



## SUWON, South Korea

### Lifelong Learning Local Partnerships

#### Key facts

In Suwon City, South Korea, nearly 600 lifelong learning centres are open to all members of the community and offer opportunities to learn and share information. The centres promote the concept of “enjoyment from learning and happiness from sharing” and provide learning opportunities for people of every age. The city is expanding lifelong learning facilities in order to help those from disadvantaged backgrounds and to increase accessibility to learning spaces.

#### Timeframe and funding

City population 1,196,074

#### Governing body

Link [Suwon | UIL \(unesco.org\)](https://unesco.org)

#### Main objectives

Engaging and developing partnerships with non-state actors and local citizens is a key policy for Suwon City in their goal to develop adult learning systems that meet local needs. To ensure that Suwon’s adult learning system aligns with local priorities and the needs of the people, the city engages and collaborates with actors and local community members in various ways. The aim is to create an environment in the city that is human-centred and conducive to learning, meeting a wide range of learning needs and offering a wide variety of learning opportunities.

## Content and mode of delivery



Among the many initiatives to provide adult learning that meet the needs of the citizens, Suwon city offers subsidies for lifelong learning projects that citizens develop. Residents with new lifelong learning programme ideas can develop project plans and submit them to the city government for review. After review, the city grants funding to implement promising adult learning projects. In addition, Suwon was the first in Korea to set up a planning and implementation team consisting of local community members, known as the Urban Policy Citizens' Planning team. The team, comprising representatives from the 44 neighbourhoods in Suwon City, shares ideas on lifelong learning and policy implementation with the city government for consideration. The representatives usually receive these ideas from roundtable meetings involving up to 500 local community members. These meetings are important as they support the alignment of lifelong learning to local needs.

Suwon city also engages with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other local actors. NGOs can apply for public subsidies to run lifelong learning initiatives. When their applications are successful, the city requires that these NGOs report on their performance, outcomes and budget use. Moreover, Suwon innovatively works with teachers in the city's adult learning system. To become an adult learning teacher, the applicant undergoes mandatory theoretical and practical training for a year. After this training, participants become certified "civic lifelong learning teachers". Over a thousand of these teachers work in Suwon city, and interviewed citizens described this teaching arrangement as a great opportunity for older generations to actively engage with the society. In addition, women who have left the labour market often use this opportunity to return and resume work.

## Stakeholders



The programme involves a range of local stakeholders including the city government, individual citizens and local NGOs.

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