

**Local Hub for Local Economy**  
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**The Centre for Lifelong Learning at AAU** is running professional development courses, Open University courses and regional development projects where it functions as a bridge between the university and local community. Since 1996 the Centre has hosted the Archipelago Institute of AAU which, in cooperation with local stakeholders, runs projects in the island area and publishes the journal Skärgård. The Centre also hosts the Finnish national Baltic University Programme centre. The Centre:

*1) is an active member of BSRESND activities for at least two years;* The Centre for Lifelong Learning has, as the host of the BUP-Fi Centre, actively participated in two previous BRESND-projects.

*2) works in ESD or related fields;* The BUP network works with SD and ESD-related education and the production of learning materials in the whole Baltic Sea region. Furthermore, the centre participates in several national and international projects on ESD, and has coordinated local projects in the Archipelago (i.e. Future Scenarios, FLEX-ible working, Korpo 2040 (Leader)).

*3) has experience in working with multi-stakeholder engagement at a local level;* The above mentioned projects in the Archipelago area are always conducted in cooperation with local stakeholders. Other experience has been gained in projects such as for fish farmers, for the empowerment of women, the wider use of IT etc. in the Archipelago area.

**Goal and aims of the HUB:** The Local Hub for Local Economy (LOHLE) aims at establishing a local hub for the support of a local, circular economy in the Archipelago region of SW Finland. This is the first step in creating a local hub on the local economy in the Archipelago of SW Finland. There is so far no similar hub or activity in Finland. The nearest similar activity is the village associations, but they do not focus on the holistic economy of the local societies. The activities organised by of the hub in the project have analysed money flow in and out of this specific region, and have looked for solutions to keep the money within the region (circular economy). We will bring the model to be used from Sweden. The learning material/guide book model will also be taken from Sweden, but this material needs to be applied to Finnish circumstances, and using i.e. Finnish statistics.

**Activities and achievements of the HUB:** The main activities of the hub are the following:

1. Planning meeting represented by CLL and the three local associations, organised in Nagu on 31 May, 2016,
2. Workshop represented by 28 participants of CLL, three local associations and interested public on the theme of the local economy, organised in Nagu on 6 June, 2016,
3. Meeting on local financing alternatives and projects, organised in Nagu on 7 June, 2016,
4. Preparation of a local economy introductory guide for the further work of the hub, with outlines of the local economy analysis of this region elaborated by the coordinator of the hub and local associations.

**Target groups of the HUB, structure and collaboration:** In general, the target groups of the hub are the local inhabitants, entrepreneurs and local authorities/municipality. Three local associations: Pro Nagu, Pro Korpo and Pro Houtskär are the main actors of the hub, and they represent local inhabitants of three municipal areas. Several other stakeholders of the hub are: the municipality

Pargas, local inhabitants who are not members of the associations mentioned above, the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Åbo Akademi University, and the Archipelago Institute.

### **Local, national, global and conceptual context of the HUB:**

Link to the BSRESND strategy: The hub supports the BSRESND strategy in bringing in the local stakeholders – three local associations with a focus on issues of the utmost importance for sustainability in local scarcely populated areas.

Link to SDGs: SDGs is a link for local and global relationships. The hub will contribute to the following SDGs:

- 4. Education: the hub will contribute to informal learning, with the aim at transformative, change action;
- 8. Decent work and economic growth: the hub will contribute to a prospering local economy;
- 11. Sustainable cities and communities: the hub supports the wellbeing of local inhabitants in scarcely populated areas;
- 12. Responsible consumption and production: the hub supports the use of local production and the consumption of food and other utilities.

**Sustainability of the HUB:** The establishment of the hub has been planned as the first phase of local economy activities that will be followed by projects in the coming years. There are already plans to apply for further financing (Leader) for the next step, during which the guide-book will be finalised and used in the hub. In the third phase the hub will concentrate on certain themes of the economy, such as energy, food production and logistics. Representatives of the local associations and municipality will further be involved in a working group doing part of the work of analysis of the local economy and applying the results in a development plan for the local community.

*EXAMPLE: Localising the economy is inevitable from a sustainability point of view and vital local economies make future living and working in the rural, scarcely populated areas both possible and attractive. Changing people's minds regarding the connectedness and responsibility of the local community will make them prioritise local goods and services. If the people of a community come together creating a sense of family and are willing to work for the common good, it might have huge implications for the sustainability and resilience of that local community.*

**Multiplication and publicity of the HUB's initiatives:** The model created in the hub has been applied to other local societies. This is a unique chance and opportunity, as this kind of activity does not yet exist in Finland. The hub is presented on the website [www.abo.fi/cll](http://www.abo.fi/cll) with a link to the other hubs and the BSRESND project, and also on the BUP website [www.bup.fi](http://www.bup.fi). The activities organised by the hub have been presented in the newsletters of the Centre for Lifelong Learning and the BUP.