

LIBRARIES FOR INNOVATION 2

PROJECT

REPORT FOR 2015



Libraries for Innovation 2

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MARTYNAS
MAŽVYDAS
NATIONAL
LIBRARY OF
LITHUANIA



Ministry of Culture of the
Republic of Lithuania

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In 2015, Lithuania's public libraries continued to implement the Libraries for Innovation 2 project initiated by the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. At the beginning of the year, the National Library, together with the Ministry of Culture, invited public libraries to submit community projects and receive partial financial support. A total of 57 community-oriented project submissions prepared by libraries and their partners were received. Initially, it was planned to finance 30 libraries' projects, but after evaluating the value that would be added to the communities, a total of 45 projects were approved.

All of the library initiatives being financed by the Libraries for Innovation 2 project contribute significantly to informal education goals of national importance and to the achievement of the goals of the Life-long Learning program. These initiatives meet residents' educational, self-expression and communication needs and encourage social and informational integration. The projects that received funding focused on youth – libraries have emphasized that visitors from this age group are the hardest to attract. By implementing these projects, public libraries and their partners keep the youth of the communities they represent occupied and encourage meaningful leisure time with creative and recreational spaces and various educational activities such as robotics, filmmaking, coding training, etc. The libraries' projects have also paid considerable attention to problems faced by communities' older members. The libraries' projects fill seniors' educational and creative needs. By offering new services, libraries are helping seniors learn to use ICT, speak foreign languages, participate in leisure activities, and learn about health, ecology and other relevant issues. By organising common activities for both seniors and youth, the libraries also provide these two generations with the opportunity to interact. By implementing the measures provided in these projects, libraries also contribute to the solution of other problems important for their communities: supporting entrepreneurship, reducing unemployment, successfully integrating groups with special needs into social and cultural life, and reintegrating isolated communities.

In an effort to establish libraries as active intermediaries between communities, businesses, local government and public organisations, the Libraries for Innovation 2 project actively encourages partnerships. In 2015, a variety of projects at public libraries were initiated together with their partners: LESTO, an electric power distribution network company, organised informal education activities at libraries about rational energy and electronic service use, and the Distributors of Electronics Association initiated an environmental protection project associated with sustainable electronic waste collection and encouraged public awareness and social responsibility for waste management by participating in a series of live broadcasts from the National Library. LP Express couriers contributed to the organisation of nationwide events in public libraries to celebrate the granting of partial funding for libraries projects for communities by delivering tree planters that were gifted by the Babtų tree nursery to libraries. The Libraries for Innovation 2 project also cooperates with European Parliament member Antanas Guoga, the #Switch! Team, which organises a new technology and entrepreneurship event, and the Coder Dojo Public Library project.

In 2015, the project's partners participated in live broadcasts directly from the National Library's studio: the Lithuanian postal service introduced people to new services offered by the company; LESTO specialists spoke about rational energy use and provided consumers with practical suggestions; and the Distributors of Electronics Association explained the importance of responsible waste management and how people could contribute to the creation of a cleaner environment.

Through the Libraries for Innovation 2 project, we are encouraging society to think of libraries not just as book repositories, but as community focal points as well. In the autumn of 2015, the country's libraries participated in a competition by suggesting interesting artistic ideas that musician Jurgis Didžiulis and the #reanimation creative team helped implement. Through Art Reanimation at Libraries, we sought to present libraries and their spaces in a new context and to show how libraries are changing and expanding their benefits for communities.

We encourage Lithuanians to discover libraries as spaces where communities create. This creative process is encouraged by library workers who provide services based on the newest informational technologies and who are becoming intermediaries between the academic, cultural and business worlds and their communities. The results of this creative process are new knowledge and skills, more opportunities for self-expression, new projects and partnerships, and, in the end, a better quality of life for communities and all of Lithuania.

Libraries for Innovation 2 Project manager
Eugenijus Stratilaitovas



LESSONS

Peer-learning meeting reveals lessons learned by libraries

The first peer-learning meeting was organised in November 2015 in Vilnius, providing librarians the opportunity to improve their knowledge by listening to reports from specialists in various fields and sharing their own experiences in task groups.

Prof. Dr. Renaldas Gudauskas, the Director General of the National Library, opened the meeting and said that it was important that libraries define their identities, understand and show their value, embrace unique and innovative solutions, and increase their competitive advantage.

“It’s important for libraries to clearly define their fields of activity, so they don’t simply become social care centres,” said Prof. Dr. Renaldas Gudauskas.

Discussions on a wide array of topics took place at the two-day meeting – beginning with library event organization and ending with the challenges of working with youth. Other discussion topics included volunteering and employee exchange, the search for sponsors, partnerships, and library strategic development planning. Discussions were held on how to ensure project sustainability and continuity, on analysing the importance of projects and initiatives for strengthening relationships with municipalities, on how to turn mistakes into learned lessons, and how to appropriately assess completed tasks.

During the meeting, participants gained a deeper understanding of projects being implemented by other libraries, analysed their own and their colleagues’ experiences, discussed the mistakes they had encountered and ways to improve their work, and learned about other libraries’ success stories. In an

effort to strengthen the Public Library Network in Lithuania and inspire ideas for new projects, the event was open to representatives from all Lithuanian public libraries and their partners.

Kėdainiai District Mayor Saulius Grinkevičius, who has much experience in the field of library development and helped found the Ažuolaičiai and Keleriškiai branches of the Mikalojus Dauša Public Library, greeted the meeting’s participants. He encouraged library directors to represent their municipal organisations more actively and to seek goals with greater determination.

Create for Lithuania representative Monika Merkytė shared her latest experiences with young professionals. Together with her colleague, she contributed to the organisation of an employee motivational system project for the National Library. TEDxVilnius curator Justina Stašelytė spoke about the program, which she works on together with other volunteers, and how they attract young people to participate in their initiative. J. Stašelytė also shared her experiences and advice on how to successfully use partnership initiatives: she encouraged libraries to embrace reaching out for support and to actively consult with potential sponsors to identify their expectations and tailor their proposals.

She also reminded libraries to discuss the results they had achieved while working with their partners in order to form friendships and maintain relationships.

The peer-learning meeting was summarised by Eugenijus Stratilatovas, the Manager of the Libraries for Innovation 2 project and the Strategic Development Deputy to the Director General of the National Library. He analysed public libraries’ activities and emphasised that libraries often take part in too many diverse activities. E. Stratilatovas encouraged libraries to define their policies more clearly and take into account the specific context they operate in.



The meeting continued with discussions in task groups – many of the problems raised by the meeting's speakers were discussed. The participants shared their insights, presented the community projects their libraries had worked on as part of the Libraries for Innovation 2 project, learned about the financial aspects of managing projects, and learned about how to prepare proper reports. The task groups' work was managed by the Libraries for Innovation 2 project coordinators who had worked with these libraries from the very beginning of the Libraries for Innovation 2 project.

When the peer-learning meeting ended, it was clear that the projects were already bringing tangible benefits to libraries: their new project organisation skills helped them win more competitions and receive additional funding for building renovations, new computer equipment, and the hiring of new staff. The new partners attracted during the implementation of these projects will help ensure the projects' future sustainability.

The discussions held during the meeting also revealed that, having begun to implement their own projects, libraries came to understand that the implementation of projects is a constant planning process that necessitates the anticipation of risks and ways to control them. This sets the foundations for the further successful improvement of library operations.

Loreta Budrytė

Libraries for Innovation 2 Coordinator for Small Grant Projects

"I'm glad that libraries are becoming more proactive and that their competencies are improving. Libraries are displaying more support for various activities initiated by the Libraries for Innovation 2 project, which is helping them change and set an example for their colleagues. By working actively, libraries are becoming more open to changes and are beginning to see innovations as new opportunities rather than potential threats. By improving in this way, libraries strengthen their ability to fulfil users' growing demands and form the image of open, comprehensive libraries able to influence their communities."

Donatas Kubilius

Libraries for Innovation 2 Coordinator for Small Grant Projects

"The fact that libraries now deliberately and naturally use project planning and implementation terms like 'project owner', 'project impact assessment', 'sustainability' and 'project risk' in their everyday lexicon shows that there has been a turning point in the librarian community – a shift towards quality-oriented thinking that creates the conditions necessary for more successful library operations.

The peer-learning meeting showed that one library's positive experience can be an inspiring example for another library to learn a new activity. This strengthens the common library system. Also, only those who try have the opportunity to succeed".

Giedrė Čistovienė

Libraries for Innovation 2 Coordinator for Small Grant Projects

"The libraries implementing these projects have already experienced tangible benefits. For example, the project organisation skills they gained helped libraries win more competitions; they received additional funding from municipalities for building renovations, hiring of new staff or buying computer equipment; and they have attracted new partners who will help ensure that libraries' projects are sustainable. These are the results of hard work and cooperation."

Practical advice when seeking sponsors:

- When applying for support, you must indicate what sort of activities will be planned for children and youth – this can positively affect potential sponsors.
- When looking for partners and sponsors, your library must show why it is exceptional or unique.
- Regional press is always an important sponsor or partner for libraries.
- A good image is important for partners and sponsors, as is the opportunity to participate in the project's activities.
- It's important to always distinguish partners from sponsors: a partner works together with the library while a sponsor simply supports its activities.
- The more diverse a library's activities are, the more likely it is to find sponsors. You must always emphasize the benefits that your library provides.
- A good relationship with local government is important. Sometimes, municipal workers can connect sponsors and partners with libraries.
- Both libraries and sponsors can plan activities, so the search for sponsors should begin as soon as possible.
- When meeting to speak with potential sponsors, you must make proposals rather than present your demands.
- Always find out what a potential sponsor may need and adjust your proposal for their potential needs. Good intuition is useful for anticipating sponsors' needs. Don't forget that libraries can always help strengthen their influence and provide direct access to people.



COMPETENCIES

Training strengthened librarians' competencies

During the Change Management and Impact Assessment Training organised by the Libraries for Innovation 2 project in 2015, librarians' competencies were expanded so that libraries could effectively implement new projects and make appropriate decisions when faced with dynamic changes and improving technologies.

With the aim to standardise the knowledge of all library workers, facilitate a dialogue, and provide an opportunity to exchange experiences, all public libraries were invited to participate in the training – not only those implementing projects partially financed by Libraries for Innovation 2.

Change management training lecturer Diana Palivonienė explained what an organisation's leader should pay attention to when experiencing changes in the organisation, and observing their organisation's employees' reactions to those changes. The lecturer analysed the project as a change in an organisation and discussed organisational structures, various perspectives on organisational paradigms, and the importance of the leader's role.

During this training, each library's representative used practical aspects to analyse what sort of significant changes could be facilitated by the projects being implemented at their libraries. It was emphasised that the library itself, and its director, were directly and primarily responsible for the projects and the implementation of the changes they facilitated, and that each library employee had to be given the opportunity to express themselves and make decisions. Librarians would communicate the importance of the projects they were implementing to their libraries and communities.

At the practical Impact Assessment Training, lecturer Ignas Zokas and Library for Innovation 2 project impact assessment coordinator Ieva Dryžaitė invited library representatives to complete group tasks in which they identified impact assessment goals, criteria, and necessary data collections methods for projects and other initiatives.

A survey performed after the training sessions showed that many of the training participants theoretically understand how separate stages of an impact assessment should be carried out, but that they still lack practical skills. Therefore, an important task remains for library employees – while carrying out their day-to-day activities, they should apply their impact assessment knowledge actively and systematically so that their new knowledge becomes a practical skill.

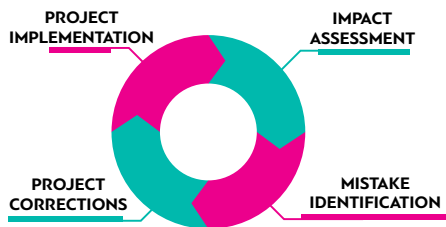
By more actively analysing their contexts and listening to their users, partners, municipalities and other interested groups, libraries can better fill their local communities' needs.

It was decided that, when organising librarian training in the future, the continuity of the training must be maintained and the librarians invited to the training must be those who will work in relevant fields. In the future, more attention will also be paid to facilitating librarians' critical and creative thinking and abilities.

All of this will create the conditions for library workers to more effectively learn and use the knowledge they gain during their training, as well as the measures they already have, for specific needs and in applications for specific projects or tasks.



Project impact assessment – a guarantee of higher-quality library services



MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Change management -
79 librarians

Impact assessment -
122 librarians

The library as a community centre

Rapid social change is forcing libraries to constantly seek ways to attract new visitors while retaining current ones, thereby becoming sustainable community institutions. 2015 can indeed be called a fruitful year for libraries: a number of projects were created that received financing, and many other activities have also been carried out – events, meetings, seminars, art events, exhibitions, etc.

In 2015, libraries actively implemented informal education activities for all age groups and expanded the services they offer by integrating new technologies and applying knowledge about their communities' needs. A foundation was laid for libraries to establish themselves as a third space in which people could meet their creative, social, self-expression and educational needs.

Various events were organised at libraries: from now-traditional exhibitions and meetings with authors to unexpected avant-garde art initiatives especially interesting for young people. One such initiative was organized in the autumn of 2015 at four libraries throughout the country together with musician Jurgis Didžiulis and the #reanimation art team.

Libraries encourage communities to care about their environments

Last year, 75 libraries throughout the country participated in the "Responsible Reader. Think. Sort. Live!" at the Library" environmental initiative, which was organised by the Distributors of Electronics Association (EEPA) in cooperation with the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. As part of this initiative, a ton of unusable batteries and old, forgotten cell phones was collected by special EPA waste bins placed in public libraries.



The EEPA took care of processing this dangerous waste while library visitors realised that ecological problems could be solved not only at the international scale but also by small communities that contributed in any way they could to improve the environment.

Local community members at libraries learned about rational energy consumption and electronic services

Last year, LESTO, an electric power distribution network company, organised rational electric power usage events in 14 libraries throughout the country for the second consecutive year. The public library events attracted over 500 visitors. LESTO specialists advised attendees on how to independently analyse and evaluate their households' electrical usages and what habits, according to expert evaluations and research, had the most impact on their bills.

The country's public libraries also actively participated in "Let's get familiar with self-service www.manoelektra.lt," a competition initiated by LESTO. During the two-stage competition, libraries suggested ways in which people could be encouraged to use LESTO's self-service website, which helps consumers save both electricity and time.

Libraries, with the help of LESTO's specialists, taught librarians and residents how to use the self-service website. When the training ended, they tested their new skills in quiz bowls. More than 500 library workers and over 1,600 community representatives participated in the training sessions, and the quiz bowls had about 500 participants.

Live broadcasts from libraries enabled the sharing of information

In 2015, libraries brought their communities together to watch live broadcasts from the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania by partners from the business sector and public organisations.

The Distributors of Electronics Association's specialists participated in a series of broadcasts called "Responsible Reader. Think. Sort. Live! at the Library". They explained the importance of electronic waste management to viewers gathered at public libraries.

During the broadcasts, representatives of the Lithuanian postal service presented news about their organisation and shared other information relevant for the public, while the LESTO electric power distribution company's representatives explained rational energy usage and electronic services on their "My electricity: cost-effective and simple?" broadcast.

The National Paying Agency also participated in internet broadcasts. The agency's representatives consulted farmers throughout the country on questions regarding support for businesses in village areas, shared practical suggestions for those who had declared agricultural usage or crops, and offered other information important for farmers.

COMMUNITY CENTRE



Avant-garde art activities in libraries

In 2015, Lithuanian libraries had a unique opportunity to participate in an unexpected art contest and offer interesting artistic ideas musician Jurgis Didžiulis and the #reanimation team helped local communities implement those ideas. The campaign, initiated by the Libraries for Innovation 2 project, revived libraries and their spaces.

During the competition art projects from four libraries across the country were selected and J. Didžiulis and his creative team helped local communities to implement them. More than 640 community members from the Kriaunos (Rokiškis District), Joniškis, Birštonas and Vilnius libraries participated in the events.

ART #reanimation EVENT PARTICIPANTS

- 📍 Kriaunos (Rokiškis district) Public Library
- 📍 Joniškis Jono Avyžiaus Public Library
- 📍 Birštonas Public Library
- 📍 Vilnius Central Library's Pilaitė branch

>640 
community representatives

"Working with Jurgis Didžiulis and the #reanimation team once again showed that libraries, besides their traditional services, can offer innovative ideas and gather people for creative community activities," said Libraries for Innovation 2 Project Manager Eugenijus Stratilatovas.

The first intervention was at Kriaunos Public Library. That librarian, Audronė Telšinskienė, was one of the first to boldly submit an artistic idea – to revive the abandoned premises next to the library and use them for creative activities for the local community. The #reanimation team's second adventure was in Joniškis. Though it started in Jonas Avyžius Public Library, it quickly moved to the city's public spaces, where the cheery mood infected both the local community and the Municipality.

The third #reanimation stop was in Birštonas, where guests were greeted by the largest number of participants – 289. This time, J. Didžiulis gave his show a somewhat theatrical and southern motif. During this visit, a new biblio-therapeutic hymn was born, and the city sanatorium's community enjoyed a dose of artistic therapy.

The artistic #reanimation team's adventure, which captured the hearts of all participants, had its last meeting in the Vilnius City Municipality Central Library's Pilaitė branch. There, the team was joined by volunteers from the "Beepart" creative workshop and the guest of the evening – singer Erica Jennings. Together with the event's organisers, the library's community decorated the space with garlands of paper lanterns. When it grew dark, the space around the library was filled with the warm light of shining umbrellas being carried by participants of the art #reanimation team. Event participants danced to music played by the #reanimation team, and the evening was crowned by Erica Jennings' song "Leading Me Home."

The art #reanimation project became a way to encourage libraries to take on activities outside of their traditional everyday lives.



Libraries — key to solving community problems

2015 was a special year for Lithuanian libraries – 45 public libraries were granted partial funding from the Libraries for Innovation 2 project and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania for implementing community projects. In the beginning of the summer of 2015, after a roughly year-long process – from project preparation and proposal submission to receipt of funds – celebratory events marking the beginning of libraries' community projects rippled throughout Lithuania.

After researching their communities' needs, libraries prepared projects in attempts to help resolve the problems they had found: entrepreneurship facilitation, reducing unemployment, promoting education, the successful social integration of special needs groups, the reintegration of isolated communities, etc.

On June 9th, 2015, library communities, partners, local government and non-governmental organisation representatives gathered in a nation-wide series of celebratory events held at libraries, where they shared the ideas behind the projects that had received financing. At the events, many libraries also took part in a symbolic initiative – the planting of apple-tree planters near library buildings, which symbolised libraries' growth, development, and transformation into independent, sustainable and dynamic institutions. The fruits of the trees symbolised the libraries' benefits for their communities.



Informal Education

In those projects that received financing, much attention was paid to youth – according to surveys, libraries still have a hard time encouraging this target group's members to visit libraries and use their services.

PROJECT NAME	ORGANISER	THEME	SUM
Smart library for youth	Alytus Jurgis Kunčinās Public Library	Competency development, creative self-expression, integration and socialisation, leisure activities	EUR 18,190
Ideas laboratory: a space for self-expression and exploration	Anykščiai District Liudvika and Stanislovas Didžiuliai Public Library	Promotion of creativity, active engagement and social participation among youth	EUR 22,539
Interactive library: space for creation and exploration	Birštonas Public Library	Informal activities, educational events, competency education, job market integration, entrepreneurship encouragement, socialisation	EUR 22,599
The creation of self-expression spaces for teenagers and youth	Elektrėnai Municipality Public Library	Competency education, informal activities, socialisation	EUR 18,268
Robotics school at a library	Kaišiadorys District Municipality Public Library	Teenager motivation and activities development, exact science education	EUR 22,600
Find yourself in a 3D city	Vincas Kudirkā Public Library of Kaunas City Municipality	Technical and creative competency education, career guidance for pupils	EUR 42,458
Development of students' general competencies in Kaunas district libraries and schools through information technology	Kaunas District Municipality Public Library	Technical and creative competency education	EUR 21,600

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	ORGANISER	THEME	SUM
Advanced technology and leisure centre	Mažeikiai District Municipality Public Library	Strengthening of NGO activities, educational infrastructure expansion, improvement of access to self-education and quality leisure	EUR 22,600
Mobile ICT centre at the library	Pakruojis District Municipality Juozas Paukštelis Public Library	Prevention of dangerous habits, encouragement of more meaningful activities for children	EUR 22,545
Establishment of modern "Mono-or-stereo" youth space network	Pasvalys Marius Katiliškis Public Library	Encouragement of youth civic engagement, motivation, creativity, volunteering and entrepreneurship	EUR 22,600
Creating Excitement in Learning	Jonava District Municipality Public Library	Strengthening of Lithuanian language skills, librarian competency development	EUR 20,170
3D: Be Curious. Participate. Share	Panėvėžys City Municipality Public Library	Increasing efficiency of formal education, improvement of senior self-expression, expansion of leisure opportunities	EUR 20,284
Plungė smart park	Plungė District Municipality Public Library	IT competency and ecological education, digital content creation	EUR 22,600
Mobile innovative technology laboratory for youth	Šiauliai County Povilas Višinskis Public Library	ICT competency education, upgrading qualifications of library staff	EUR 41,820
Community HUB at the library "Discover Your Code to Self-Expression"	Šilutė District Municipality Fridrichas Bajoraitis Public Library	Developing technical, creative, social, and foreign language skills and skills related to curriculum subjects	EUR 45,200

Life-long Learning

Libraries are the ideal place for job-seekers to develop new competencies and learn the fundamentals of business, while older generations can learn new things or languages. In an effort to meet these community needs, libraries are actively preparing projects to encourage continuing education.



PROJECT NAME	ORGANISER	THEME	SUM
Development of information, social and health skills among middle-aged, older and elderly people using cutting-edge computer technology in Ignalina district and Visaginas city libraries	Ignalina District Municipality Public Library	Development of community engagement and independence, promotion of interpersonal communication	EUR 22,070
(RE)START: e-services for you	Kaunas County Public Library	Competency education, encouragement of entrepreneurship, reduction of unemployment	EUR 45,200
Exploring the region by building cooperative and creative communities	Klaipėda County Ieva Simonaitytė Public Library	Creation of new interactive electronic services, improvement of residents' IT competency	EUR 45,200
A progressive library for everyone	Raseiniai Marcelijus Martinaitis Public Library	IT competency education, digital content creation	EUR 22,600
Samogitian language 24/7	Skuodas District Municipality R. Granauskas Public Library	IT competency education, Samogitian language education	EUR 22,592
Business and craft academy	Šiauliai District Municipality Public Library	Informational educational development of youth entrepreneurship, encouragement of youth activities	EUR 28,480
You know the word – you find your path	Telšiai District Municipality Karolina Praniauskaitė Public Library	Language education, IT competency education	EUR 22,600
E-service faculty "Knowledge is useful if it makes your life easier"	Ukmergė District Municipality Vladas Šlaitas Public Library	Encouragement of computer literacy and electronic service knowledge and skills that encourage comprehensive literacy, social integration	EUR 20,350

Encouraging creativity

Creativity and the understanding of informational technologies are the motors of the modern economy, important for both city and regional development. Therefore, libraries actively prepared projects that could encourage local communities' creative forces and provide new technological skills.

PROJECT NAME	ORGANISER	THEME	SUM
Literary website creation at a public library	Akmenė District Municipality Public Library	Encouragement of creation and creativity, gathering of creative people	EUR 19,485
Innovative library space for youth self-expression	Kelmė Žemaitė Public Library	Self-expression, creativity, non-traditional thinking and IT competency development	EUR 22,600
Young engineers' laboratory	Tauragė Birutė Baltrušaitytė Public Library	Technical and creative competency development	EUR 41,920
Educational creative media centre at the library	Kretinga District Municipality Motiejus Valančius Public Library	IT competency, self-expression and creativity education	EUR 22,600
Family history: preserving family memories	Klaipėda City Municipality Public Library	Family IT competency, informational literacy and creativity education	EUR 22,600
Comics space at the library	Šiauliai City Municipality Public Library	IT competency and creativity education, reading encouragement	EUR 22,600
Villages in film, films in villages	Biržai District Municipality Jurgis Bielinis Public Library	Encouragement of community and creativity, increasing youth engagement	EUR 22,552
Implementation of creative ideas in a mobile media studio	Zarasai District Municipality Public Library	Encouragement of youth motivation and creativity, cultural tourism information development	EUR 22,549
Intellectual and recreational library	Lazdijai District Municipality Public Library	Technical and creative competency education	EUR 45,000
IT generation initiatives at the library	Marijampolė District Municipality Petras Kriaučiūnas Public Library	Technical and creative competency education	EUR 22,450
Interactive educational and therapeutic space for youth	Šilalė District Municipality Public Library	Suicide prevention, interactive therapy	EUR 22,596



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Reduction of Social Isolation and Encouraging Socialisation

Libraries continue to be the most active catalysts for resolving social issues. They can meaningfully contribute to the solution of integration problems for vulnerable social groups, encourage a sense of community, and create the right conditions for community and cultural activities.

PROJECT NAME	ORGANISER	THEME	SUM
Vilkaviškis regional ethnographic e-academy	Vilkaviškis District Municipality Public Library	Encouragement of tourism and entrepreneurship, promotion of old crafts	EUR 19,281
#OUR REGION: Alytus and Vilnius community identity development in libraries	Vilnius County Adomas Mickevičius Public Library	Vilnius district community identity development using content about the Alytus and Vilnius regions	EUR 45,169
Migrating film	Trakai District Municipality Public Library	Development of meaningful activities and sense of community, cultural education through thematic films and the organisation of relevant events	EUR 21,600
Library without borders	Klaipėda District Municipality Jonas Lankutis Public Library	Encouragement of sense of community and civic engagement, reduction of social isolation	EUR 21,600
Establishment and operation of "Faiilukas" library technology centre	Švenčionys District Municipality Public Library	Socially at-risk family and foster home children's education	EUR 21,921
Under-developed children's general ability and social skill development in libraries using goal-oriented games, computers and environmental technologies	Utena A. and M. Miškiniai Public Library	Under-developed children's integration and education	EUR 45,118
We're on Book Is!@nd	Vilnius City Municipality Central Library	Strengthening of youth and children's psychological health	EUR 45,122
Palanga history links generations	Palanga City Municipality Public Library	Reduction of the gap between generations, IT competency education	EUR 21,856
This is what my village is like	Panevėžys District Municipality Public Library	IT competency improvement, encouragement of inter-generational cooperation, creation of regional heritage virtual archive	EUR 21,330
Innovative communication – new opportunities for users	Prienai Justinas Marcinkevičius Public Library	Online electronic services (event broadcasting)	EUR 22,563
Modern technologies for community health	Šakiai District Municipality Public Library	Psychological health and emotional well-being improvement, improvement of cognitive functions	EUR 22,600

All of the projects granted financing by the Libraries for Innovation 2 project and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania create conditions for libraries to expand their range of services by expanding their infrastructure and creating partnerships with businesses, local government institutions, non-governmental organisations, and other libraries.

A total of EUR 1.2 mil. financed projects. Libraries will have to implement their projects by mid-2016.



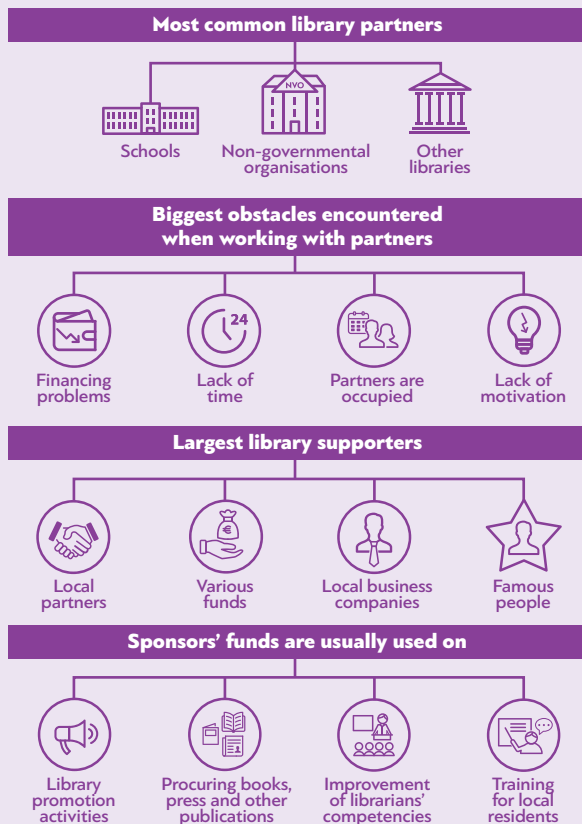
Project surveys

LIBRARY PERSPECTIVES ON PARTNERSHIP

In March and April 2015 a survey was conducted in the country's libraries that aimed to ascertain whether libraries found it easy to form partnerships, to evaluate the sustainability of their partnerships, and to identify how partners contributed to library operations.

The survey revealed that 67 percent of libraries have partners with which they engage in common activities. Many have 2-3 partners. Almost a third of libraries that participated in the survey do not currently have any partners. It was noticed that libraries that had partners and engaged in common activities with them were often libraries participating in the Libraries for Innovation 2 project, city central libraries, and district libraries.

A little more than half of libraries that participated in the survey had formed relationships with 1-2 new partners over the last 12 months. Forty-three percent of librarians indicated that their cooperation had been going well and that they had not encountered any meaningful obstacles.



The survey showed that many libraries receive support from several sources. Usually the support provided is non-financial equipment, human resources, etc. Almost a fourth of libraries that participated in the survey had received financial support. The financial support received by most libraries did not exceed EUR 5,000 a year. Eighteen percent of respondents in the survey admitted that the libraries they represented had never received support.

PARTNERS' PERSPECTIVES ON LIBRARIES

In July and September 2015 a survey of partners working with libraries that were implementing community projects was performed. The survey aimed to ascertain how library partners evaluated libraries' roles in modern society and what changes they had noticed in libraries' operations. The survey also sought to evaluate libraries' potential and discuss the value of partnership, as well as expectations for shared projects.

In the survey, 91 library partners throughout Lithuania were surveyed.

Most popular activities undertaken by partners:

- Contribute to organisation of library events;
- Organise common events on their own;
- Participate in project activities and other library activities;
- Provide financial support;
- Provide promotional help;
- Share information and ideas;
- Take part in educational activities.

Cooperative experiences:

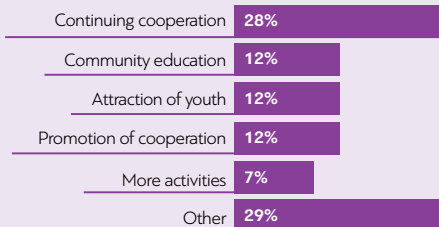
- Not the first time cooperating (77 percent);
- Attracted by the opportunity to organise projects and events together (17 percent);
- Libraries are attractive due to their extensive informational resources (17 percent);
- Libraries provide good information distribution opportunities (14 percent).

The survey showed that the majority of partners believe that libraries are oriented towards older people and not towards youth. Therefore, it is important to create new youth-oriented projects to get younger people more involved in library activities.

Partner opinions on libraries and youth:

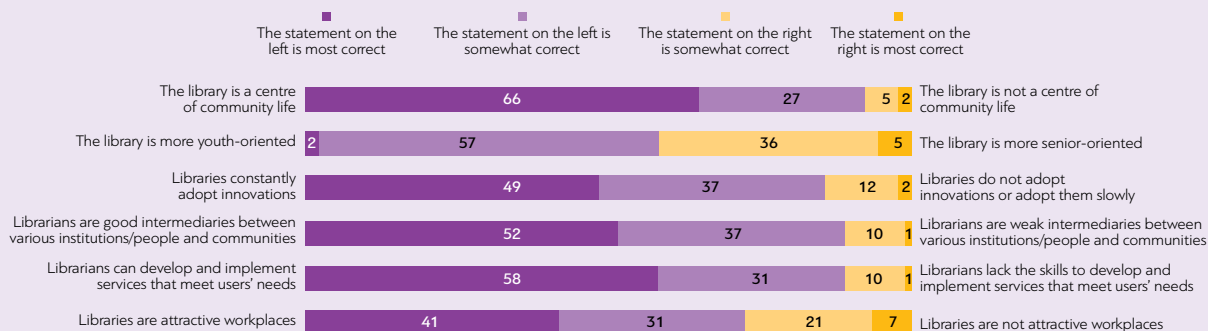
- Libraries are primarily oriented towards young users (only 2 percent);
- We find it useful that libraries organise events and provide activities for youth (9 percent);
- We find it relevant that libraries help young people learn and improve (8 percent).

Partner expectations

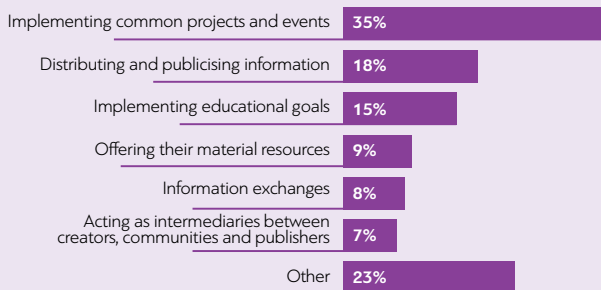


SURVEYS

Statements that best reflect attitudes towards public libraries (%)



Libraries help partners achieve their goals by



* Several choices were allowed, sum exceeds 100 percent

Assessment of library potential



* Several choices were allowed, sum exceeds 100 percent

The survey revealed strong trust in libraries among existing partners and also a weaker trust in the significance of libraries' impact on society. This is shown by a relatively low belief among partners that the country's politicians will understand the importance of libraries.

The survey also revealed that the majority of library partners are from the public sector (educational and cultural institutions, non-governmental organisations), so libraries are encouraged to actively search for partners in the private sector as well.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARIES FOR COMMUNITIES

All of the partners and municipal representatives that participated in the survey agree that libraries have improved significantly over the past 10 years:

- staff skills strengthened;
- staff gained new competencies;
- improved their IT qualifications;
- gained the ability to teach others;
- successfully renewed their infrastructure;
- libraries have become welcoming and convenient community spaces.

Obstacles to library and business partnership:

- Libraries lack initiative, the desire to work together;
- Libraries lack the initiative to form relationships;
- Businesses lack information about cooperative opportunities;
- Businesses lack information about libraries in business publications;
- The lack of a common library website that would present information about all libraries;
- The lack of initiative in publicising local businesses, their work and their initiatives;
- Library working hours that are too short, lack of opportunities to visit libraries in the evening, lack of cooperation with business information centres.

Summarising the surveys carried out in the summer of 2015, it can be seen that libraries are thought of as developmental institutions that provide diverse services for certain community target groups. Library roles are strengthened by event and exhibition organisation, book presentations, informal educational activities, various projects, and meetings with famous public figures and artistic representatives.

The role of libraries in smaller cities is especially meaningful, where libraries are not just reading places and cultural centres, but also spaces for meaningful leisure time, community creativity and the exchange of ideas.

The main challenges that public libraries encounter is a lack of financial resources, high utility costs, building renovation needs, old technology, and inadequate employee salaries.

Libraries for Innovation 2 project plans for 2016

Library projects for communities

After having successfully prepared community-oriented projects in 2015 and received partial financing from Libraries for Innovation 2 and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, 45 public libraries will complete their projects in August of 2016 and will offer city and regional residents new services, innovative free-time activities, and self-improvement and continuing education opportunities.

Library employee training

This year, as in 2015, Lithuania's librarians will actively participate in training activities. User-experience management training is planned, during which participants will learn to identify existing processes, prepare improvement recommendation plans, organise process maps, etc. May will be the third time that impact assessment training and consultation seminars will be held for librarians. In June, library directors will be offered practical activities for strategic preparation.

The second Libraries for Innovation 2 peer-learning meeting is planned for autumn, when library representatives will once again discuss project implementation and other related experiences.

On December 8th, 2016 the project's final conference will be held. At this conference, all of the work completed since December of 2013, when the Libraries for Innovation 2 project began, will be reviewed.



Surveys

In 2016, in an effort to evaluate the results of the Libraries for Innovation 2 project, there are plans to survey librarians, their partners, and people who participate in library-organised events.

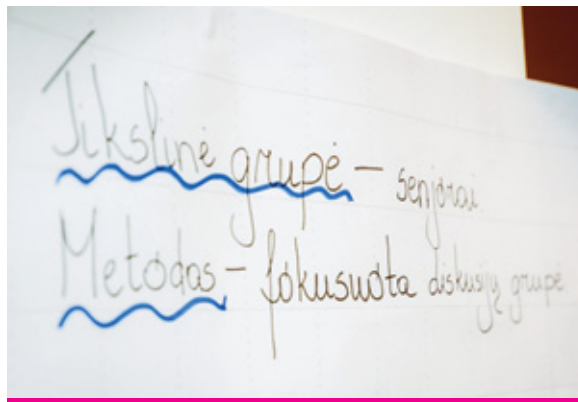
In January 2016 the result map survey for libraries will take place. This survey will assess the results of projects implemented by libraries from 2015 to 2016. The survey will run in two stages – January and September.

In April and May 2016 a library prognosis survey will be held for library directors. The data from the survey will be compared to data from an analogous survey on library prognoses performed in 2014.

In the summer of 2016 a representative survey of Lithuanian residents will be held to determine libraries' roles as institutions. The data will be compared to the results of an analogous survey taken in 2015.

In the summer and autumn of 2016 various surveys (qualitative and quantitative) will be held related to library directors, librarians, library project participants, partners, and other interested individuals.

All 45 of the libraries implementing projects are encouraged to complete impact assessments for their own projects, and as their projects draw to a close, to share the most important results of their impact assessments.



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