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Citizen-enhanced Open
Science

Southeastern Europe

**Upscaling collaboration
between academic and public
libraries for CeOS in SE Europe**

Extended summary - Dutch



Erasmus+

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Study summary

The study was carried out in the context of the Erasmus+ project *Citizen-Enhanced Open Science in South-Eastern Europe Higher Education Knowledge Hubs (CeOS_SE)*. It is part of the second work package (PR2), *Report on implementation of citizen-enhanced open science (CeOS) in various open knowledge hubs in SE Europe*.

Collaboration is the main theme of PR2, which was led by the National and University Library in Zagreb (NSK). PR2 consists of three activities:

- PR2A1. *Collection of practices of university and public libraries' collaboration in SE Europe to mainstream CeOS*
- PR2A2. *A report on co-created Citizen Science activities (CSA) by university and public libraries and application to SE Europe*
- PR2A3. *Study: Upscaling collaboration between academic and public libraries for CeOS in SE Europe*

The study is divided into two parts. The first part refers to the implementation of the PR2A1 package, which investigated examples of good practice in the implementation of Citizen Science Activities (CSAs) in cooperation with university libraries and public libraries, independent of the CeOS_SE project. Eight examples of good practice of cooperation between university libraries and public libraries in the organisation of CSA were identified.

The second part refers to the presentation of CSA carried out by the project partners with a detailed analysis, emphasising advantages and disadvantages in creating CSA with public libraries. The study presents the objectives of the activity, activity context, library staff organisational skills, CSA promotion, collaboration between university and public libraries and participant evaluations.

This study aims to show that there are multiple benefits in the organisation of CSA between university libraries and public libraries, and it can serve as an inspiration to other libraries around the world to organise similar events.

In a survey conducted within PR2A1, eight examples of CSA were identified. Within PR2A2, CSAs were organised by project partners between April and October 2022. These activities were presented and analysed in detail.

Three recommendations have emerged from the study:

1. STRATEGY – citizen science and CSAs should become a regular part of library work, as the goal of citizen science is similar to the roles and functions of public libraries;

2. **ADVOCACY** – to include CSAs in regular library work and to budget those activities, it is necessary to advocate the importance of citizen science to all stakeholders;

3. **MAPPING OF SKILLS** – Since organising CSAs requires several partners, it is necessary to map the skills of every partner to better understand the role of individual partners.

Although the primary audience of this study is the project partners, it is also intended for experts from all types of libraries with an emphasis on university libraries and public libraries, as well as the interested public.