



21st Adult Education Colloquium and closing 'EAAL Project' event

Non-formal adult education as a strategy for reacting to changes

3 and 4 October 2017

Vertikala (Pipistrel Vertical Solutions), Vipavska cesta 2, Ajdovščina

Community Learning as a way to react to changes

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Limerick Community Education Network

Cofinanced by:



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, FAMILY,
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



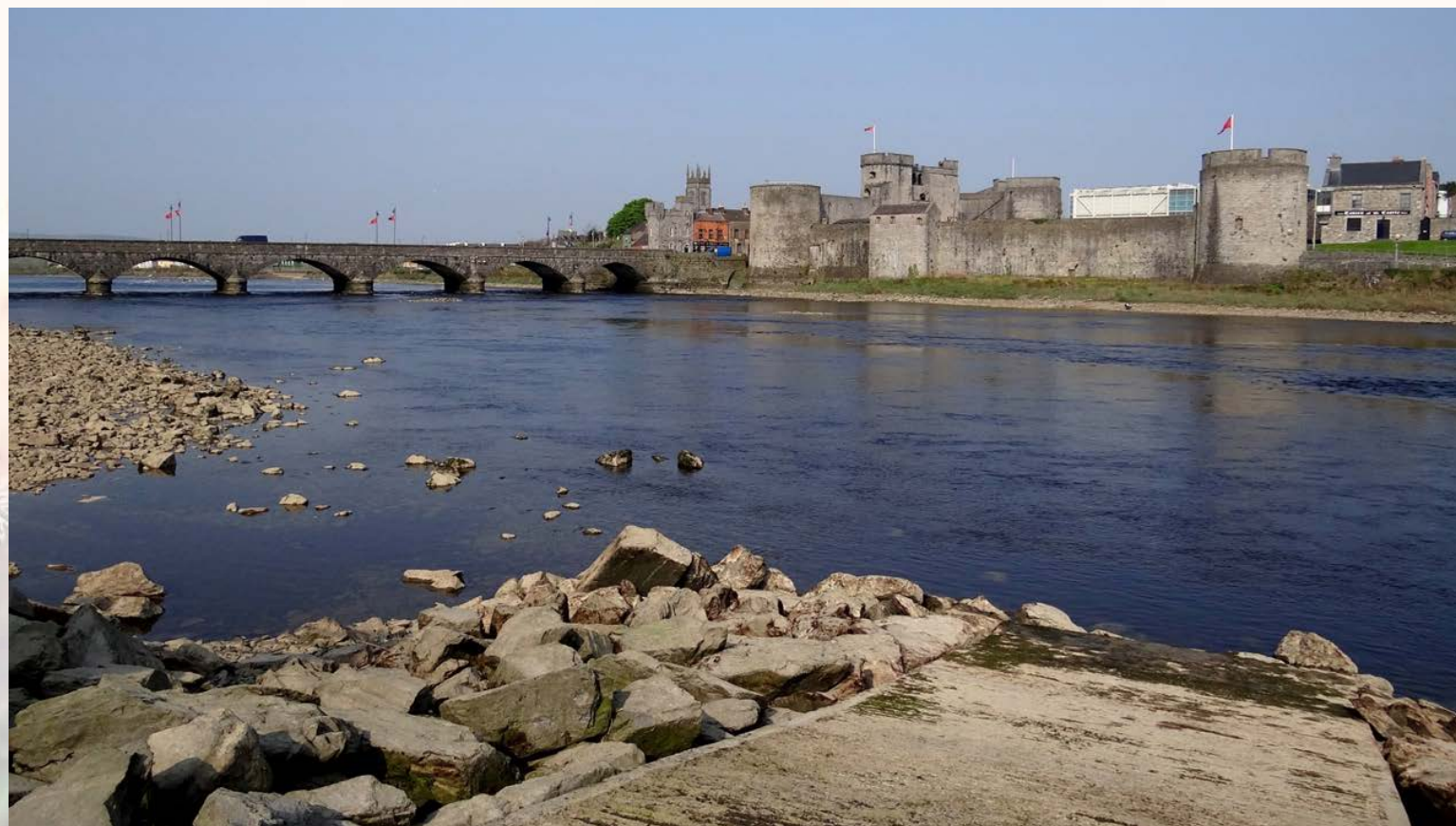
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
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SCIENCE AND SPORT



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The Year of
Adult Education in Europe
2017



Importance of Community Education in Limerick City

- High unemployment
- Educational attainment levels low
- Early school leaving above the national average
- Third level participation below national average
- These figures are higher in many estates within the city
- Community Education appeals to adult learners who are least likely to engage with formal education

Community Education in Limerick City

- Takes place in community settings across the city
- Recruitment is carried out by community groups
- Three strands:
 - Basic Education – Literacy & numeracy
 - Non-formal
 - Accredited
- Supported by the LCETB (Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board). Funding provided for tuition
- Relies to a large degree on employment schemes and volunteerism
- Chronically underfunded
- Many providers are LCEN members

Details

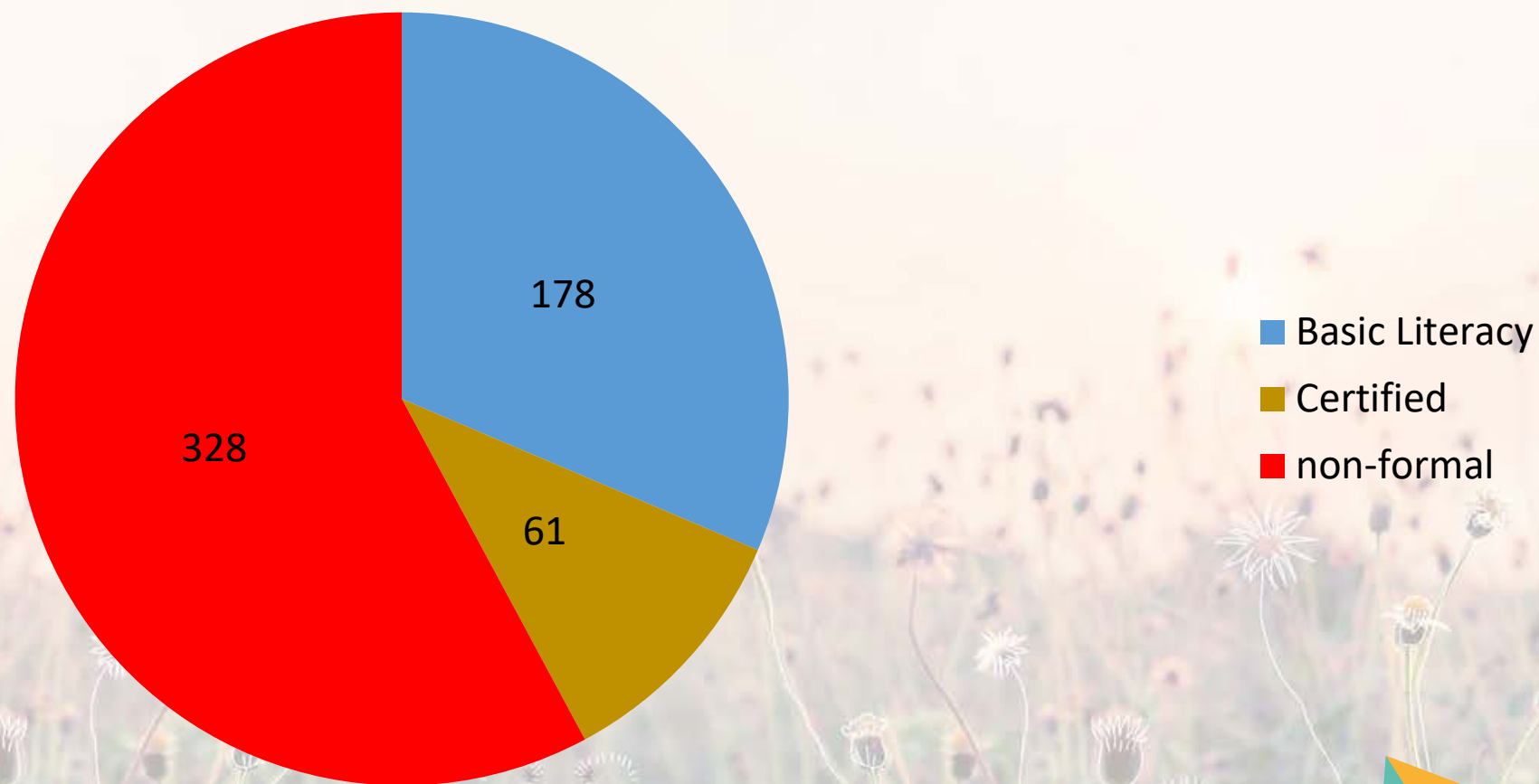
Contacts

Venues

Map

Venue:
Latitude: 52.67677855550565
Longitude: -8.650517994326946
[Edit](#)

NUMBER OF COURSES PROVIDED IN COMMUNITIES CITY WIDE



COMMUNITY EDUCATION IN LIMERICK



SOCIAL VALUE OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION IN LIMERICK

- Positive educational experience
- Progression opportunities
- Quality of life issues including physical & mental health benefits
- Promoting volunteerism
- Community engagement/active citizenship
- Participation in Local, Regional, national associations and networks
- Inter-generational impact
- Life long learning

Limerick Community Education Network

- LCEN is a network of community, voluntary and statutory groups involved in the provision of community based adult education in Limerick city
- Community Led
- Established in 1993
- Purpose: Sharing of information and ideas and working collaboratively to ensure:
 - Good practice
 - Resourcing of community education
 - Local awareness of community education e.g. through use of media, citywide registration week
- Provision of training and support for members

LCEN MEMBERSHIP

GEOGRAPHICAL COMMUNITIES

Moyross
Southill
St.Mary's
Our Lady of
Lourdes
Limerick city CDP
St. Munchins
Northside FRC
Garryowen
Queen of Peace
St. Saviours

STATUTORY BODIES:

LCETB

PAUL
PARTNERSHIP

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

ADAPT

LIMERICK
WOMEN'S
NETWORK

DORAS
LUIMNI





LCEN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Celebrating 25 Years of Limerick Community Education Network in 2018
- Launch of LCEN website
- National Aontas Star Award winners 2012
- Publication of research-Social Value of Community Based Adult Education in Limerick City (2012)
- Support for establishment and maintenance of QQI Quality Assurance Centres
- Cross community support and sharing of resources
- Citywide Learner Registration Week
- Citywide learner events
- Support for Learner voice on the national learner forum

FACING CHALLENGES IN TIMES OF CHANGE

- Regeneration 2008
- Recession – Impact on communities
- Digital Divide
- Adapting to changes in National, Regional and Local Structures

Regeneration – Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- Displacement of Families
- Community Capacity (community leaders left their community)
- Consulted not consultation

Opportunities

- Funding initiatives to support training of residents/community leaders
- LCEN engagement with Regeneration – educational needs analysis

Recession Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- Increase in unemployment
- Change in policy from social inclusion to activation

Opportunities

- Engaging with hard to reach (e.g. Men's Shed initiative)
- Ensuring that community based education continues to be funded and recognised as part of the FET strategy



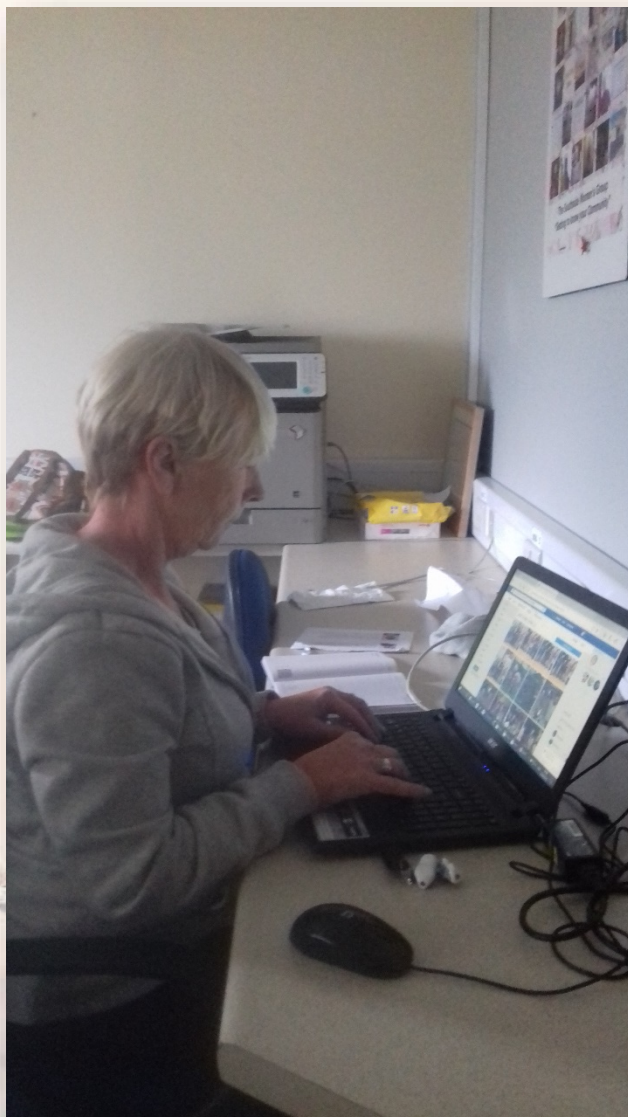
Digital Divide - Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- Introduce ICT to communities who were removed from digital age
- Provision training and resources

Opportunities

- ICT Steering group(local partnership and community)
- Secured funding for computer training rooms through local businesses and Government
- Provided training in ICT in local communities



Changes in National, Regional and Local Structures - Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- Capacity building for local learners to participate in national regional, local structures
- Statutory recognition for the importance of bottom up approach
- Funding
- Community engagement

Changes in National, Regional and Local Structures - Challenges and Opportunities

Opportunities

Ensuring the community voice and learner voice is heard

Voter Education/Active Citizenship

Lobbying

World Café

Setting up Limerick and Clare community education forum

Representation by community residents on local and regional committees (Public Participation Network)

