LibrarIN

Value Co-Creation and Social Innovation for a New Generation of European Libraries

LibrarIN is a Horizon Europe project aiming to provide new avenues for participatory management and sustainable finance for European libraries as key cultural institutions. The project will examine ways that libraries can develop new functions, services and engagement with the individuals, organisations and communities they serve. This requires social innovation based on public value co-creation and a demand-driven design of library services.

Objectives

LibrarIN will discover, analyse and provide managerial and policy recommendations for transformative strategies that integrate the co-creation of value in public libraries.

- **Provide a comprehensive and holistic theoretical framework**
- **Measure and monitor transformative innovation in public libraries**
- **Focus on three areas of transformation within public service co-creation in libraries**

- **Generate sustainable impact in library policy and practice**
- **Set up an online tracker system for the benchmarking of library value co-creation**
- **Exploit the achievements of LibrarIN through a sustainable research and innovation lighthouse**

Targeted Results

Theoretical framework

New evidence and metrics

Policy Recommendations & Tools

To understand the process of value co-creation in libraries' service delivery, developing and operationalising existing approaches on knowledge creation, service delivery, and social innovation.

For library transformation and existing or ongoing efforts to develop innovative public services in ways that enable the co-creation of value.

For implementing new ideas and scaling up best-practices that use value-co-creation to unlock social assets, including indicators for monitoring and evaluating existing initiatives.

Expected Impact

LibrarIN aims to **modernise libraries.** It will deliver **sustainable and measurable results** that will push the boundaries of current scientific knowledge and policy practices. The result? Libraries can "re-position" themselves at the **core of cultural and socioeconomic activity** in the neighbourhoods, cities and regions where they operate. The project will have both scientific and policy-related impacts.

Scientific impact

- Establish the foundations of a new, comprehensive and holistic paradigm for understanding the transformation of libraries. This will be viewed from a co-creation perspective that integrates public service logic (PSL) in a new model of public governance (NPG) and multi-agent frameworks.
- Enrich theories of innovation in services in general, considering the library services and demand and user-driven innovation that underlie demand driven innovation policies.
- Provide new metrics and empirical evidence for value co-creation in public administration through the LibrarIN survey on transformative innovation in libraries. Implications for further innovation surveys and an impact on future OECD work on public sector innovation can also be expected.

Policy impact

- Support library transformation through incentives that will help overcome cultural resistance to innovation and change.
- Encourage broader adoption of co-creation practices to enable cost savings, better services, increased public trust and innovation.
- Ensure that the research findings will reach policymakers and practitioners at different institutional levels throughout Europe.
- Enhance thought leadership, by translating the project's findings into actionable policy recommendations that will reach policymakers and practitioners at different institutional levels throughout Europe.
- Deliver a data-driven tracking system for allowing immediate comparison and benchmarking of the extent to which libraries are implementing collaborative initiatives in line with recommendations.
- Build the foundation for a sustainable research and innovation lighthouse, that will sustain on the achievements of the project in the years to come.

The Team

The LibrarIN consortium is composed of ten European partners from nine different countries (Greece, Spain, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Finland and Austria). There are five universities (UAH, ULILLE, UKON, UM, RUC), two research centres (VTT, AIT), one think tank (LC), one library federation (LIBER) and one SME ICT company (ATC).

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