

Multigenerational Centres as a Tool for Social Cohesion: Strengthening Communities and Creating Social Impact

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Abstract

Multigenerational centres (MGCs) are recognised in Slovenia as an important mechanism for strengthening social cohesion, intergenerational cooperation, and local resilience. They operate within a national social welfare framework that emphasises preventive approaches, the inclusion of vulnerable groups, the development of competencies, and the strengthening of local support networks. The activities of 16 second-generation MGCs are currently funded on a project basis, primarily through the European Social Fund and the Slovenian Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. This highlights the need to consider sustainable national funding sources to ensure program stability and their long-term integration into the broader system of community care. The article examines MGCs as a development tool of contemporary social policy and presents the operations of “VGC+ Srce Štajerske” as an example of good practice. Particular emphasis is placed on strategic approaches, work methodologies, impacts on individuals and the community, and key challenges and opportunities for future development. The findings provide qualitative evidence that MGCs contribute to social cohesion and generate positive social impacts.

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