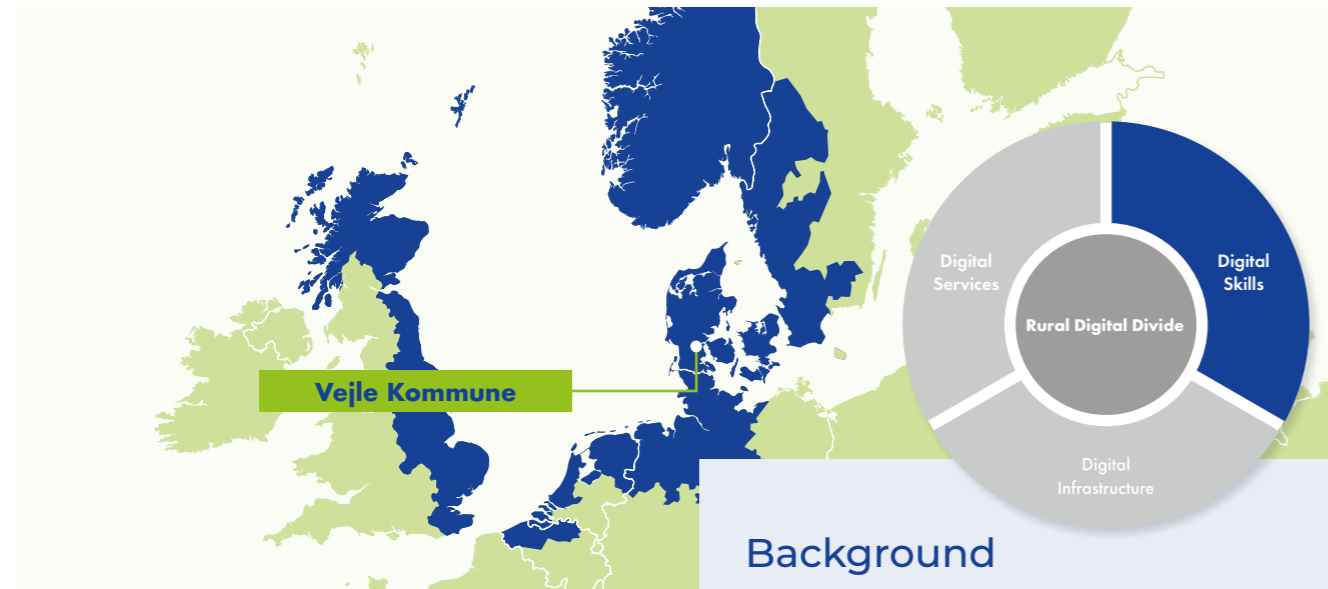


Vejle Kommune, DK

## DILA – Digital Learning for All

DILA – Digital Learning for All was implemented by Vejle Library and regional stakeholders to establish two digital learning hubs in the rural villages of Smidstrup and Give. These spaces offer access to local public services, as well as new meaningful activities for digital learning. An inclusive approach was taken to include the local population of rural areas, not only in training activities, but also in developing the activities to be offered. The pilot offered train-the-trainer activities and public workshops, through which potential digital trainers got upskilled in regards to digital skill and competence training.



### Background

Denmark has multiple mandatory digital solutions for public services which require citizens to be digitally competent. In addition to this, rural areas often require alternative solutions to enable citizens to benefit equally from the often remote public services. The pilot activities in Vejle helped local communities and rural areas in Vejle Municipality get the opportunity to develop digital skills, try new tools and build communities around this.

## Designing and delivering the pilot

### How has it been designed?

The two digital learning hubs were developed as part of the service offered by Vejle Library. These bridged the gap between two rural villages in the region, and the main centre of Vejle. Vejle Library engaged with key stakeholders in both villages to help design and plan services offered by a physical or flexible hub. A public school and a local digital meetup of older residents played a central role, together with local interest groups, citizens and administrative staff.

### Who is it for?

The target audiences were based on local demographics, anticipated needs for digital learning and through local volunteer groups that had an interest in digital hubs. Vejle Library engaged specifically with older adults through volunteer organisations and with young people by providing school introductory sessions in the libraries and 'new tech workshops' in, or close to, the new digital hubs.

### How has it been delivered?

The hubs are being delivered through Vejle Library in Smidstrup and Give. These are two remote rural towns with unique local characteristics and fewer digital learning options than elsewhere. Give has a centrally located local library and community-house with good facilities and Smidstrup has a public school with an interest in collaborating and promoting digital learning. Workshops and events were held with local stakeholders including local government, library staff and interested citizens to design the hubs. This has included setting up cooperation with local groups, including a volunteer group for elderly offering IT help and advice, a local development council

and a small local business, specializing in 3D printing and digital technology, called KIDSprint.

Both hubs are still being developed, specifically sourcing the remaining appropriate equipment, and planning future activities. Vejle Library has conducted a range of workshops and engaged in dialogues with local citizens to ensure this is done collaboratively with users and interest groups.

## Outcomes of the pilot

### What outputs have the pilot achieved?

The pilot has conducted a range of events and workshops to help design and activate the hubs. At Give, the pilot has equipped the hub with digital learning equipment and created a mini-makerspace area. It includes a 3D printer, VR headsets, Scan N Cut machines, a green screen and mBot robots, among other things. The local school has sought inspiration and borrowed robots, so children can learn to code. Local citizens have been invited to several activities or offered digital support. In Smidstrup, the pilot has worked with the local public school, municipality stakeholders and the fablab@school network to equip a new 'crafts and design' area. They have held workshops and equipped the hub with a laser cutter, scan n cut machines and micro:bits. The hub has also delivered train-the-trainer activities and formed good relations with the local development council.

### Wider benefits?

The hubs are intended to be a place for co-creation, by forming an active and engaged digital community with explorative learning, learning through experience and encouraging curiosity. With new activities and a local focus on digital learning the pilot is facilitating new collaborations, attracting new investments and increasing municipality's focus on local perspectives related to digital learning.



At the digital learning hub with  
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## Lessons learned

### The potential for co-creation

Co-creation, in the context of a digital hub, allows for the provider and user to equip the hubs with equipment and services that most effectively support the needs of local residents. It ensures regular use by users, as they play a role in designing what would be offered, but also ensures that the offering is realistic in terms of budget and staff time for the provider.

### Challenges

- Getting users into the hub is a constant challenge. It requires getting information out about what the hub is, how it could be used, and can be particularly challenging if key stakeholders lose interest or leave. In this pilot, a key stakeholder left, and a local volunteer group dissolved, which meant new contacts had to be created.
- Local political changes, such as merging of local authorities or tensions between initiatives, can change how people engage with a project like a digital hub. Navigating this political landscape means there must be a clear communication approach. Planning in a cooperative way, as opposed to top-down solutions, remains a priority. However, mediating contradictory interests while also seizing opportunities is no small feat!

## Remaining pilot activities and future plans

Vejle Library is continuing to equip both hubs with suitable equipment and services. This includes more specific technology, identified by the users and interest groups. They are also seeking to run more events and create an active community around the digital hubs. Vejle Library is also considering more online activities or demos, as part of the pilot.

