



Past - Present - Future



# CONCEPT OF A PILOT ACTION FOR REVIVING OLD-INDUSTRIAL PLACES THROUGH CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

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Concept of creative center with a showroom and coworking space for creatives

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## 0. Abstract

The aim of the pilot action in Škofja Loka is to establish a creative centre with exhibition space that would work on principle “past for the future”. With innovative presentation of industrial and textile heritage in our region we will create a showroom and co-working space - a context for contemporary creativity of today’s textile designers and their connection with existing industry and all the opportunities that are ahead.

Development of the industry in Škofja Loka must be understood in the context of strong presence of quilts tradition and individual craft masters workshops. Based on that fact we will use two main concepts and join them for the concept of the establishing creative center - traditional master’s workshop and contemporary creative hub. Main guidelines for centre’s content are connection and creativity, education, connecting creativity and industry and connection with tourism and opportunity for development. The creative center is understood as a space for co-working, co-creation and development with social responsibility. Understanding, trust and support of all the stakeholders are key principles for developing sustainable links within the center.

The concept we present consists of possible location and the content of the creative center in the immediate vicinity of the former Hat Factory Šešir Škofja Loka. Location enables physical and content connection between traditional space of creation textile and establishing contemporary creative center.

## 1. Project Context

InduCult2.0<sup>1</sup> wants to revive the cultural spirit of long-standing industrial regions of Central Europe. Together with local stakeholders, project partners from 8 European countries (Austria, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Croatia and Slovenia) rediscover and create the positive elements of industrial communities and therefore intend to:

- Establish the idea of Industrial Culture in Central Europe and promote it as unique feature of regional identity
- Prepare initiatives in schools to raise the interest in industrial culture and show them work options in that field; binding work force and companies through industrial culture
- Fostering creativity and innovation through distinct interaction of creative communities and productive industry

The definition of industrial culture goes beyond heritage and includes contemporary and upcoming cultural and creative resources. One of the main and general objectives of the project InduCult 2.0 is to introduce new culture and heritage-based economic opportunities in the field of conventional industry, tourism as well as creative industries.

Based on peering and support within the partnership and the methodology used we elaborated a concept of reviving old-industrial places through creative communities. With collaboration with stakeholders we created a concept of creative centre with a showroom and co-working space for creatives focused on textile industry. The planned creative centre as such revives and reactivates old-industrial places and the area around them.

Creating a concept of creative centre with a showroom and co-working space for creatives refers to encouraging creativity and mutual participation of creative stakeholders and textile industry. The concept of the Creative center refers also to the identity of the local community, which is strongly

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<sup>1</sup> More information about the project is available on: [www.inducult.eu](http://www.inducult.eu), [www.facebook.com/Inducult2.0](https://www.facebook.com/Inducult2.0)

connected with creativity. It promotes and increases the interest of young and unemployed people for new employment in industry and brings great opportunities for development. First of all creative center will be intended for the creative community, with a vision of development into a multifunctional space, which will also have a wider economic, cultural and social role.

The content of the concept consists of three possible solutions for establishing a creative center with a showroom and co-working space for creatives presenting heritage of textile industry in Škofja Loka and contemporary creativity. Pilot action will be implemented in 2018.

## 2. Introduction

The aim of the pilot action in Škofja Loka (WP T4) is to establish working and exhibition spaces for the creative sector in old industrial sites. Result in our pilot area will be a showroom and co-working space for textile designers and preparation of opportunities for concrete connections with industries.

The development of the industry in Škofja Loka must be understood in the context of strong presence of the tradition of quilts and individual craft masters and their craft workshops. They were the starting point for the development of industry. In the pilot action, we focus on the textile industry, especially the hat making industry which has great importance for Škofja Loka but at the same time we are facing a threat that the knowledge will disappear. The (former) hat making factory Šešir Škofja Loka is unique because of its rare knowledge and its location. The industrial building stands on the Spodnji trg (Lower Square) at the entrance to the medieval old town center. Due to the nature of the work, the wool and rabbit's fur felting, the water (the Selška Sora River), which flows right under the factory complex, has a key importance because supplying hat production with water and ideal air humidity.

Individual companies and industrial plants were developed from craft workshops. Despite some industry collapsed, the craft tradition was never interrupted. Craft and boutiques production and innovative industrial products of higher quality are also current guidelines for the development of local communities, since the hand and locally manufactured product brings added value, higher quality, pursues the principles of sustainability and environmental protection.



Škofja Loka - Šešir hat factory by the river, old city centre and castle above it



In the period from 973 to 1803 Škofja Loka area was a lively trade and craftsmanship market because of its position and well-established trading routes. Good conditions for economy development influenced on guild establishment. Crafts development in the city and its surroundings were initially suited for local needs, and later the market expanded (for example, the linen weaving in Škofja Loka area was exported throughout the whole Mediterranean). After 1803, the industry in Škofja Loka could not come to live due to strong craft activity. Almost 70 years later an important factor influenced on the development of the industry in the Škofja Loka - a railway was built in 1870. The expansion of small craft workshops in the period between the two world wars also affected the development of individual industrial plants.

In 1871 the first industrial plant in Škofja Loka was established - Alojz Krenner cloth factory. Beside other innovations in the plant, Krenner set up the first power plant in Carniola in 1894, which supplied local city lighting with electricity. Thus Škofja Loka became the first town in Carniola with electric public lighting.



Krenner's factory (photo: archive of Museum of Škofja Loka).

In 1921 the company Šešir was founded on the foundations of the Krenner's factory. Šešir specialized in the production of woolen and rabbit fur made hats. At the beginning of the 20th century Jakob Dermota from Železniki bought the building with a generator and machines from Alojz Krenner, which enabled the launch of new contents of factory production. In 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1921 a joint stock company Hat making factory Šešir was established. In 1940 Šešir employed more than 200 workers and the market was growing. The war broke production off for four years and demolished the successes achieved so far.

After the war the factory was re-established and registered for the production of men's and women's hats. Through the years the factory employed between 300 and 170 workers and also focused its production to export. In 1989 they exported 78 percent of all its products, and in the 80's, at least half of its products were exported mostly to Iran and the Soviet Union. By the 2015 Hat Factory Šešir operated on three locations when the production plant in Bizeljsko was shut down. In 2016, however, all (reduced) production was again moved to the Spodnji trg, into its primary factory capacities, where it operated until the bankruptcy of the plant at the end of 2016. Despite the factory does not work anymore there is still a lot of knowledge of hat making, identity connected with the factory and a big opportunity to continue the tradition.

If we focus on textile industry in Škofja Loka we have to emphasis also Factory Odeja (in English 'Blanket') and Gorenjska predilica (Gorenjska spinning Factory).

The Odeja factory grew from a handicraft workshop set up in the city center of Škofja Loka. The first production dates back to the year 1927 when the businessmen Rado Thaler hired some workers and started a production of quilts in barracks nearby and were selling them in his textile shops. Five years

later, in 1932, the barracks officially became a craft workshop for machine-made and hand-made quilts. The Odeja factory is now a well-known factory for home and interior textile.

In 1933, during the wars, Pavel Markgraf and Gustav Horak (the owners of the textile factory Inteks in Kranj) set up a spinning factory in Trata near Škofja Loka and started a production. With a good position near the railway and with the employment of the locals, the company built production facilities gradually. Firstly a cotton spinning place, washing and wool carding unit. In 1950 the factory was renamed into the Gorenjska predilnica - Gorenjska spinning Factory. Today the joint-stock company Gorenjska predilnica is composed of the parent company and the subsidiary Lokateks, which was founded in 1991 as a company for the employment of people with disabilities.

As written the craftsmanship in Škofja Loka is closely connected with industry and in some cases it is even crucial for its development. In the old city center, textile industrial plants were developed from smaller craft workshops and later moved to larger industrial premises outside the city center. Having this in mind and taking into account the context of the city's center and creativity produced in it, it is reasonable to place our creative center with an exhibition space in the old city center in connection with other already existing creative spaces that deal with innovative approaches.

The heritage of craft knowledge and creativity of our ancestors is still vivid. Many masters of craft continue a rare knowledge of handicraft techniques. Some of the best masters are connected in Art & Craft Centre of Škofja Loka in the old city center. Even though that the Art & Craft Centre of Škofja Loka is presented as a good practice there is still a great potential to develop and upgrade its contents. At the same time we are facing a treat that the great knowledge and heritage of hat making in Škofja Loka is getting lost. With establishing a creative center with an exhibition place and co-working space for creatives (focusing on textile design) we see opportunity and necessity to connect existing institutions and create a supporting environment to continue and develop the tradition of textile industry.

### 3. Objective

The main objective in this pilot action is to establish a creative center with exhibition space that would work on principle "past for the future". With innovative presentations of industrial and textile heritage we will create a context for contemporary creativity of today's textile designers and their connection with existing industry.

As it is perceived in the field our objective is to develop new activities based on tradition existing in Škofja Loka area:

- Local creative community needs a creative center that is unique in sense of connection past, present and future.
- Strong craft identity and all the traditional knowledge will be used for development of local potentials and development of contemporary and innovative products.
- The same way masters were establishing guilds in the past, creatives and artisans are today being connected in the creative communities. Creative center with exhibition space is an answer to it. The co-working center is understood as a space for co-working, co-creation and development with social responsibility. Understanding, trust and support of all the stakeholders are key principles for developing sustainable links within the center.
- Creative and cultural tourism is a great potential to develop.
- We also aim to connect with different local stakeholders:
  - Local creatives and masters of craft
  - Art & Craft Centre Škofja Loka, Development agency Sora
  - Textile and other companies / industry in the area
  - Co-working center Lokomotiva Škofja Loka
  - Museum of Škofja Loka
  - companies that grew out from the foundations of traditional economic fields,
  - tourism strategy planners and implementators (Tourism Škofja Loka, Association for tourism Škofja Loka
  - providers of touristic services,

- educational institutions: a kindergarten, all four elementary schools, MIC Škofja Loka: Business to business educational center of Škofja Loka, Škofja Loka school center, PUM Škofja Loka - project learning for youngsters ...

Specific objectives are:

- Provide spatial and technical conditions for the operation of the center
- To place the center in the local context and its specifics → the location of the center will be in accordance with the development strategies of the old part of the city (possible locations are described in more detail in Chapter 5 - Results).
- Ensure that the appropriate guardian, the head of the creative center, and connect a wider local creative community that will actively participate in the center (focusing on creatives in textile design) and will implement the outlined content guidelines.
- Provide adequate furniture and equipment for a creative center that will meet actual needs.
- Establish cooperation between the creative community and the textile industry for the development of new products and new business opportunities.
- Design and implement various programs for the integration of the center into a broader social context (educational programs, experiential programs for visitors, professional programs ...).
- To achieve the visibility of the creative center in the general public (promotion, communication strategy, local, regional and international integration ...).
- Ensure the sustainability and upgrading of the creative center.

We use two main concepts and joined them for the concept of the establishing creative center - traditional master's workshop and contemporary creative hub.

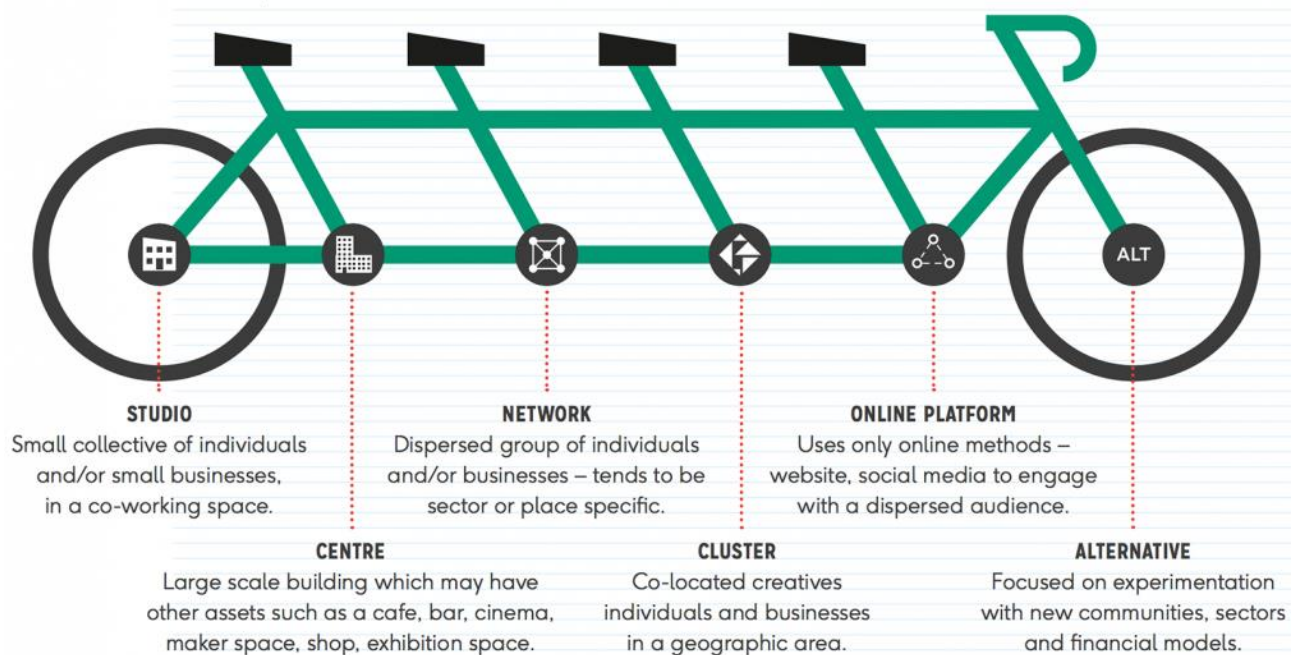
Traditional master's workshop combines a "showroom" and sales gallery and a "workshop" at the back. What is most important is the direct connection of the production and distribution space. Traditional master's workshop generates the knowledge and has the crucial role in the transmission of knowledge; it generates production and development. At the same time we can understand it as a physical space, social space, space of economy, space of creativity and space that generates cultural heritage, creativity and innovation in the community.



Traditional craft workshop - master of making hats Jernej Tavčar, Škofja Loka (archive Museum Škofja Loka)

A creative hub can be understood as a place, either physical or virtual, which brings creative people together. It is a conveyor, providing space and support for networking, business development and community engagement within the creative, cultural and tech sectors. Creative hubs exist in all

different shapes and sizes: collectives, co-operatives, labs, incubators and can be static, mobile or online. The emphasis has been put on strong leadership<sup>2</sup>.



Types of contemporary creative hub, illustration: Martin Baillie, publication: The Creative HubKit booklet

## 4. Applied Approach

Firstly we did the research on historical background and process of industry development in Škofja Loka. We worked with Museum of Škofja Loka to get all the information, literature, sources and materials.

Inspired with experiences of project partners we did an investigation of good practices within the European Union and Slovenia connected with creative centres, hubs, co-working centres.

That models or elements of good practices could work in local environment we did the research on regional and local policies, existing strategies and strategic guidelines (most important are Development Strategy of the Municipality of Škofja Loka 2025+ and strategy of Tourism development of Škofja Loka area) and detected the needs of local community.

We detected main stakeholders included and work on many meeting with creatives and other stakeholders in local context. We also made a research on past and existing practices of connecting industries with creatives for product development and lifting product quality.

We did the meeting with bankruptcy manager of Hat making factory Šešir Škofja Loka to present the project and the concept of the creative center and talked about possibilities for further collaborations. We gained old footages of the hat production and old photograph material of the factory that we could use in creative center.

On the basis of all research we made, historical background and current needs, we established a concept of this creative center and exhibition space.

<sup>2</sup> Toolkit for creative hub <http://www.fold.lv/en/2015/11/a-toolkit-for-emerging-creative-hubs/>



Among many meetings with stakeholders (Municipality of Škofja Loka, creative individuals, architect, Museum of Škofja Loka, bankruptcy manager of Hat making factory Šešir Škofja Loka ...) we organised a workshop for creatives that are potential users of the creative center where we presented the work we made and got feedback on their concrete needs, suggestions and opinions.

## 5. Results

The main idea was to establish this space inside of an industrial building (Hat factory Šešir Škofja Loka) in Spodnji trg, but events during project time lead to bankruptcy of the company. At the same time we detected a general need for a space like this among locals and creative community in area, so we adjusted idea and changed location of the space.

Linking two concepts (traditional craft workshop and contemporary creative hub) ensures foundation for the creation of a unique creative center with exhibition space in Škofja Loka.

### MAIN CONTENTS, EMPHASIS AND GUIDELINES OF THE NEW CREATIVE CENTRE

#### 1. **Connecting and creativity** (past - present - future, creative community, local community, stakeholders)

For the long-term and long-lasting work of the creative center a strong connection between individual creatives working in the local environment is crucial. The central element of the creative center is the co-working space, common space for the development of products, the connection of individuals, the organization of creative events and the creation of opportunities for networking with industry. Expert meetings will be organized in the creative center, and in the future this will be the place of international connections, collaborations and exchanges. All the basic equipment for textile creation (knitting machines, sewing machine, looms, large working surfaces ...) will be available in the center.

#### 2. **Education** (education programmes for different target groups)

Education is the key importance for quality content development, strengthening the identity of communities and local potentials. Educational programs will focus on transferring knowledge in the field of textile, design and other creative industries to the interested public. Traditional knowledge can be reused and upgraded with an innovative, modern approach, new technologies and design approaches for the production of boutique finished products with added value.

In the creative center we will carry out educational programs:

- 'design kindergarten', summer school of design,
- science-technical days for elementary schools (creative presentation and workshops of the heritage of hat making and textile processing),
- professional programs in cooperation with MIC Škofja Loka (design school for pupils / students of the wood and product development school),
- professional programs in cooperation with the secondary school of design, NTF (textile design department) and the Faculty of Design,
- regular handicraft workshops on the topic of textile processing for the general public (felting, sewing, processing of clothes, textile printing, eco-printing, textile dying ...),
- programs focused in handicraft as therapeutic tool.

#### 3. **Connecting creativity with industry** (product development, development of entrepreneurship)

We see the opportunity to combine innovative ways of working, creative approaches and industrial textile production in textile industry (Odeja, Gorenjska predilnica, hat making tradition).

This connection is not alive yet in Škofja Loka, so we will start with the activities and links of creators with interested companies. The connection and cooperation between the industry and the creative center are seen primarily in raising the quality of production:

- the use of manufactured materials in the textile industry for the development of higher quality products,
- the development of new innovative products for textile industry,
- outsourcing of designers for companies,
- improving the external image / visibility of companies (corporate identity, promotional materials and promotional films for products ...).

**4. Connection with tourism and opportunity for development (quality tourist offer, programs that focus on experience of the visitor).**

Škofja Loka is positioned as a traditional craft city and place of creativity. The programs for visitors in the creative center will contribute to a quality offer of the city. The advantage of these programs will be in constant accessibility, experiential experience of visitors, visiting living space, innovative presentation of the craft and industry tradition.

It will be possible to visit an innovative designed exhibition space, a creative workshop, be part of the workshop, purchase of products with added value of local production, participation in experiential workshops - own creation of visitors.

In the future we see opportunity in creating:

- CREATIVE CRAFT TRAIL IN ŠKOFJA LOKA and within it connect all the creative spaces in Škofja Loka area, open creative studios and workshops for visitors and give them unique and genuine experience.
- Development of creative programs for the visitors with collaboration with Art & Craft Centre of Škofja Loka and other stakeholders- ŠKOFJA LOKA CREATIVE DAYS.
- Events that promote creativity and industrial culture.

## SPACE SETTING PLAN FOR CREATIVE CENTER

**1. SPATIAL AND TECHNICAL CONDITIONS**

- The space must have a showroom, an exhibition space.
- The space must be designed in such a way that it allows for joint creative work with larger working surfaces.
- The space must be accessible to the general public.
- The space must be well lit.
- The space must have orderly toilets, access to running water and a large textile wash basin.
- Possibility of using external spaces, access to outdoor public spaces.

**2. NEEDED EQUIPMENT / SUGGESTIONS**

### SHOWROOM / EXHIBITION SPACE

- Simply movable furniture that gives space to the product.
- Exhibition and sales shelves: basic materials of wood and metal (connection with industrial architecture).
- Preparation for the exhibition of textiles and stands for the exhibition space (rails on the ceiling, metal constructions ...).
- Synergy between old and new (old pieces of furniture from Šešir, molds, hooves, hats, tools ...).
- Presentation of tradition and technique of hat making and felting in an innovative way: The wall of the senses (sensory experience of hat making, material, process, spirit of the factory), visitors trying out different hats, presentation of hat factory Šešir through photography, multimedia and the architectural and content renovation of the factory complex vision.

- Interactive cooperation and involvement of visitors (puzzles, impressions, stories, hat photos, creating your own textile products).
- A look into the future (conceptual design of the renovation of the Hat Factory Šešir by an architect): view in the window of the future
- Identification elements in the space (photographs, slogans, symbols, stories of former workers in the factory ...).
- Sales desk for occasional pop-up stores of creatives hosted.
- Outdoor installation - factory reminder, information about the project, invitation to the creative center.

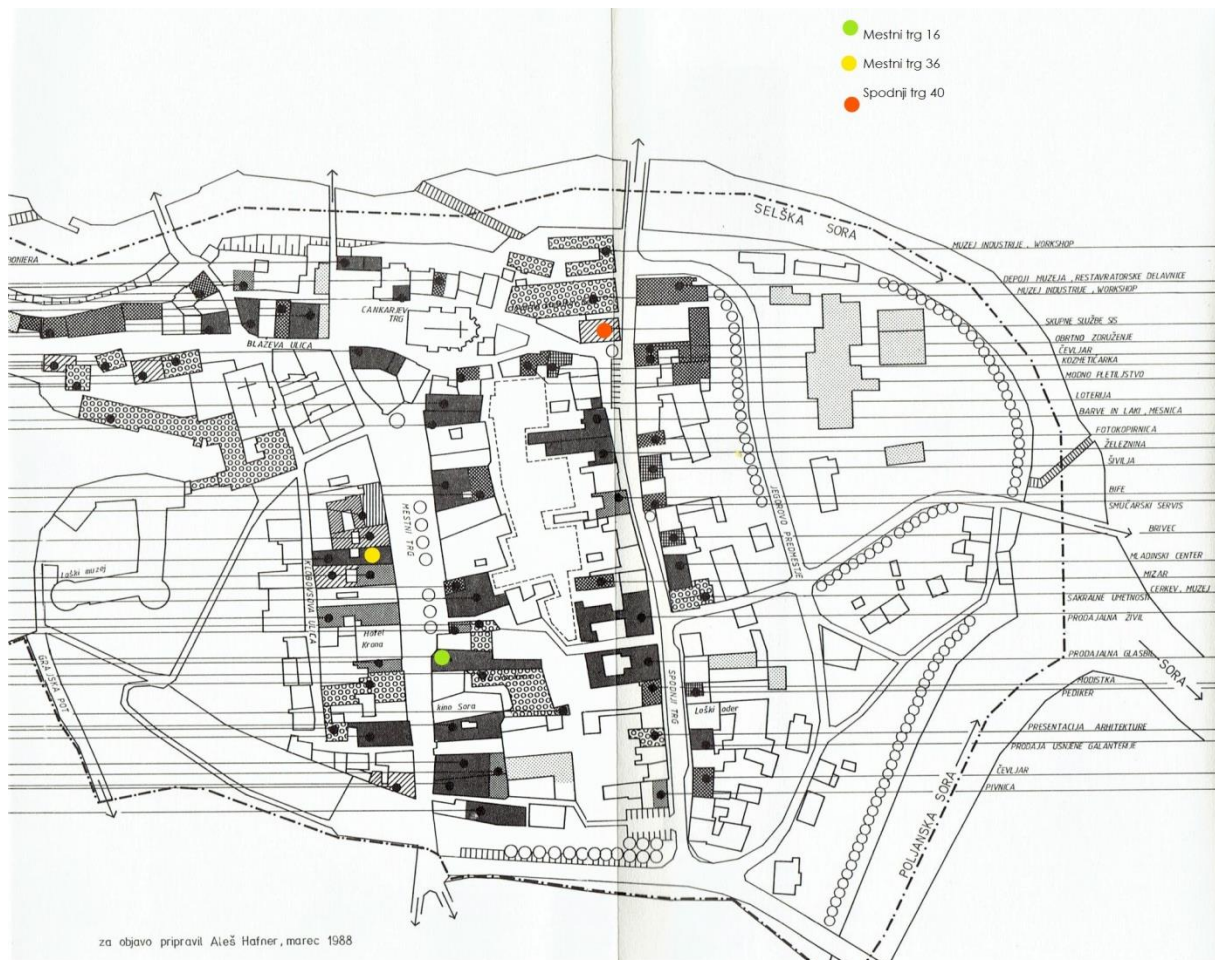
Through the design and layout of the showroom, it is necessary to create the "industrial spirit" of the hat making factory Šešir. It is necessary to continue communicating with bankruptcy manager to gain individual pieces of furniture from the factory. It is important to create factory spirit and to archive some of the factory inventory.

#### CREATIVE WORKSHOP / CREATIVE ATELIER

- Work area with larger working surfaces (demountable work desks / plots of plates that can be placed at any given time).
- Chairs.
- Machines and tools for working with textiles (knitting machines, sewing machines, looms ...).
- Shelves for materials and working tools.
- Shelves for products, drying products.
- Larger sink for felting process.
- Office corner with computer.

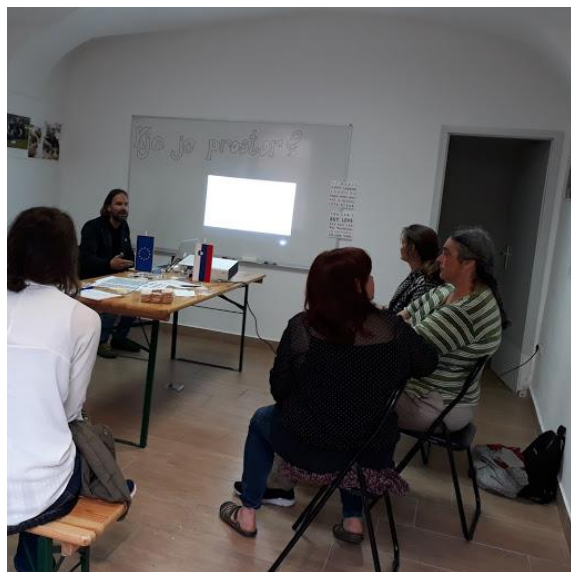
#### CREATIVE CENTER POSSIBLE LOCATIONS

As written an unforeseen event happened - Hat making factory went to bankruptcy in the end of 2016. We connected with Municipality of Škfoja Loka and it gave us an opportunity to establish a creative center in one of the facilities Municipality owns. Further we present three possible establishments.



Map of Škofja Loka city center with all three locations marked.

**1. Mestni trg 36**



In the facility activities foreseen in the concept of a creative center and exhibition space are allowed, even welcomed (Annex 1\_1, 1\_2).

In the first case, there is a space for a small workshop (2 x 1 m table), the showroom / shop is more spacious in this case; On the front wall above the exhibition box is a space for logos, captions, screen



(video material). In the second case, the workshop is bigger and the showroom / shop is smaller. Location of the space is good, as it is on the main square, frequent and has a big exhibition window.

Despite its advantages, the space is not suitable for all the intended content that will be realized in the InduCult 2.0 project due to its small size. It would be impossible to implement different programs of experiential tourism / workshops and properly present the tradition of hat-making. Similarly, in this area, we could not implement educational programs for different target groups.

It is also inadequate from the point of view of a creative workshop, as the toilet does not have a larger sink for washing fabrics, fabrics, textiles.

## 2. Mestni trg 16



In the facility activities foreseen in the concept of a creative center and exhibition space are allowed, even welcomed.

Location is good because it is on the main square and frequent. However, we find that the space is inappropriate because it does not have an exhibition window that is crucial for the visibility of the creative center. In the former exhibition window, a city ATM is installed, thus preventing the visibility of the room, causing noise and preventing daylight access.

## 3. Spodnji trg 40



On the left side is the square with old city tree, on the right building with ground floor facilities for the creative center, which connects with the building of the Hat Factory Šešir Škofja Loka.

The third location (Annex 2) stands in the immediate vicinity of the Hat Factory Šešir Škofja Loka. The space is on the ground floor at the location between one of the famous medieval buildings in Škofja Loka (Kašča), a small square with lime and one of the main linking paths between Lower Square (Spodnji trg) and main city square (Mestni trg). The location is also very favorable also from the point of view of the immediate proximity of a large parking lot and a tourist path that leads from the Lower Square through Cankar Square to the main City Square.

In the past this part of the city was a market space. This is also proved by the fountain, which stood there until the end of the war. For forty years there was a main traffic road to Poljanska valley but now there is bypass road avoiding city center. All these new space calls for re-animation and quality contents in this part of the city. At this location, it is such a great opportunity to revitalize the entire market, in the summer months, by setting some activities into an open public marketplace.

The entrance to the facility is enabled from the main street - Lower Square. The space has large windows that allow access to daylight and at the same time allows the layout of the exhibition in them. The central large space allows the installation of exhibition space and mobile working surfaces. It also has a smaller space that serves as an office or workshop space. Access to the sanitary facilities is provided, as well as enough space for larger sinks / wash basins for washing fabrics, felt, textile processing.

The advantage of space is also in the expansion of the workspace / workshop in 2019, when part of facility gets empty and will be available for additional capacities of the creative center. The space for a larger workshop should be provided as soon as space empties.

We conclude that the only suitable facility for establishing a creative center is the last described on the Lower Square (Spodnji trg 40), which is also in the immediate vicinity of the old industrial building of the hat making factory.

## 6. Evaluation/transnational added value

Creative industries work at the crossroads of art, entrepreneurship and technology. In the process of re-industrialization of Europe they have an important but often overlooked role. Creative industries employ more than 12 million people in Europe, which is 7.5% of jobs. In Slovenia as well as in Gorenjska region, creative industries and their place in the economy are at the beginning of development, so it is a challenge for us to give them greater importance and how to establish a supportive environment for their development.

By creating a creative center we contribute to the overall goal of the InduCult 2.0 project, to establish the idea of an industrial culture in Central Europe and to promote it as a unique feature of regional identity.

As in the whole region also in Škofja Loka we are in the beginning of the development of industrial culture. Thus, there are many opportunities that are defined in the Regional Argumentation Paper for Gorenjska region. For the Škofja Loka region we can especially highlight the opportunities for:

- An industry identified as an identification element
- Opportunity to develop industrial experiences as an additional tourist offer
- Connecting creative designers - pioneers with innovations in industrial production
- Industrial culture as an opportunity to revive traditional knowledge

A C-mine in Belgium ([www.c-mine.be](http://www.c-mine.be)) is an example of one of the more developed creative centers, which can be a model for us and which connects a wide range of content and sectors. Inspiration can also be found in the transformation of the old textile factory in Leipzig into a creative center, focusing on crafts, handicrafts and co-work ([www.tapetenwerk.de](http://www.tapetenwerk.de)) and the former cotton weaving factory, which degraded building of the former factory transformed to the arts studios, exhibition space, galleries, tourism offer, cultural events ... ([www.spinnerei.de](http://www.spinnerei.de)).

#### Positive effects of the results:

- Strengthening local identity linked to industrial culture
- New jobs and stronger business relationships between individual companies
- revived traditional craftsmanship skills in innovative way
- Contemporary, innovative products of high added value in the domestic economy
- Quality and new tourist offer - experiential tourism

As participants in working meetings of the project partners of the InduCult 2.0 project, we are part of an international group of organizations, which deals with the topic in depth. Thus, we have the advantage of international connections, exchange of experience and development assistance. International exchanges of links and information take place within the work package 4. Some of the more important international and established networks of creative centers, with which we will establish contacts in the future:

- [www.coworkingeurope.net](http://www.coworkingeurope.net)
- [www.coworkingassembly.eu](http://www.coworkingassembly.eu)
- [www.opencoworking.org](http://www.opencoworking.org)
- [www.ecbnetwork.eu](http://www.ecbnetwork.eu)
- [www.teh.net](http://www.teh.net)

We will share the results of the concept with PP within the partnership-gathering workshop and we are opened for any innovative suggestions and additional elements that we can include within implementation.

## 7. Outlook and sustainability

In regard to the sustainability of the creative center, there are some of the important opportunities or advantages. The space in which we suggest the establishment of the center is owned by municipality with which the agreement on long-lasting partnership has already been signed. The potential manager of the center is included in process of establishing the center (industrial designer and entrepreneurship LilaStudio) and there is a strong creative community that will work in the center and will implement planned activities in it.

The creative community and creative industries are one of the most important development forces in the municipality of Škofja Loka. We see a permanent link with all the stakeholders listed previously.

To ensure sustainability and long-term financial and substantive sustainability, a public-private partnership is essential (see the scheme "building partnership<sup>3</sup>"). The content of the creative center is both in the public and private interests and influences the development of tourism, the promotion of the city, the development of human potentials and the economy, the identity of the place ... The link between professions and interdisciplinary approach is therefore necessary.

New project proposals that will ensure new sources for funding of the center are being prepared. In preparation we have a project "In love with creativity" (CLLD funding), which will upgrade the content of the creative center and link it with the other spaces of creativity in the local environment. The main objective of the project idea is the creation of a "creative network / craft creative trail" in Škofja Loka area.

Also, the Municipality of Škofja Loka is the leading partner of the BLOOM project - Creative community clusters for blooming historical towns, which was submitted to the INTERREG Mediterranean program. The results of the program are expected in the autumn, and the project will support the content, which will also take place in the creative center.

Location and content of the center is adjusted to municipality's plan and strategy of local development and its content priorities. There is a big potential for concreting a connection with old industrial space of hat making factory in the immediate vicinity in the future. Also architectural conceptual plan for the whole hat factory capacities and the surrounding has already been made.

The establishment of the new creative center with exhibition space will be beneficial in many different ways. The center will support and give emphasis on the local identity, and will, connected with industry and creativity, be a generator of connections of different target groups, will be a supporting environment for new entrepreneurship, meeting point of creative community and production space, and will tell the story of local uniqueness and local characteristic for the visitors that will be a part of experience. This creative center has to be vivid and open to everyone. We build center on creativity, cooperation, education, high quality content and connection the creative center with wider social and economy context. Understanding, trust and support of all included are the key principles for developing the sustainable creative center.

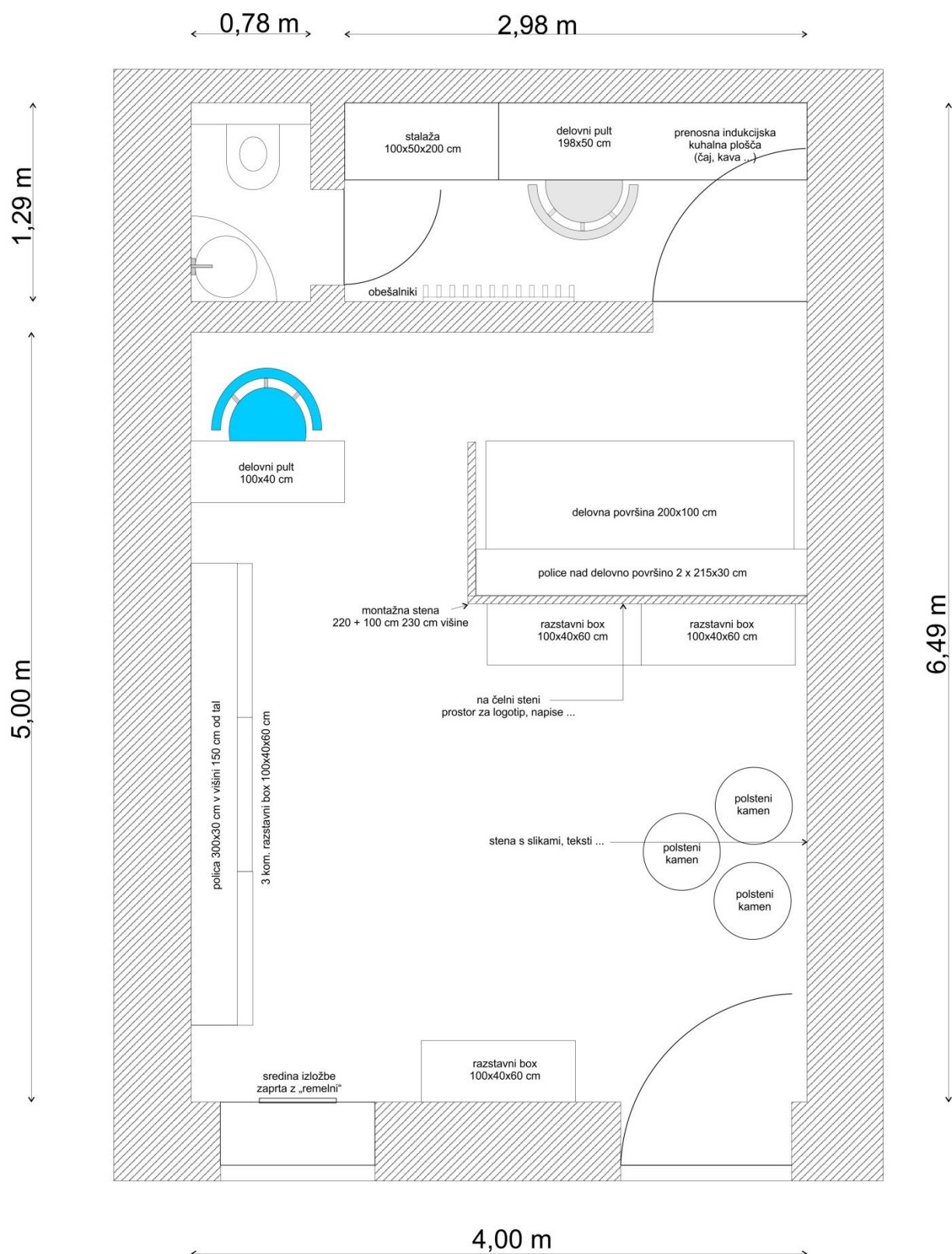
## 8. Annexes incl. picture documentation

### Annex 1\_1

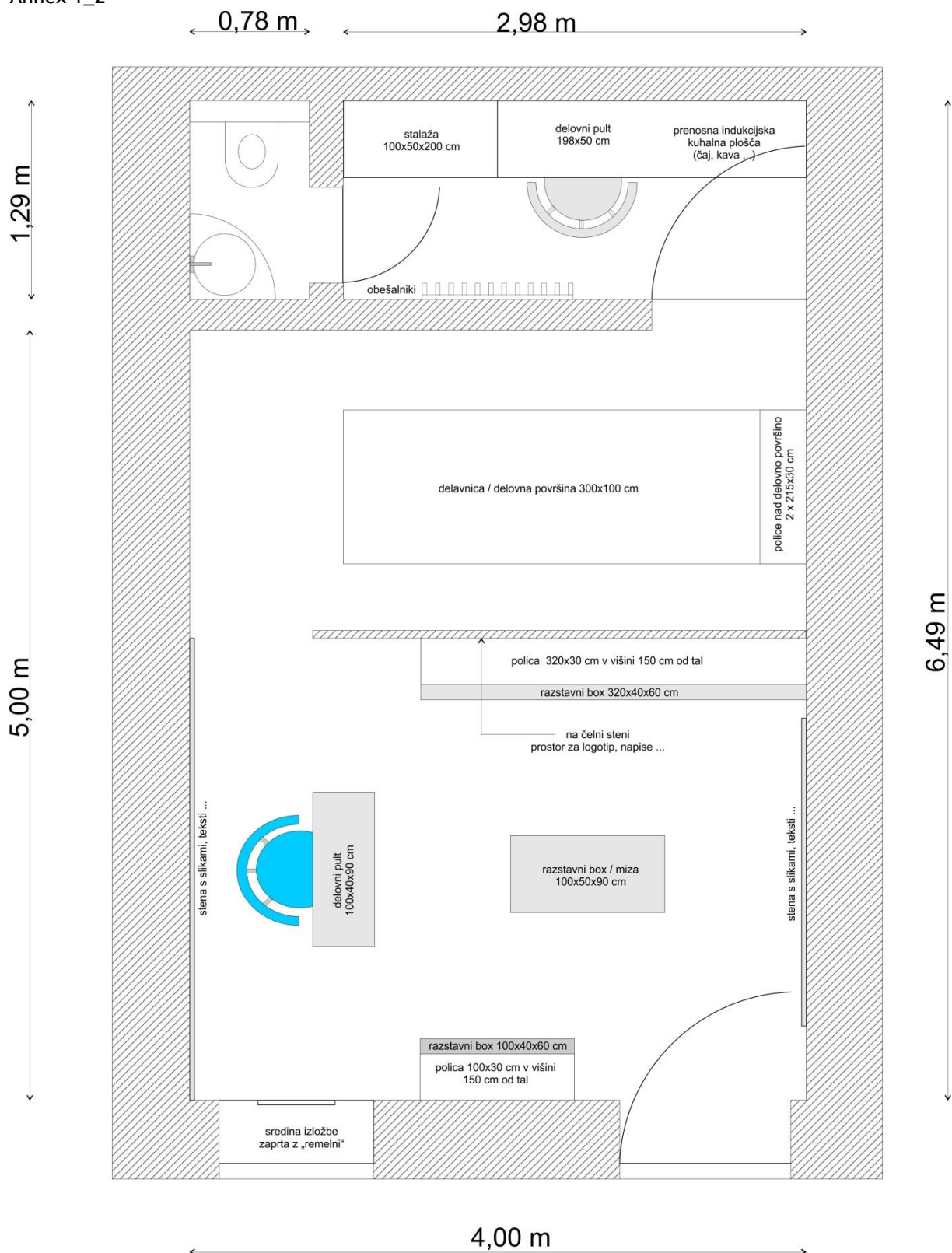
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<sup>3</sup> Toolkit for creative hub <http://www.fold.lv/en/2015/11/a-toolkit-for-emerging-creative-hubs/>

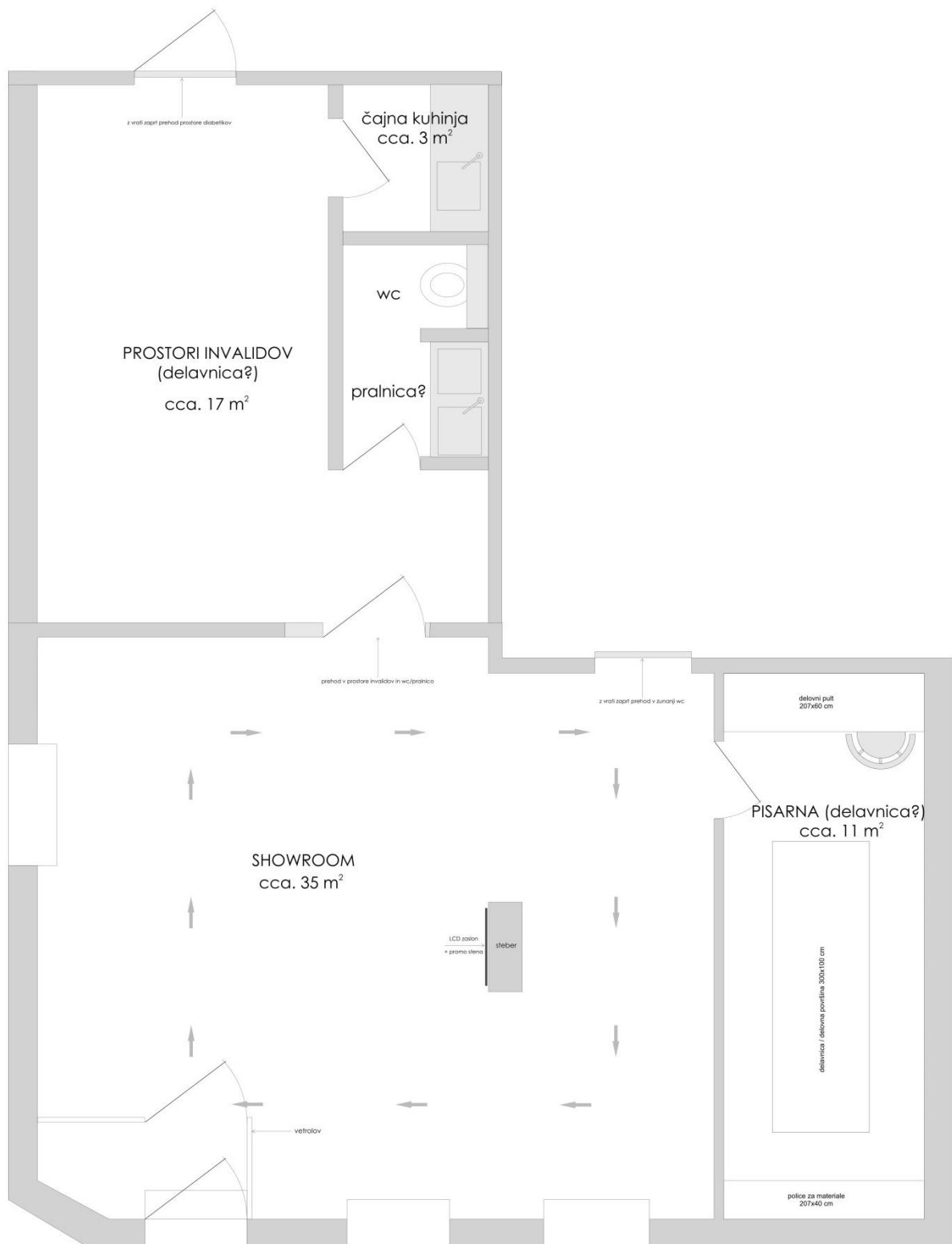




Annex 1\_2



## Annex 2



## Annex 3 Workshop - Minutes of the workshop with stakeholders