Project title: Creative workshops in the Garage
Grant recipient: BETA Institute for Social Development
Zavod BETA – Institute for Social Development
Štrancarjeva Street 8
5270 Ajdovščina
Slovenia
Grant amount: 1000 EUR
Project duration: August 2025

Ajdovščina, 20 August 2025

Final Report – Holiday Creative Workshops at the Garage for Children 13+

Event: Holiday creative workshops at the Garage for children 13+
Location: Garage, Ajdovščina
Implementation dates: 4–8 August, 11–14 August, 18–22 August 2025
Mentor: Maks Rodman
Initiative: European Programming Week – **Code Week**

Number of participants: 21

Purpose and Objectives

The workshops were carried out within the European **Codeweek** initiative, which promotes digital literacy, technical skills, creative problem-solving, and equal inclusion of young people of all genders in STEM fields. Participants (13+) gained insight through hands-on work into the importance of **sustainable use of materials**, collaboration, and the development of competencies crucial for the future (programming, modeling, and the use of modern tools).

Course of Activities

- **Electronics and Programming:**
  Participants built a **Bluetooth speaker**, learned the basics of electrical circuits, soldering, the use of rechargeable modules, and amplifiers.
- **3D Modeling and Printing:**
  They designed device enclosures, created models in computer programs, used a laser engraving machine, and prepared and carried out 3D printing.

- **Mechanics and Construction:**
  The largest group project was the **construction of a racing simulator**, where participants measured, cut, sanded, screwed, and assembled individual parts into a whole. The simulator was ultimately connected to a computer and used for virtual races.
- **Physics in STEM:**
  Participants explored aerodynamics and designed model airplanes, which they then tested outdoors.
- **Additional Projects:**
  A storage shed for electric cars, upgrades to the simulator, production of useful items with a 3D printer (stands, covers, car parts), and repairs – from the front light of a real car to an electric scooter and a garage go-kart.

Accompanying Activities

In addition to technical content, the program also included **recreational and sports activities**: hikes to the source of the Hubelj River, basketball, chess, billiards, board games, and water games for refreshment on hot days.

Results and Impact

- Participants acquired practical knowledge in **electronics, 3D printing, computer modeling, mechanics, and physics**.
- They developed **collaboration skills**, as most projects were based on teamwork.
- The emphasis on **sustainable use of materials** encouraged young people to think about reuse and waste reduction.
- **Gender equality** was actively integrated into the process – both girls and boys took on technical tasks and participated equally in all challenges.
- Participants gained the experience that STEM activities can be **fun, useful, and socially meaningful**.
- Activities were shared on social media (Facebook and Instagram) and on the portal:
  https://www.lokalne-ajdovscina.si/

Conclusion

The holiday creative workshops at the Garage proved to be an excellent example of how the **Code Week** initiative can go beyond learning programming alone and connect it

with practical technology, sustainability, creativity, and the inclusion of young people in modern technologies. By the end of the workshops, participants demonstrated that they had acquired valuable skills, new experiences, and confidence for further exploration of the world of technology.

Mentor's Statement

I decided to organize workshops for older children because I always dreamed of such holidays when I was a child, but unfortunately none were available at the time. I believe that at this stage of life it is very important for children to learn various processing procedures that differ from school, but also build upon the knowledge from primary school. I am satisfied with the participation; perhaps there were slightly too many children, as more could be produced in a smaller group. I was mostly very satisfied with the children's products – they really put effort into creating them.

Next Steps

Zavod BETA will continue to conduct similar activities in the Garage.

Financial Summary

The project Technical workshops in the Garage, implemented by the BETA Institute, was co-financed through the EU Code Week Small Grants 2025 programme. The entire amount of grant of 1000 EUR was spent according to the planned budget, and the project itself had a higher value. The difference/extra costs were covered from institution's own contribution.

The following costs were covered by the awarded grant:

- Honorarium for an external expert: External expertise was used to support coordination and implementation of workshops. This cost was covered partially by the grant and partially from institution's own contribution.
- Costs of materials used in the workshop: Various kinds of materials were used during the workshop with children, including Bluetooth receivers for creating Bluetooth speakers, balls, screws, tape, battery chargers, LED strips, batteries, etc. These materials were used during the workshops when children created Bluetooth speakers, 3D printed, racing simulators, airplane models, go carts and other items. This cost was covered partially by the grant and partially from institution's own contribution.
- Promotion and dissemination costs: The series of workshops were promoted in a local newspaper. Počitniško ustvarjalne delavnice v Garaži za otroke in mladostnike
- Food and drinks cost for participant students: Meals were provided to children during the workshops.