

Community services in Carnikava (Latvia)

CHANGE! Good practice factsheet

Title of good practice/initiative	Image/photo of good practice/initiative
Development of community services in Carnikava municipality	
	

Description of the good practice /initiative: history, activities, number of involved people, territorial scope, current scale, future plans, impact and benefits (**Max. 400 words**)

Carnikava municipality is promoting local community development and their involvement in provision of services to local people. One of our villages – Kalngale - is very active. Municipality has provided premises to local community. They have two NGOs there – “Kalngalieši” representing whole community and the other for seniors “Paeglis”. The activities to carry out there are completely responsibility of community. Municipality has provided social worker there and are covering maintenance costs of community centre. Kalngale village has approximately 1000 inhabitants, it is located on Vidzeme coast of Riga Bay and it borders with Riga - the capital city of Latvia.

Brief description of how the specific **local public service** has been **challenged** (with figures, if possible)

NGO Kalngalieši have developed several projects for local people. For example, in the spring of 2016 they received funding from municipality community fund to teach local people about healthy lifestyle – food and habits – sauna traditions. The project covers 3 seminars and one practical sauna session. The other project in 2015 was development of dessert cooking skills. There young mums learned to make pastries, muffins and other sweets.

The challenge for 2017 is a development of local park for community events, concerts, meetings, including playground for children and sports facilities for all ages. NGO is going to submit project

proposal to the Local Action Group to receive Leader funding from European Fisheries Fund and municipality will provide needed co-funding to this project. Community itself will manage the procurement of technical project and construction.

Role of the municipality within the process (e.g. how the municipality facilitates or coordinates the process to systematise/upscale a civic initiative)

The role of the municipality is to facilitate the activities of the community in Kalngale. But there are two more villages, where municipality have purchased old houses to be renovated for community usage. Although in these villages communities are not active yet. They are waiting for activities to be carried out by the municipality, rather than to proactive and initiate activities themselves. So in these villages the role of the municipality will be to activate local communities by good example of Kalngale, some international examples and only then start to renovate premises.

Budget (in total and municipality's own contribution)

Yearly community project fund (Sabiedriba ar dvēseli) 10 000 EUR
Co-funding of EU projects for NGOs – 5000 EUR per year
Maintenance of Kalngale community centre premises
Salary of community worker in the centre

Key attributes (success factors) enabling (municipal) staff to implement the project successfully

Positive response and proactive attitude of local community is crucial. In case community is taking "controlling" function and asking everything to be done by municipality (this was the case in one of the passive villages) the time should be taken to let them understand that in such case nothing will happen.

Key internal, organisational, behavioural weaknesses the municipality/organisation had to overcome during the process

The same people are involve in a lot of activities. New people should be attracted not let the active ones to burn out. Lack of international experience. Would be good to see how communities in other countries facilitate local service provision.

Links to website for further information on the good practice/initiative

<https://www.facebook.com/kalngaliesi/?fref=ts>
<http://carnikava.lv/pasvaldiba/iestades/socialais-dienests/centrs-kadikis>
www.carnikava.lv