



SUPPORTING THE ECO-SYSTEM THROUGH LEGISLATION

Consortium of Craft Centres of Slovenia
Arts and Craft center Škofja Loka
(Development agency Sora)

SLOVENIAN LEGISLATION BACKGROUND

- In 2014: the formation of national alliance for craft
- In 2023: **The Handicraft Preservation and Development Act** was published by Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport
- The legislation builds on good practices, research and comparative analysis, but with new regulation principles
- First holistic document connecting the field of handicrafts



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THE HANDICRAFT PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

- **71** regularly updated **handicraft disciplines** (coordinated by SEM), eligible for measures and support
- Measures **for craftspeople** (many types of registration)
- Measures **for support environment** (Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Chamber of Crafts and Small Businesses of Slovenia, handicraft centers, Consortium of Craft Centres, and the Association of Pensioners' Societies of Slovenia)



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PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES

- 1.600.000,00 euros funds allocated for the implementation
- Co-financing based on the fulfillment of legal provisions and tasks on both, local (as craft center) and national level (as current head of the Consortium)
- Co-financing according to the two-years plan and reporting the activities five times per year



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CONSORTIUM

- The Consortium of Craft Centres of Slovenia is not a legal entity, one member manages it on a mandate basis
- The head is currently Arts and Crafts Centre Škofja Loka and as such **implements the tasks of the support ecosystem at both the local and national levels**
- Implementation of tasks defined by the law (and broader)



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TASKS OF CONSORTIUM

- **Representing** and **promoting** the common interests of craft centers,
- **Monitoring legislation**, informing and networking craftspeople throughout the country
- Connecting and **cooperating** with other actors of support environment,
- Negotiation **between national, regional, and local environments** for better craftspeople statuses, improvement of calls for proposals, economic and other obstacles etc.
- **Organizing events, exhibitions, and campaigns** for promoting craftsmanship
- **Programs for knowledge transfer** and popularization of craft for younger generation



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Slovenian Handicraft Festival, Brdo estate (since 2023)



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Slovenian Handicraft Camps (since 2022)



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TASKS OF CRAFT CENTERS

- Connecting and **networking local craftspeople** on events and platforms, **advising** and supporting them (e.g. application on open calls, development of their career, brand or products), **providing information** and **support**
- Monitoring issues related to craftsmanship, forming opinions and proposals
- **Organizing and participating in exhibitions, events, and fairs**, implementing program and project activities
- Recording, **documenting**, and developing handicraft disciplines



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CHALLENGES

- New law for professionals, working in the support environment – not everything has been tested in practice over the long term yet
- The funds **do not cover full-time employment**, which limits our devotion
- Necessary **to improve the open calls' terms** and conditions
- Need to **develop a joint communication strategy** for the umbrella brand 'Slovenian Handicrafts' in the future
- **Law doesn't cover other important areas:** the development of educational programs for the transmission of knowledge, tax legislation, the international positioning of Slovenian handicrafts



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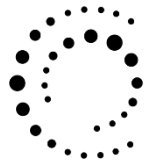
TIPS – key takeaways

- Allow yourselves to dream big, good solutions take time to develop
- Once the changes happen, take time for testing period and step-by-step clarification and improvement with each new year of experience and networking
- Good and open communication and the transfer of information and experiences are essential – joint meetings and consideration of open issues
- It is crucial to have decision-makers that are receptive to the proposed improvements



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**THANK
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LUCK!**

