Fab lab - The Atelier

CAP funds were used to establish a 'fab lab' in a rural town in France.

EAFRD-funded projects

Location: Bar-sur-Seine, France

Programming period: 2014-2020

Priority: P6 – Social inclusion & local development

Focus Area: Local development

Measures: M19 – LEADER/CLLD

Funding:		
	Total budget	26 000 (EUR)
	EAFRD	7 800 (EUR)
	National/Regional	13 000 (EUR)
	Private	5 200 (EUR)

Timeframe: 2017 to 2019

Project promoter: Fédération Départementale des MJC

Email: contact@fablab-atelier.fr

Website: fablab-atelier.fr/

Context

Fab labs are mini workshops equipped with computer-operated tools which allow users to create almost any item they can imagine. Although fab labs are not oriented to mass production, they enable the use of smart tools for specific needs, allowing their users to create technological prototypes. Fab labs foster innovation and support the start-up sector, but they are also a resource through which different people can familiarise themselves with digital technology. In this way, fab labs can contribute to reducing the digital and social divide between rural and urban areas.

The 'Atelier' fab lab was established in Bar-sur-Seine: a town with some 3 000 inhabitants, in north central France. The task of setting up and running this fab lab involved a range of partners, who have provided both technical and financial support. These include the Barséquanais Federation of municipalities, the Departmental Federation of Youth and Culture Centres (MJC) of Aube, the Grand Est Region, the Departmental Council and the Côte des Bar LAG.

Summary

A FabLab (called 'The Atelier') was established in the town of Bar-sur-Seine. It offers a wide range of activities to the local population aiming to build digital skills and support entrepreneurship. Locals can discover the basics of programming and 3D animation in addition to having access to innovative tools such as a 3D printer, a digital sewing machine, a laser cutter, etc.
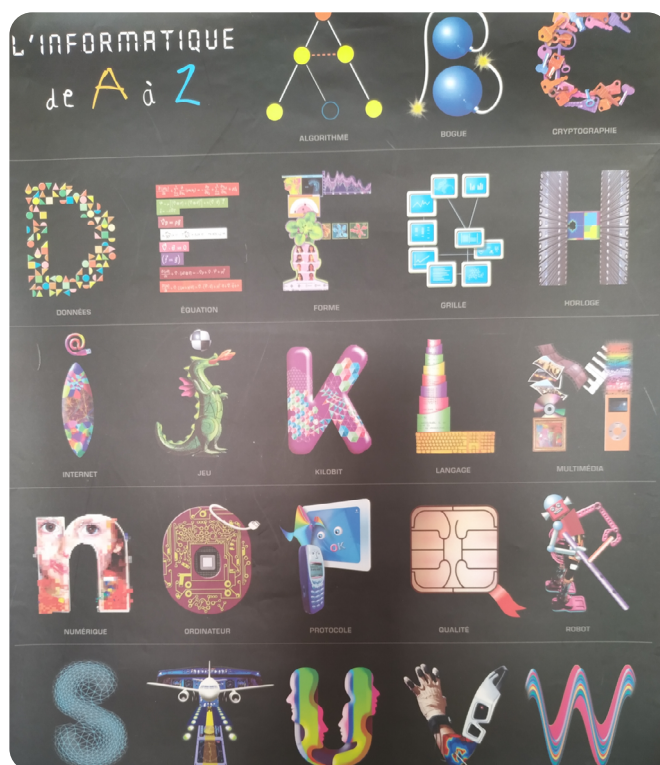
Project results

Many digital skills training activities are now on offer to people in the area, as well as access to digital tools.

The fab lab provides one full-time job for the young man who runs its programme of activities.

Lessons & Recommendations

Through its skills training programme and by providing access to digital machine tools, the fab lab helps fill digital divide gaps, which can particularly affect rural areas.

Objectives

This project aimed to provide training - primarily to young people - in the use of digital tools through a peer-to-peer learning process. It also aimed to promote digital inclusion and foster innovation in rural areas and be accessible to a range of local actors.

Activities

The Atelier offers a wide range of activities such as introductory courses in FreeCAD (an open-source 3D modelling software) and a robotics club for young people. It also has a video conferencing system and an array of machine tools - including 3D scanners, vinyl and laser cutting machines, a CNC milling machine, etc. - that are all available for use.

Main results

Many digital skills training activities are now on offer to people in the area, as well as access to digital tools.

The fab lab provides one full-time job for the young man who runs its programme of activities.

Key lessons

Through its skills training programme and by providing access to digital machine tools, the fab lab helps fill digital divide gaps, which can particularly affect rural areas.

Additional information:

n/a

Funded by
the European Union