



Input: Marie Feddersen



Input: Lelde Ābele

WORKSHOP 2

VOLUNTEERS IN VARDE MUNICIPALITY

VIDZEME CULTURE PROGRAM

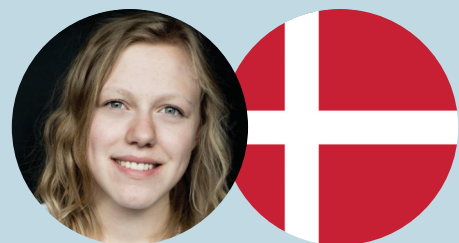


MARIE FEDDERSEN & LELDE ĀBELE

Quick Summary



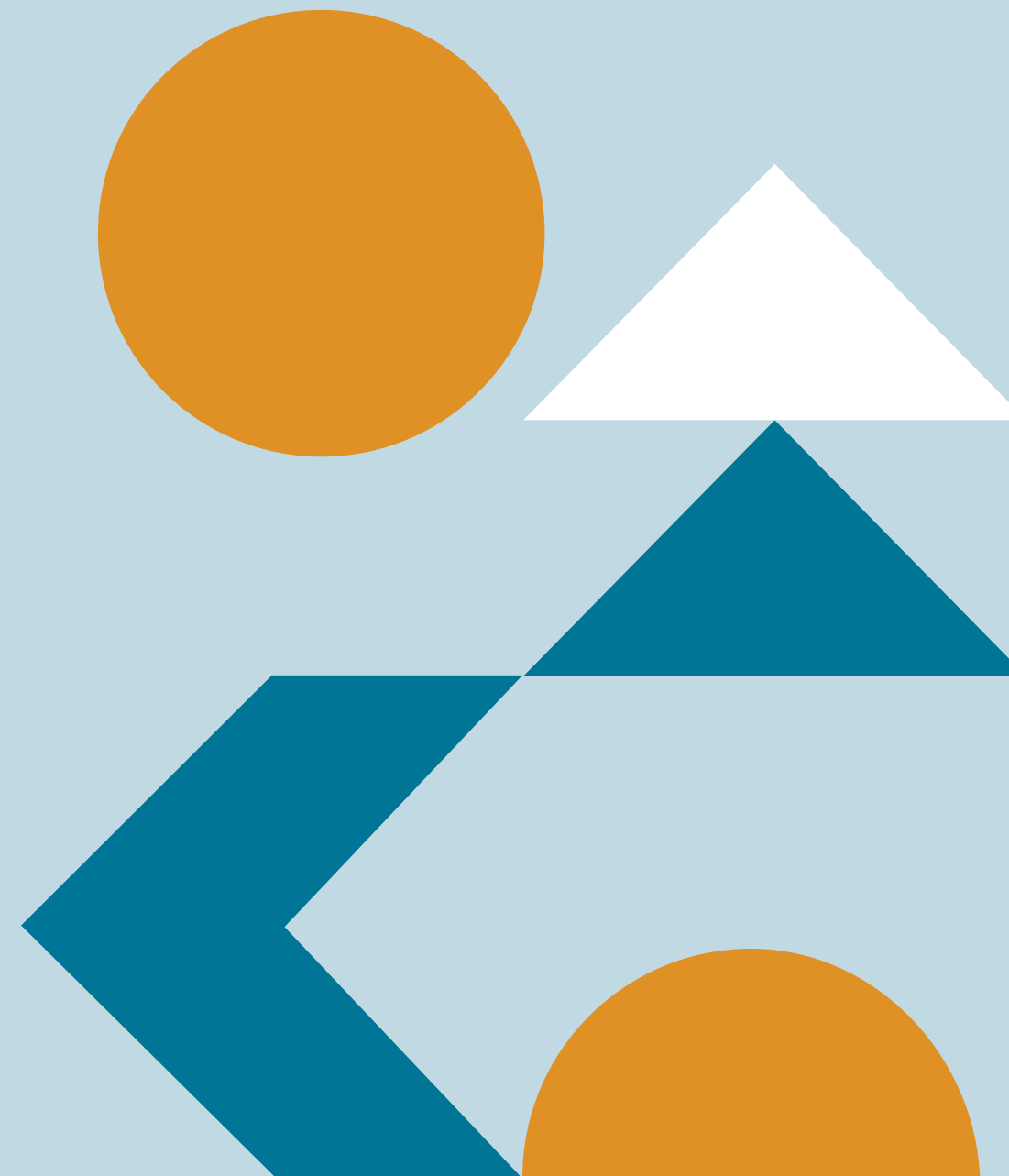
This workshop is about how citizens can be involved in cultural activities and in shaping their environment in different ways. Marie Feddersen (Varde Municipality) and Lelde Ābele (Vidzeme Planning Region) give some insights in their work and how to empower and motivate citizens to contribute to cultural and social resilience activities.



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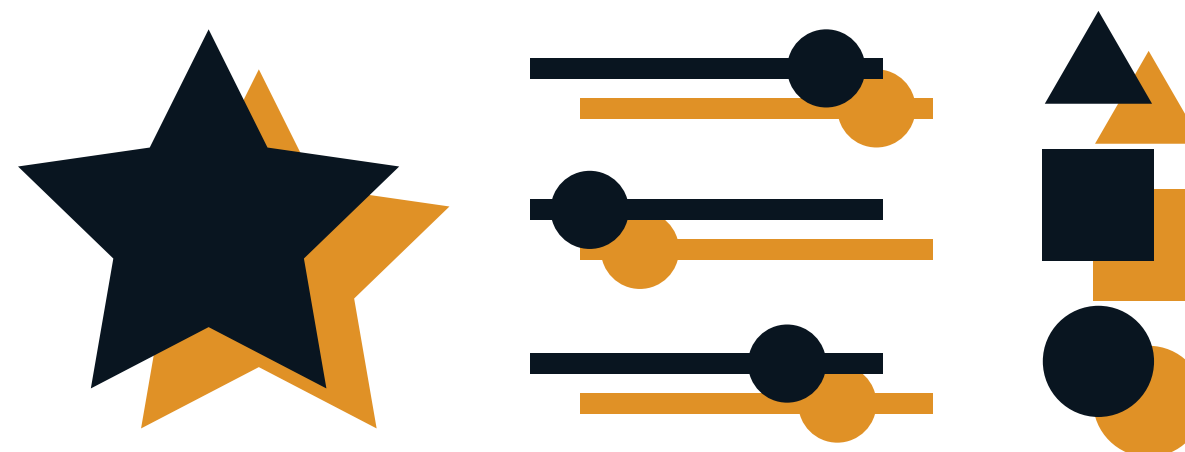
VOLUNTEERS IN VARDE MUNICIPALITY



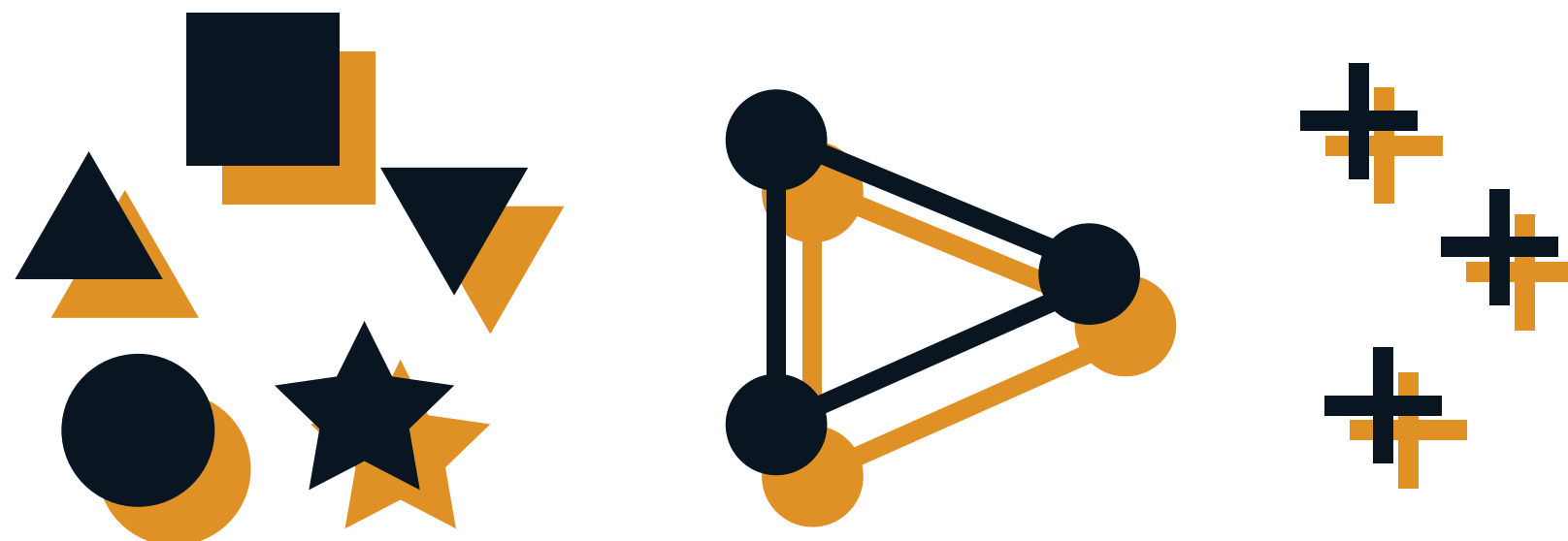
Volunteering as a social capital generator

Definition for social capital: “People that form networks, norms, and social trust to facilitate coordination and enhance cooperation for mutual benefit”

Social capital is an important part of social resilience.



The social capital generator brings people from different social backgrounds together.



The volunteer creates networks and builds trust → he/she is bridging social capital, people start to interact.

It's a good way for newcomers to build social relationships.

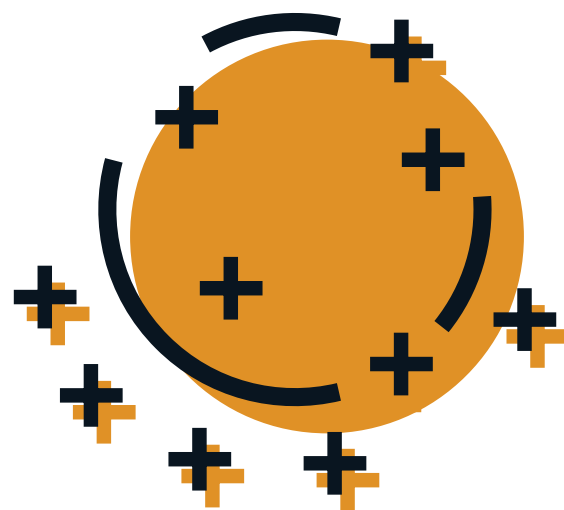
Reasons why people continue to engage



1. High relevance



2. Effort & result (long and
short term) are close



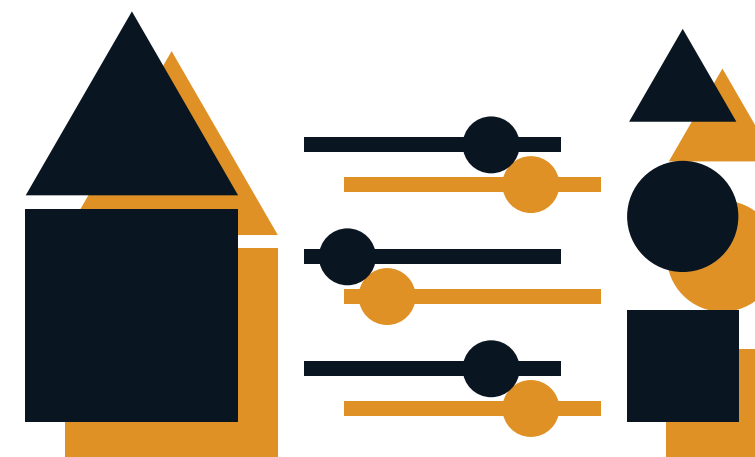
3. Easy participation



4. Norms/Expectations



5. Empowerment



6. Collaboration model
with the municipality

Example projects



SOMMERLANDSLAUGET

Old amusement park, area decayed, unsafe and inaccessible, cocreation started and initiated by the citizens, bottom-up approach, municipality owns the land, started the volunteer organization “Sommerlandslauget”. → Citizens take care of their space and create community, sense of ownership.

<https://www.visitvesterhavet.de/nordsee/nordseeurlaub/shelters-bei-sommerlandslauget-varde-gdk1092862>



DOX:DENMARK

Documentary Film Festival, shows 6 documentaries, has to be organized around activities by citizens, common cultural framework. Shaping new collaborations, awareness for organization, people and organizations are brought together around one framework → project shows how culture can boost community, how it can be used to network and create awareness.

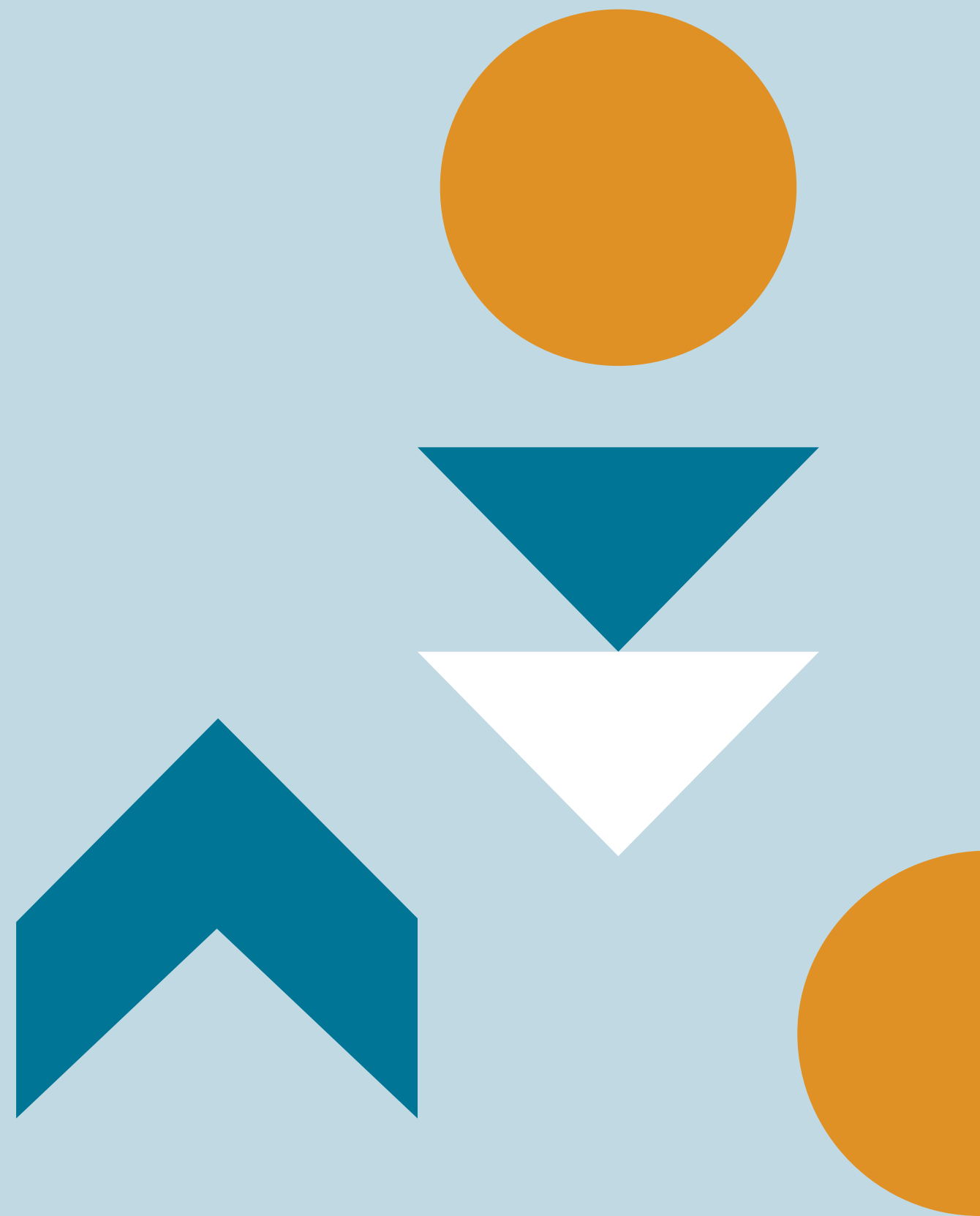
<https://cphdox.dk>



Input: Lelde Ābele

WORKSHOP 2

VIDZEME CULTURE PROGRAM



„If you want to involve local citizens, it is
necessary to do the Need Assessment“

Lelde Ābele

The „Need Assessment“

A more decentralized approach in administration processes leads to better communication, higher motivation and more openness among people.

Citizen engagement in the decision-making process is needed, they feel more comfortable, assures participation.



Take into account what the needs of the local community are.



Make them part of the process.

About Vidzeme

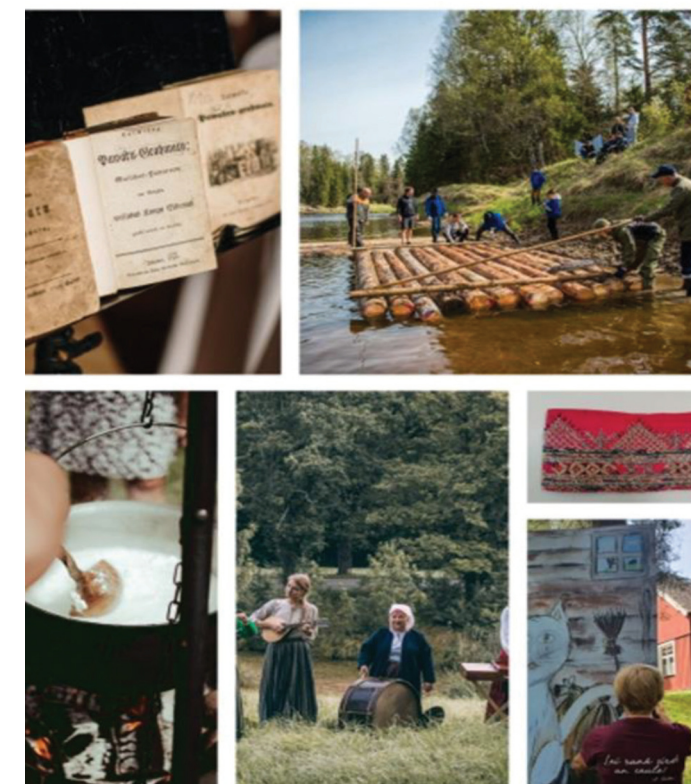


VIDZEME CULTURE PROGRAM

Vidzeme: Northern region of Latvia.
Challenges: lowest population density, natural environment with forest, rich cultural heritage.



636 cultural projects of various scale were implemented in Vidzeme region: workshops, lectures, seminars, discussions, concerts, performances, etc.



Many local citizens involved in the project implementation process (around 40 000 people), a few implemented projects have become traditions.

Vidzeme Culture Program



Top-down approach.



Decentralized (organized by a regional organization).



Financed by State Culture
Capital Foundation.



Main target group:
legal entities (municipalities,
NGO's, companies).



Launched in 2008, annual
competition → goal:
engage local activities,
NGOs.

Types of citizen engagement



Most important priorities that should be funded, citizens are involved in the preparation process.



Submission of cultural project ideas, consultations, organization of seminars so that citizens can ask questions, open-minded in the process.



Carried out during the project evaluation process, asking the society for their opinion, they created online platform for voting-process.

BUT: final decision is taken by experts and the Council of State Culture Capital Foundation (restrictions because state-funded)