

Reimagine Libraries Roundtable

Sparking Collaboration for Innovation to Tackle Libraries' 21st Century Challenges

Libraries are much more than book archives, they are cultural institutions that play a key-role in social inclusion and cohesion. They create a sense of belonging, build shared identities, promote cultural awareness and historical reflection, improving people's well-being and contributing to sustainable development and growth at all levels. Libraries as public services are facing European challenges of the 21st century. Many of these challenges are shared with museums, galleries and other cultural institutions, as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and library associations like the Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER) have declared recently.

Libraries are tasked to deliver high-quality public services and improved capacity to help deal with societal challenges, such as the ones foreseen in the New European Bauhaus, EU Green Deal and United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development initiatives. In the case of libraries, these challenges are met with an increasing demand for innovation, as reflected in the current discourse between what citizens demand and the responses offered by these institutions.

' Oftentimes, designing public library services following the internal logic of government or library managers—based on top-down policy assessments—do not meet the changing needs of citizens anymore' (Co-VAL, 2021).

Social innovation in public libraries and citizen participation in the future of libraries are increasingly important trends. But when do libraries make the strategic choice for collaboration to innovate? Should libraries seek collaboration with overarching organisations or foster participatory activities engaging individual library users? Do existing collaboration strategies really address the variety of services offered by libraries today?

Addressing these questions, the LibrarIN consortium invites innovators in libraries, policymakers and practitioners to reimagine libraries at this online policy roundtable discussing collaboration for innovation to tackle libraries' 21st century challenges.

Practical information

Date: 16 October 2024

Time: 11h00-12h30 CEST

Online: [register here](#)

Programme

11h00- 11h05	Welcome	Marieke Willems, senior research associate and project manager at the Lisbon Council
11h05-11h10	LibrarIN in a nutshell	Anna Triantafillou, LibrarIN coordinator and head innovation lab at Athens Technology Center
11h10-11h20	Reimagine Libraries. Sparking Collaboration for Innovation to Tackle Libraries' 21st Century Challenges.	Luis Rubalcaba, professor of economic policy and director of the research group Inseras, services for society at the University of Alcalá
11h20-12h30	Reimagine Libraries Policy Roundtable. Discussion structured around 4 policy focus areas.	<p>Speakers</p> <p>Luis Rubalcaba, professor of economic policy and Director of the research group Inseras at the University of Alcalá</p> <p>Ilona Kish, director Public Libraries 2030</p> <p>Catarina Vaz Pinto, arts and culture consultant and former Deputy Mayor for Culture in Lisbon</p> <p>Giuliana de Francesco - policy officer at European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)</p> <p>Robert Seitovirta, head of unit Media Culture at Oodi Helsinki Central Library</p> <p>Katrīna Kukaine, director of development department at the National Library of Latvia</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Marieke Willems, senior research associate and project manager at the Lisbon Council</p>

LibrarIN is a 10-partner consortium financed by the European Union. Its mission is to propose new avenues for participatory management for a new generation of European libraries as key cultural institutions. LibrarIN is funded by the European Union under grant agreement ID 101061516. The information and views set out in this publication are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. For more information visit <https://librarin.eu>