

Public libraries as centers for civic education in Europe – recommendations for new practices and perspectives in the Polish libraries.

The main goal of the project is to initiate the public debate about informal civic education, the **exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices** of foreign experts and mutual learning between experts and librarians.

Central topics of the project will be the **elaboration of methods and specific projects regarding civic education** as well as formulating recommendations for policy makers and libraries as public institutions.

By the term “civic education” we understand a wide range of topics, such as culture, music, politics or ecology activities of museums and galleries, schools and libraries etc.. We believe that activities in all those fields can be a motivating factor to develop community spirit, responsibility for the local community and, in the longer perspective, becoming an active citizen. To accommodate the variety of the term, participants will be representatives of various types of institutions and areas as well as experts with a lot of practical experience.

The Stages of the Project

International Expert Seminar (17-18.05.2010, Warsaw)

The whole seminar, concerning informal civic education, will last two days. The value of such meeting will be the presentation of Polish and foreign practices. The goal of the seminar is to initiate a debate about different educational activities ready to implement in local libraries, both Polish and from represented countries. The possibility to exchange knowledge will lead the participants to summarize their previous experiences and to prepare the best recommendations.

On the first day, we would like to start with more general reflection about the informal and non-formal education and practices implemented in this field. Panels and an open discussion with all the participants will provide the opportunity to express opinions and ask the experts some questions. On the second day we will follow the topic in workshops and work on very specific initiatives, which could be conducted in the local libraries in the future.



Consultations with Librarians at the “Round Table” (end of June 2010)

Best practices, initiatives and ideas will be evaluated by the essential future target group of the recommendations: librarians. They will confront experts’ ideas and their conclusions with their own possibilities and experience. Their opinions will show which initiatives have a chance to be realized, what sources have to be invested, which main challenges and problems might emerge and what kind of competences and core skills will be needed.

To enable the librarians to get to know the seminar results, the best practices and projects as well as the main points of the seminar will be published in a form of special working materials and sent out to selected librarians.

Publications

In addition to the working materials for the librarians, a **policy paper** in the series “Analyses and Opinions” will be published. It will summarize the conclusions from the experts’ seminar and the recommendations, that have been collected there, for the wide public. The policy paper will be available online as well as distributed in hard copy.

As a result of all the previous activities – expert seminar and round table – a **report** (syllabus) will be published, that will collect possible projects and ideas in the field of civic education. It will have an incentive effect and contain new, fresh ideas from other more experienced countries. But it will also provide base for good practices, consulted by the Polish librarians and ready to implement. The publication will be presented on the librarians’ congress in November 2010, organized by FRSI.

If you have any further questions please **contact**:

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