

Learning Community Profile

Nagykovácsi HU 2010



Information

Partner name and country + team contact name

TREBAG KFT Hungary
2094 Nagykovácsi Kossuth u. 9

Please name and define the community you wish to approach in Xploit (the defined community will be referred to all along the questions below)

families of disadvantaged background mainly large families
people over 50 at risk of social exclusion
youngsters at risk of social exclusion-in need of work and working skills, (eg. career management)

Please briefly describe the Xploit team in your community

- As we are not implementing partners within Xploit, we highly rely on our contacts with the Municipality and the civil sphere.
- In Trebag directly Péter Kövesd, Andrea Kövesd and Enikő Nagy are involved. They are highly integrated into the local society both by their personal engagements as citizens living in the settlement and by their work through European Union projects for and in cooperation with the Municipality as well as with local inhabitants.
- Besides we highly rely on the following resources:
 - Representatives from the governmental bodies responsible for learning and education
 - The employees of the Municipality- MAYOR
 - Representatives from major stakeholders among the community's educational institutions: headmistress of local school and kindergarten
 - Representatives from active groups of citizens having been involved in different forms of lifelong learning projects or initiatives: heads of major civil associations
 - Representatives from cultural organisations aiming to bridge between culture and learning Heads of the local Cultural Centre
 - Representatives from social organisations working with disadvantaged groups of citizens Large Family Groups, Local Groups of Elderly

Please describe who you believe will be involved in the Xploit Network in your community (organisation name, web and contact)

Municipality
Nagykovácsi Nagycsaládos Csoport (Association of Large Families)
Nagykovácsi Yoga Centre
Bázis Ifjúsági Alapítvány (Bázis Youth Foundation)
Crosskovácsi Sports Association
Kispatak kindergarten
Local Primary School
Öregiskola Cultural Centre
Nagykovácsiért Foundation

NATE
 Nagykovácsi Nyugdíjas klub (Nagykovacsi Club of the elderly)
 Nagykovácsi Művészeti Iskola (Nagykovácsi Art School)
 Linum Foundation
 Wellbeing Living Lab

Resources involved

Please briefly describe the resources in the community involved now or in the future in developing the profile

The completed and on-running Leonardo and Grundtvig projects relevant to the learning community. Especially:
 Parenting
 Time-well
 Mindwellness
 Naturesport
 KIFLI
 OpenInn
 SAGE+
 SPAT
 +
 Main Square project

They all promote either social cohesion within the community with certain learning activities, most of them targeting the promotion of healthy lifestyle

Please briefly describe how these resources will plan and carry out the tasks

There will be common sessions organized to identify and update views on needs of the different target groups and to decide upon further steps.
 Trebag as educational partner will organize these round table sessions and operate a body which will decide on further steps and level of cooperation required.

Please identify special resource persons that might be important to the Xploit project and might be willing to participate at different levels

The Mayor of Nagykovácsi
 Headmaster of the local school
 Headmaster of the kindergarten
 Leader of the local Community Centre
 Heads of local associations and foundations

Cooperation

Please describe the cooperation between the political and educational partners, and please identify challenges to this cooperation

The cooperation between Trebag and the Municipality of Nagykovácsi has been fruitful.
 The Mayor has been an active cooperating partner in most of the projects carried out by Trebag which directly involved the local community. The Municipality supported the activities and let Trebag use some of its facilities and human resources to achieve common goals. Most of these activities suited the profile of the Municipality anyway and contributed to achieving its overall aims. In this way we cooperated in projects in the field of early child care (MPC), supporting large families (parenting), providing LL opportunities to Elderly people.

On the other hand we play a consultant role in other initiatives of the Municipalities for achieving lifelong learning goals...

Challenges: In Nagykovacsi the political party is not involved financially in Xploit. Therefore different type of participation is expected from them. The change of the political regime and the total renewal of the board of delegates can challenge the whole well-established cooperation

Please describe positive and negative cooperation experiences when producing the profile

The basic approach to cooperation on behalf of the Municipality was positive. However, the pending of the project has put off the cooperation to a time which was preparation for the elections. It was not optimal for making the time for minute discussions.

However, in the meantime the previous Mayor was re-elected and most of the delegates stayed in their position.

Please provide recommendations for the Xploit project, on which similar activities could be based

Nagykovacsi would be interested in making a profile characterised by lifelong learning in some major topics: career management and entrepreneurship, healthy lifestyle for all generations with special focus on physical and mental fitness, environment protection.

Main target groups – youngsters at the beginning of their careers, families-parents, older people

Please describe what steps the Xploit team will take to deal with the identified cooperation challenges

There is a forum to be established whose aim is to share experiences and envisage further steps within the community and to harmonise actions. These resource people will represent certain groups in the society and will let their voice be heard on “higher levels” as well.

Lifelong learning in the community

What kind of significant lifelong learning activities for disadvantaged citizens have been carried out or planned in the community since 2000 – what challenges did they address and who were the target groups?

MPC- early childcare education and ICT

Parenting- learning material for parents of large families

Ecom 45+: teaching ICT for older people

Mindwellness: training material for older people on preserving their mental fitness

Adult motivation with Nature Sport: promoting healthy lifestyle with outdoor activities

Time-well : innovation transfer of achievements in wellness sector: healthy lifestyle

Some other projects fostering cooperation between decision-makers, civils and educational providers in more detail:

1.)

Title: Reconstruction of the Main Square of Nagykovács

Description:

Nagykovács is a settlement situated at a distance of 6 kms from the North-Western part of Budapest. Originally it was an ethnic German (Swabian) village, but after 1945 the ethnic German inhabitants were deported. The number of the inhabitants of the settlement was just a few thousand people not long ago, but

today it is more than 6.000, and within 4-5 years, it will amount to more than 10.000.

However, the birth-rate of the children born here is much higher than the Hungarian average; growth in the number of inhabitants is mainly caused by those coming to live here from Budapest. Among those moving out of the city there are many artists, professors, teachers, researchers, small and medium size entrepreneurs, relatively high-ranking public servants and officials. The structure of the settlement has historically developed. One of the most important elements is the monumental Catholic Church on the main square. However, the condition of the main square has considerably deteriorated by now. It is practically a large elliptic asphalted bus turning point with chaotic traffic conditions and neglected green surface.

In 2007, the Hungarian brick and covering material producer Wienerberger Zrt organised a session and tender for ideas for university students concerning the settlement of the main square in cooperation with the Municipality of Nagykovácsi. Teams of 22 universities participated in the tender. The first prize went to the students of Corvinus University. The key problem of the main square was the chaotism of the roads, for which not even professional designers found the right solution. The winning university student solved (also) this problem in a simple and striking manner. The winning tenders were acquired. The costs were covered by Wienerberger. The concrete plans were prepared by the winning students under the direction of their professors.

By relying on the result of the winning tender and of the prepared plans, the Municipality of Nagykovácsi submitted a tender in the Hungarian Central Region tender launched for support for the reconstruction of the main square, which was co financed by the EU and RDF. The tender won support worth nearly HUF 90.000.000 (app. EUR 300.000). The preparation for the reconstruction commenced. Completion deadline: August 2010.

Implementation: Where, target group, main activities and results. Justify and explain their exploitability

Location: Nagykovácsi

Target group: the residents of Nagykovácsi and tourists coming here (Nagykovácsi is a touristic starting point in a hilly, wooded touristic region (Pilis) situated at the North-Western part of Budapest).

Main activities: main square reconstruction,

Main results: an aesthetic, well-organised main square, which is also suitable for community programmes

Exploitability:

- Involvement of university students in the development of the community
 - Cost-efficient (the tender fees are much lower than in the case of professional planning bureaus)
 - Uses young fresh creativity. Entirely novel solutions may emerge.
 - The motivation of the university students grows, since they solve a real problem. The winners can see the realisation of their plans.
 - The quality of university education is improved, because it gets closer to real life and to existing problems.
- The society can directly see the refund of money invested into education.
- Good example for PPP. It is obvious that the private partner wants to sell covering material for the main square. However, the company also grants a considerable rebate. Its PR improves.

Authorities' involvement:

Municipality of Nagykovácsi Settlement:

- Participating in the calling for and judgement of the brainstorming tender
- Having the financing tender prepared
- Coordination of the reconstruction work
- Co-financing (more than 25 %)

2.

Title: Building of kindergarten in Nagykovácsi, exploitation of MPC results
 Nagykovácsi has two kindergartens, but their capacity fails to meet demands. In 2007, the Municipality of Nagykovácsi submitted a tender in Hungarian Central Region tender launched for support for the building of a kindergarten for 250 children, which was co-financed by the Hungarian Government and EU RDF. The tender did not win.

TREBAG Kft based in Nagykovácsi is consortium member of the Media Playing Communities LLL KA1 project. As part of the project it commenced the creation of a kindergartner community in the kindergarten of Nagykovácsi municipality (in consensus with Nagykovácsi municipality), and in a kindergarten in Budapest for hearing impaired children. The project is popular among both the parents and their children. An important element of the creation of the community is that the kindergartners in Nagykovácsi and the hearing impaired kindergartners visited each other. So healthy children could play with hearing impaired children and vice versa.

In 2008, Nagykovácsi municipality again submitted its tender for the new kindergarten. The tender has not much changed, but included the addition that the method created in MPC will be applied in the new kindergarten. The evaluators of the tender showed great interest in MPC, and the MPC-related written material ensured by TREBAG was collected. The municipality of Nagykovácsi won 250.000.000 for the building of a new kindergarten for 250 persons in 2008.

Implementation: Where, target group, main activities and results. Justify and explain their exploitability

Location: Nagykovácsi

Target group: Parents with small children and with children in the age group 3-7

Main activities: involvement of kindergartners and their parents in the MPC project, cooperation with the municipality and its kindergarten.

Result: the parents and children are satisfied. Contribution to the winning tender aimed at building the new kindergarten.

Exploitability: the EU provides support for various developments, among others for the reconstruction or building of training institutions and cultural institutions. The well-foundedness of such developments can considerably be improved, if the goal is not only to achieve high quality of the building (hardware), but if we also improve the quality of the work performed there, and we also introduce new modern teaching materials, programmes and methods. The software innovation is almost more important than the innovation of the hardware.

Authorities' involvement:

Municipality of Nagykovácsi Settlement

- Admission of the MPC programme
- Having the financing tender prepared
- Coordination of the construction works
- Co-financing of the building
- Exploitation of the results of the MPC in the new kindergarten

3.

Exploitation of the Parenting GRUNDTVIG project in Nagykovácsi

The number of relatively new residents who come to live here is rather high in Nagykovácsi and it is rapidly growing. For the time being it is still a sleeping community, because most residents commute to Budapest to work, to spend the leisure time, moreover, they bring most children to learn and to go to the kindergarten in Budapest. There are two kindergartens and an elementary school in Nagykovácsi, but there is no secondary grammar school there. However, the Hungarian American International School is here, but this has little impact on the life of the community. So no high-level social life could evolve in Nagykovácsi.

During the course of the PARENTING project TREBAG Kft attempted to develop an active parent club in order to facilitate

- the development of social life in Nagykovácsi
- the successful integration of new families with children in the life of Nagykovácsi, respectively to enable these families to make a better use of the potentials and features of Nagykovácsi

Implementation: Where, target group, main activities and results. Justify and explain their exploitability

Location Nagykovácsi

Target group: families with two or more children, families with children coming here

Activities and results: Following several attempts, we could create a core group consisting of women with several children, whose ambition is to do something for the development of the social life and to help those who come to live here.

Exploitability: In most communities there are people, who are ready to do something for the development of the community, moreover who do this with pleasure. It is necessary to fund the core team. This is often very difficult, because some volunteers are not really active, and hope to gain advantages only. In our case the members of the core team gain no advantages at all, they are driven by their inner desire to act. But we can expect no result without creating a core team.

Authorities' involvement:

Municipality of Nagykovácsi Settlement.

Ms Mónika Bencsik feels great sympathy for the project. She told us that the municipality had long been feeling the lack of such activity, but it had no energy to do something about this, i.e. the project aims at reducing a real shortage.

Please describe lifelong learning activities of special importance to the Xploit project, and what kind of resources these activities produced in your community

Promoting healthy lifestyle aspect integrating disadvantaged groups through sport and other activities

targeting parents and older generations through children
using ICT tools to reach people in isolation

Please describe ongoing or planned major lifelong learning initiatives in the community (aims, target groups, resources involved)

Nagykovácsi is characterised by a lot of unused potentials. A lot of intellectuals with knowledge of different aspects live here, but normally work in the nearby capital- taking their activities out of the city- therefore there are a lot of isolated initiatives without close cooperation among them and the local community not knowing or not directly benefiting from these.

Therefore representatives of civil groups and decision makers should find a common platform to cooperate. There should be a main topic for these and the focus could be put maintaining physical and mental health and preparing disadvantaged groups for finding and sharing knowledge to be able to reintegrate into the work market.

How would the Xploit team summarize the lifelong learning experience and potentials in your community?

We have a lot of potentials unused and we need to have a common policy to harmonize the activities and to follow a workline. Communication with educational institutions civil groups and politicians is essential in achieving the goals.

Lifelong learning stakeholders

What kind of organisations or resources are responsible for / engaged in innovative learning initiatives in the community?

There are some characteristic voices within the family who influence educational and cultural profile in the community.
Most of these institutions are financed by the Municipality, therefore it is essential that the politicians promote education and culture. These institutions include:
Local School, local Kindergarten, Cultural Centre
Other initiatives derive from the Civil sector – the most active are
Linum Foundation
Nagykovacsiért Foundation
NATE
Crosskovacsi Sport Association

Please describe potential or emerging power centres for innovative lifelong learning in the community

An innovation house is being initiated by Trebag. Its main goal would be to give a platform for cooperation on creative ideas and thus support emerging innovative ideas, help people to get working and learning opportunities and integrate these ideas into the general concept of the city. The new center is to be opened at the end of November 2010. One of its main objectives will be to promote and run Wellbeing Living Lab.

What organisations have a strong interest in lifelong learning innovation in your community?

Most of the above mentioned ones (see question1 on information) are interested and open to cooperation

In summary: which are the most important lifelong learning stakeholders in your community, and how do the Xploit team intend to collaborate with them?

In the first round we intend to highly involve educational institutions- the local school and the local kindergarten plus the Community Cultural Centre. As this later is responsible for adult education with the two other institutions most civil groups will be involved.
Once these groups are involved we will need to focus on the civil sector influencing those foundations already active in this field.
Through these above mentioned bodies we will reach the majority of the inhabitants including disadvantaged ones.

Lifelong learning policies, interests and visions

Has any lifelong learning strategy been formulated for the community?

Not a clear strategy is formulated. There are separated sectors like early child education, primary education and adult education , but these don't follow a strategic line

Are lifelong learning visions for future initiatives being developed in the community?

There is a strong need for further developing the educational system and also there are initiatives for adult education, but not a real vision...

How would the Xploit team describe the interest in the community in interacting with European scenes and resources? Which resources and initiatives could the Xploit project relate to? Why?

As Nagykovacsi is characterised by:

- nature environment
- highly educated groups of people
- potentials in health and tourism
- being close to the capital

It is in a Natural environment and its further development is highly reliant on defining its identity within this framework. Exploiting resources like ideal venues for maintaining health through nature sports, environmental protection and people's training to promote these aspects and get jobs out of it would be welcome.

Social and educational needs

Please describe the major social challenges in your community

There are isolated groups of people either being active trying to achieve something or being rather passive. The information exchange and communication between them would highly facilitate development and inclusion of individuals.

1, As there are many families and a lot of children this is one of the major target groups. Parents- especially mothers with children at home- need to find their ways to society and then later back to the field of work. In Hungary in general it is not easy as the part-time job system practically does not operate and many young mothers find themselves out of work after maternity leave.

2, Older people are either struggling to keep their jobs or if they are retired and dropped out of the sphere of work might get isolated.

3, Young people are at risk of crimes and drug addiction and also they need help in building up their career

Please describe the major educational challenges in your community

Institutionalised education in nurseries and primary school are regulated by the government and have little flexibility. What can be reformed is rather non-formal and informal education which offer children extra-curricular activities and adults courses. I think these can highly rely on European resources both financially and as stem for materials

Which social and educational needs would the Xploit team consider the most important to the Xploit project?

Integrating marginalised people like: elderly, parents of large families, youngsters at the beginning of their career.

Promoting mainly non-formal and informal education mainly in the field of healthy lifestyle and physical education, career management and entrepreneurship

Please describe social and educational challenges not in any way (or in a very weak way) met by appropriate initiatives in the community

We believe that somehow each disadvantaged groups have been addressed but they all would need more support

Disadvantaged groups of citizens

Please describe the most important groups of disadvantaged citizens in your community

1, As there are many families and a lot of children this is one of the major target

groups. Parents- especially mothers with children at home- need to find their ways to society and then later back to the field of work. In Hungary in general it is not easy as the part-time job system practically does not operate and many young mothers find themselves out of work after maternity leave.

2, Older people are either struggling to keep their jobs or if they are retired and dropped out of the sphere of work might get isolated.

3, Young people are at risk of crimes and drug addiction and also they need help in building up their career

Please identify disadvantaged groups for whom no social or learning initiatives have been taken

We believe that somehow each disadvantaged groups have been addressed but they all would need more support

Which of these groups would the Xploit team find most relevant to the Xploit project and the exploitation of European learning resources?

older people, large families, youngsters

Please describe to what extent the (planned or established) local Xploit Network could give access to the groups identified as the most important/relevant?

There are several foundations and associations offering some support or activities to these groups but at random. A more systematic approach would be needed and forces united to really achieve something more effective

Social-economic situation

Please briefly summarize the community's socio-economic situation and major challenges

The community is very diverse in socio-economic situation. There are quite a few families who are not well-off, but mostly the standard of living is relatively high compared with other regions of Hungary. However as Nagykovacsi is in the middle of a natural reserve park industries are not settled in the city. This is why many well situated and intellectual people choose it as its residence but also that is why the income of the city itself is surprisingly low.

Can closing sectors and labour markets be identified? How does this produce or affect groups of disadvantaged citizens?

Nagykovacsi itself does not offer much working opportunities. There are not industries and factories and the agricultural premises of the past have vanished. therefore the majority of people move into the nearby capital to work. It creates a so called "sleeping settlement" effect, with not real social cohesion. It mainly influences disadvantaged citizens.

Can emerging sectors be identified? What might be the relevance of these sectors for disadvantaged citizens?

It is envisaged to create a city of the place for maintaining health. Education on health aspects and the potentials of the environment exploited can lead to the development of tourism with all its consequences including creating new jobs and educational needs for local citizens.

Future forecast: which are the most needed skills and competences in the future in your community? Are initiatives being taken to meet these challenges?

health aspects

entrepreneurship

Please describe to what extent the (planned or established) local Xploit Network “covers” the identified present and future scenarios

as a mirroring partner other steps are required from our community then from the implementing partners. So we will see what we can achieve within this frame

Summary: Community SWOT

*Please briefly summarize the community **strengths***

High intellectual potentials
 A lot of local initiatives
 Natural environment with no industrial pollution
 High cooperation on behalf of the Municipality
 Strong educational and cultural institutions and other associations
 Smaller community-easier to reach individuals through personal contacts
 Responsible parents with more numerous children

*Please summarize the community **weaknesses***

Initiatives and activities are usually isolated from one another
 Satellite city with a tendency to go to work and spend free time in the nearby capital
 No taxes from industry- so the city has to find other resources to finance its costs on education and culture.
 A boom in local population- especially number of children is increasing – new parents and children need to find their ways of integration. The local government has to face rapid changes and has to solve the problems of new inhabitants –in creating new infrastructures too.

*Please summarize the community **opportunities***

There is an opportunity to start discussions on a unified strategy on lifelong learning involving politicians, decision-makers and the civil sector - we need to identify the already existing resources and new.

*Please summarize the community **threats***

It is a small community with major stakeholders like the educational institutions and the cultural centre- which are highly dependent on the Municipality –. The whole community is very dependent on the local politics and decisions of main stakeholders.