levels; management, visitors, business partners,...

New employment opportunities established from this center.



REFERENCE

1. Interview with Mrs Darja Knez, Center Rinka
2. <https://www.logarska-solcavsko.si/>

EXPANO MURSKA SOBOTA Slovenia

In Murska Sobota there was a location of a degraded area of the gravel pit and also a long-standing desire to arrange the space as a place for meeting and leisure. The region also did not have a central entry point for visitors. Then the opportunity was offered to install an exhibition pavilion from the Expo 2015 in Milano and the municipality of Murska Sobota decided to accept this challenge in terms of rehabilitating the degraded area. The need also follows the vision of green development of the town of Murska Sobota - Green Heart of Pomurje.

During preparing the documentation, the municipality team conducted several dialogues with the locals and built the whole project in cooperation with them, and also included different thematic experts. The key stakeholders were the municipality of Murska Sobota, development centre, Institute for culture, tourism and sports, architects and many expert groups. Now they regularly cooperate with visitors (encouraging environment preservation), NGOs (enabling exhibitions), local providers (Expano store with local products), artists (enabling presentation of works, sales exhibitions) by promoting short supply chains for maximising impact in the region.

It is now a modern attractive place where everything that the Pomurje region offers is gathered in one place, visitors can try out innovative modern technologies and get to know the region Pomurje from different angle.



UNIQUENESS

The main added value for the local community is that it gained new space for recreation, the project has also provided an opportunity for employment of (young) people from this area, indirectly the project has an impact through additional tourist arrivals who not only stay at the Expano site but also explore the region more widely.

They are aware of the importance of preserving the environment for future generations, which is why RPC Expano has approached the acquisition of the sustainable Green Key label. Their daily management and programme includes many environmentally responsible actions and measures. The Expano building itself is wooden, groundwater is used for heating, sustainable services for travel and recreation are offered. The interactive adventure park serves to present the local nature (typical animals, aquarium with fish from the Mura River, otter lair).

The uniqueness of this project is that some “instant” solutions can become permanent, e.g. the pavilion from the world exhibition Expano was not destroyed after the end of the exhibition but is used further - an example of a circular economy. A new story has been created which contributes to the development of the local community.



Degraded area from before.

EXPANO MURSKA SOBOTA Slovenia

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This best practice applies to similar degraded areas that pose a challenge of how to revitalize them in a sense that they have great potential for development.

This best practice is available to all interested stakeholders, it can be also presented in person by visiting, some information is presented on the website <https://www.expano.si/> . As it is an European project, the data is open. They explain the whole course of the project to everyone who is interested.

LESSONES LEARNED

Joint decision and initiator/leader is needed for the first step.

Involvement of local people and relevant experts from the beginning.

Use of available modern technologies to attract visitors.

A sense of belonging - being a joint project of the community.

Sustainable use of natural and human resources, awareness raising on all levels; management, visitors, business partners,...



Current EXPANO

REFERENCE

1. Interview with Mrs. helga Lukač, Expano Murska Sobota.
2. Expano Murska Sobota <https://www.expano.si/>

Laugarás Green Community Iceland

Laugarás is built upon a long cultural heritage site of Skálholt from the year 1000, with its cathedral and bishops in Skálholt from as well as being a location for regional doctor and hospital from 1875 to the 21st century. Laugarás grew considerably after the establishment of district heating institute (geothermal energy) enabling vegetable/flower farming in the area, the main industry and source of job opportunities in the community since 1940, including organic farms. Around 600 inhabitants live and work in the community mostly in agriculture as well as in public and health care services, as well as professionals, artists and scholars working online and from their homes.

Tourism is growing although people feel that there is a need to strengthen the infrastructure to create a more versatile and sustainable community, attracting young people and people with different backgrounds to the area. The village is central in South Iceland close to big touristic sites like Gullfoss and Geysir or the Golden Circle that over 1 million tourists visit annually and some of them also stop at Skálholt cathedral although they rarely stay at hotels and guest houses in the area. As a site for domestic tourism, Slakki family park (established in a vegetable farm in 1993) has been the main attraction and over 25.000 people visited Slakki in 2018. Investors have shown interest in utilizing local geothermal resources to build up a hotel and spa natural facilities as well as working with community members and promoting local ingredients from organic farms in the area.



Laugarás Green Community Iceland

UNIQUENESS

Laugarás access to sustainable natural geothermal energy resources enables the development of organic vegetable farming as well as future development of tourist sites such as hotels and spa and lagoon attracting tourists from around the world. The location of the regional health centre also presents opportunities to establish nursing homes and related services in the area and such ideas are already presented in the district planning policy.

Laugarás is a well-situated tourist location within a 2 hour drive from Reykjavík and close to the Golden Circle and other attractions. The challenge in further developing Laugarás as a tourist attraction is the potential negative effect of mass tourism to the community. Slakki family park has enhanced seasonal domestic

tourism that can be built upon to attract families to prolong their stay from day trip to a weekend holiday in the country.

KEY FINDINGS

- Access to green energy resources
- History and cultural heritage
- Opportunities for organic farming
- Opportunities in tourism
- Healthcare and lifestyle tourism



Skalholt cathedral

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The community is mostly known for vegetable/flower farming as well as traditional farming and forestry. The direct access to geothermal energy is the foundation for these industries and can be used as well to build up tourism. The community association has called for increased cooperation in district and policy planning, building upon the knowledge and experience of community members as well as forming policies and enhancing infrastructure for a sustainable, innovative and eco-friendly community with both green and diverse job and growth opportunities.

LESSONS LEARNED

Participatory approaches
in planning and policies

Sustainable usage of
natural resources

Building on cultural
heritage

Infrastructure for sus-
tainable growth

Local interest and associ-
ation

Community meeting 29th March 2022.



REFERENCE

1. Based upon two interviews and a community meeting with PHA in Skálholt. One interview was with a local entrepreneur and another with a representative of the community stakeholder group.
2. www.laugaras.is
3. www.skalholt.is

Hallormsstaðaskóli Creative Sustainability training Iceland

Hallormsstaðaskóli is an educational institution providing a platform for people to become sustainable creators of their own lives – and of the world. The school ideology rests on two pillars. One is the belief that the global economy is an unsustainable system. This is supported by numerous indications coming from the fields of ecological economics and environmental studies. The second is Buckminster Fuller’s idea that “You never change something by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”

The main stakeholders of Hallormsstaðaskóli is the Icelandic society as their education is one of a kind, local and national stakeholders working towards sustainability and sustainable use of natural resources. Both Icelandic and International students take part in the full study and workshops.

The aim is to equip our students to become free of the constraints of the system and be able to invent new ones as it is not possible to achieve sustainability unless free from system dependency. The focus is on learning new skills or re-learning what our ancestors all knew before us – how to live off nature's bounty. What skills are needed to be able to utilise nature for our food requirements? Or our energy requirements? How about medicine? Clothing? Housing? Water? The focus is on learning these skills as well as thinking critically, debating efficiently and playfully exploring the endless depths of our creativity.



UNIQUENESS

Research and hands-on workshops form the basis of the school's educational practices. Theoretical and empirical knowledge allows students to employ a creative approach with the confidence that their solutions use sustainable and renewable resources. Students from the school will then become the voice of change on graduation.

The school provides a range of workshops that vary between years and can cover a wide range of topics from weaving to power generation and anything in between. A variety of specialists are brought in to teach the workshops. All students then work on a final project based upon their interests, background and vocational preferences, focusing on sustainability and social innovation.

The school is now working on an overall organization of their surroundings, based upon post-human architect methodology, including outdoor workshops based upon sustainable farming, gardening and energy production.

KEY FINDINGS

- Learn from our ancestors
- Nature as a classroom
- Research based
- Hands on workshops
- Accept the fault in the system



PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

resources in East Iceland is the school classroom. From the highlands to the sea, encouraging learning through direct contact with the environment. It is a best practice that can be adapted and developed to other similar training institutions in Europe and wider, based upon local nature, history, and environment.



Porarinn Egill Sveinsson dairy engineer teaches cheese making.

LESSONS LEARNED

Sustainability based upon natural environment and human creativity

Science and research based

Focus on individual learning

Hands on workshop

Learning from our ancestors

Attracting leading experts as trainers



Mushroom picking in the forest in Hallormstaóir.

REFERENCE

1. Website: www.haskolinn.is/en
2. Bryndís Fiona Ford, interview and presentation March 2022.

Västerport (Varberg) Sweden

In the last few years, the number of inhabitants in Varberg has rapidly increased (+11% in the period 2009-2019). The reasons must be sought in its ideal position and its attractiveness. Varberg is located close to the sea, and it's not far from Gothenburg (46 mins by train) and Halmstad (35 mins by train).

The challenge for the Municipality is to develop sustainably and offer the newcomers adequate housing. In the last years, important changes have impacted a former industrial area, whose owner is the Municipality of Varberg. The harbour moved away, and the railway will pass through an underground tunnel.

The Municipality of Varberg is the main stakeholder. It aims to develop a lively, attractive, not exclusively area with 2.500 new flats. Citizens are the final beneficiary of the investment. They aim to find an affordable place where to live, full-equipped (the new train station will be built close to the new area), lively, and safe. Construction companies are interested in building the new residential district. To find out how Varberg should best be shaped and what the new part of the city should contain, the municipality invited to dialogue and collaboration early in the process. The Citizens' Dialogue 2014 was primarily about which values people think are important in development. Sociality, green development, and an easy logistic were the key topics that guided the architects in the planning.

More than 900 talks were held in connection with workshops and meetings in the city. Many thoughts were also conveyed via email, Facebook and future postcards.

The material from the citizen dialogue was compiled and analysed by the municipality's dialogue consultant. Among other things, three focus areas and seven challenges were defined. The City Council has decided that those will be guidelines in the continued planning of Västerport.

By October 2016 several citizen groups were invited to dialogue and workshops with the teams of architects working on the project. For two days, the architects were given the opportunity to meet representatives of the inhabitants of the municipality, and find out what they thought of their respective work so far. The team's task was to listen to and absorb the opinions of the dialogue participants.



UNIQUENESS

Before starting the development plan, the Municipality of Varberg started a two-year-long process involving citizens representing different clusters: kids, teens, young adults, families with children, and elderly. The idea was to plan the new area with a large consensus and equip it with the most appropriate resources.



KEY FINDINGS

- Participatory process
- Blue and green show the way
- Variation for integration
- Everyday logistics that simplifies and unifies



PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed solutions and recommendations

This case study shows the importance of the involvement of different clusters of citizens when it comes to social equity.

In the case of Varberg, many different events were organised meeting specific needs in such a way as to involve even the most hard-to-reach people.



Citizens' participation at Brunnsparcken. Photo by Mikael Göthage

LESSONS LEARNED

Let citizens imagine their future.

Take people to visit the place before starting planning, they will feel part of an area even before there is a developing plan.

Different competences needed: sociologists, planners, environmentalists.



Citizens' participation at Hamn. Future postcards are written, drawn, and posted. Photo by Emelie Göransson.

REFERENCE

1. Västerport website (in Swedish)
2. <https://varberg.se/varbergvaxer/byggprojekt/vasterport.4.69ac5f51763826ac124ecc5.html>

Circular Greenhouse in Boden Sweden

The town of Boden is rapidly growing. In the next few years, a new big company, producing green steel, will be created, attracting around 5 000 new inhabitants, in a town that counts at the moment 30 000 inhabitants.

The self-sufficiency in northern Sweden is quite challenging and providing food for such many people requires creativity.

At the same time, Boden is hosting several data centres, where a lot of heat is produced by the servers and wasted.

The Municipality of Boden, through its development agency Bodenxt and in collaboration with the Swedish Research Centre, the Technological University of Luleå, local data centres, and local companies developed the idea to create a greenhouse using the heat dispersed by the data centres. The greenhouse employs people with long-term unemployment situations.



Circular Greenhouse in Boden Sweden

UNIQUENESS / ALTERNATIVE

Although this example is very much connected to the location since many data centers could be found in colder areas, because of the cooling effect, and required specific initial research and involved the Technological University of Luleå and the Swedish Research Institution, shows anyway that it is possible to rethink how different sources of energy are wasted and could be recycled.

KEY FINDINGS

- Issues with self-sufficiency in Northern Sweden
- Circular use of waste heat to produce energy for running a green house
- Distribution of locally produced food, limiting the purchase of raw material produced far away
- Giving education and a job opportunity to the people in a situation of long-term unemployment

*The greenhouse heated
by the waste heat
coming from a data
center in Boden.
Source:
www.bodenxt.se*



Circular Greenhouse in Boden Sweden

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This case study shows how it is possible to exploit resources that otherwise will be wasted, to solve local issues. In this specific case, the greenhouse will provide fresh vegetables to the local community and employ people in situations of long-term unemployment giving them motivation and educating them to a new career.

LESSONS LEARNED

Recycling waste resources

Giving people in long-term unemployment a new career

Exploit local resources to answer to local issues

*The greenhouse heated by the waste heat coming from a data center in Boden.
Source: www.bodenxt.se*



REFERENCE

1. <https://bodenxt.se/en/a-unique-greenhouse-powered-by-waste-heat/>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHg1MGe4tMM>



**POST-HUMAN
ARCHITECT**

GOOD PRACTICES CASE STUDY COMPENDIUM



Sineglossa

FARM CULTURAL PARK



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