

Library of Things:

Making sustainable choices practical and accessible

Webinar: Life Quality & Municipalities Slot: Creating good framework conditions

Jošt Derlink, Library of Things Ljubljana, 17. 3. 2025



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A new form of community service inspired by the public library model

borrowing items that we only need occasionally

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saving time, money, and space (for the user)

=

responsible use of limited natural resources and preventing waste generation (for society)

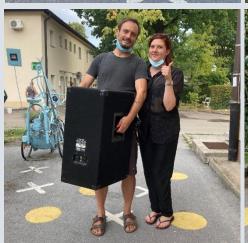
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creating a more resource-efficient and connected city (for municipalities)



















BORROWING PROCESS

simple borrowing system: online catalog, easy tracking

affordable for everyone: free for members, symbolic fees for non-members

flexible membership: item donation, membership fee or volunteering

TOP ITEMS

electric tools /projector and screen / overlock sewing machine / food dehydrator / metal detector / beer benches / high pressure cleaner / steam cleaner ...



COMMUNITY LIVING ROOM

free space rental

events organized by individuals not operating under the auspices of associations, institutes, or other organizations

5-10 weekly events









POPRAV'C

repair shop for electrical and electronic devices modeled after Repair Café

bringing back lost skills and overcoming fears

every second Friday in Library of Things

in 2024 203 appliances with 70% success rate









LIBRARY OF THINGS

- + NGO
- + youth center
- + public library
- + social enterprise
- + re-use center
- + scouts
- +
- +
- +



LOT x MUNICIPALITIES

WHY? supporting UN SDGs

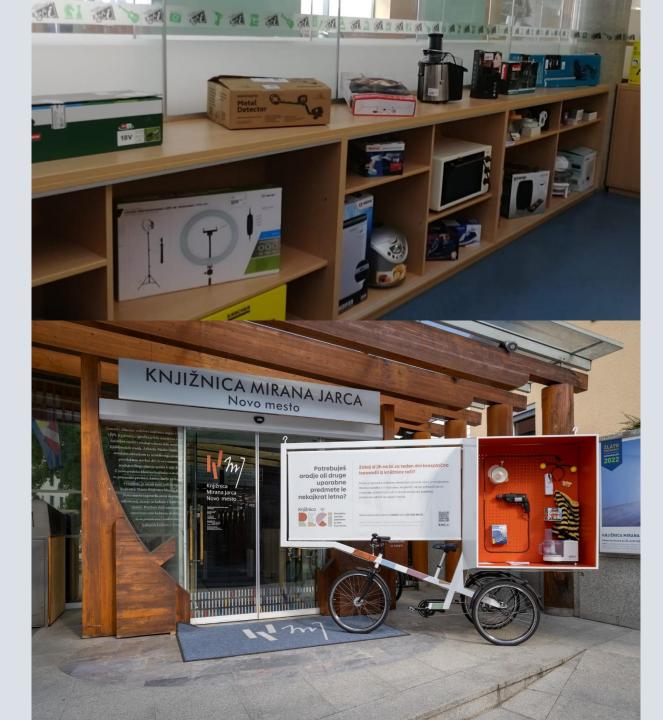
Aligns with Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action

strengthening community resilience Encourages sharing, repair culture and local self-sufficiency.

changing the narrativeShifts focus from the urgency of behavioral change to its practical benefits.

HOW?

- mapping potential hosts
- financial support
- providing space
- facilitating knowledge-transfer
- spreading the word



LOT + PUBLIC LIBRARY

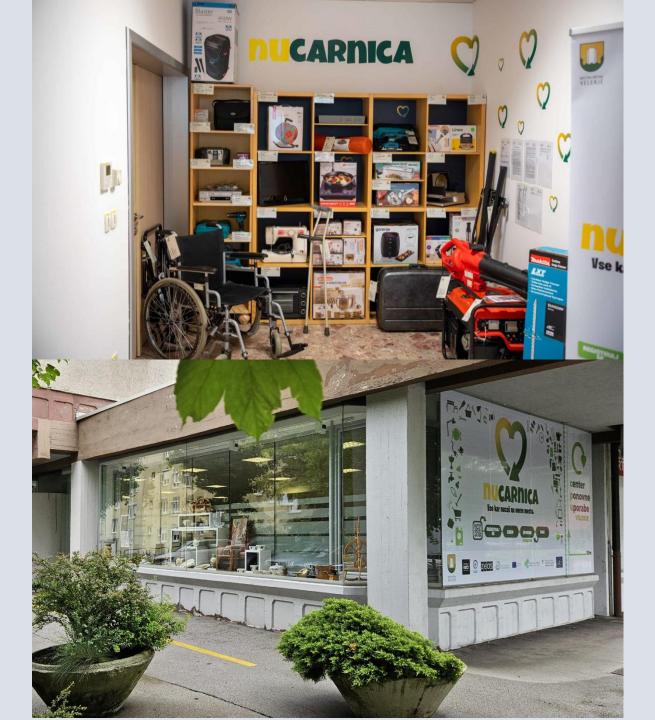
greater access, greater impact Libraries reach diverse communities and make sharing easy & familiar.

strengthening libraries with sustainability Expands library services beyond books.

ready-to-use infrastructureExisting lending systems & spaces make implementation simple.

the first Slovenian public libraries with a LoT department:

France Bevk Public Library Nova Gorica & Miran Jarc Public Library Novo mesto



LOT + RE-USE CENTER

shared vision for sustainability Both promote reuse, waste reduction and

responsible resource management.

expanding services

Makes high-value items accessible to more people through borrowing instead of selling.

efficient use of existing resources

Operates within existing staff & space, making it cost-effective.

the first Slovenian re-use center with a LoT:

Re-use center Velenje

www.knjiznicareci.si

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handbook "Set up a library of things"