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The Europe Challenge (2023)
113 The Europe Challenge 2023

Become your favourite character

YMmnavpE

Applicant details

Country of Residency   Slovakia

Date of Birth   1989-07-21

Application details

I confirm that I meet the Eligibility
Criteria for this grant.   ✓

Applicant information (library)
Please provide the contact details of the person who will participate in the learning programme, representing the library.

| Library name: | Krajská knižnica v Žiline (Regional library in Žilina) |

| Library website: | ☑ https://www.krajskakniznicazilina.sk/ |

Library social media link/s:

https://www.facebook.com/krajskakniznicazilina/

Contact Details - Library
Please provide the contact details of the person who will participate in the learning programme, representing the library.

| Name: | Anna Berthotyová |

| Title/role within the organisation: | Project manager |

| Country of Residence: | Slovakia |

| Address: | Antona Bernoláka 3481/47 |

| Email: | berthotyova@krajskakniznicazilina.sk |

| Phone Number: | +421417232745 |

Applicant information (community group)

| Community group name: | OZ Brána poznania (The gate of the knowledge) |

| Community group website: | ☑ https://www.krajskakniznicazilina.sk/index.php/o-kniznici/oz-poznania/ |

| Community group social media link/s: | ☑ https://www.instagram.com/kniznicazilina/ |

Contact Details - Community Group
Please provide the contact details of the person who will participate in the learning programme, representing the community group.

| Name: | Michal Vaclavik |

| Title/role within the organisation: | Krajská knižnica v Žiline |

| Country of Residence: | Slovakia |

| Address: | Antona Bernoláka 3481/47 |

| Email: | ucitel.michal.vaclavik@gmail.com |

| Phone Number: | +421417233090 |

Please refer to the selection citeria (Local Relevance; Creativity; Inclusivity; Scalability; Sustainability; European values; Impact) as described in the call when answering these questions.

1. LOCAL RELEVANCE

A. Describe the local context in which you operate and the relationship between your library and your community group. Have you worked together before or is this your first collaboration? Please mention any other local institutions that will be involved in the delivery of your challenge work. (Max. 1000 characters with spaces.)

Zilina is a regional capital and has almost 100.000 inhabitants. Regional Library in Zilina is one of the most visited cultural institutions in the region and also serves as a community centre. The library hosted almost 800 events in the year 2022 and had 130.000 visitors. We serve all the age groups, mainly children and their parents, students, unemployed and employed adults and senior citizens. In the recent years various clubs found their place in the library, mainly Creative club, Club of handicrafts, Club of Anime and Club of fantasy literature. The Gate of the knowledge is a community group that supports some of the activities in the library and it has done so from its inception. We would like to work also with Club of patchwork in Zilina and Krojovna which have experience with sewing and creating clothes.

B. What is the challenge you want to solve? Why is it urgent to solve this challenge in your local community? (Max. 1000 characters with spaces.)

We feel that in the post-pandemic society adults have increasingly more difficulty to find new communities and establish new relationships or friendships. This results in growing feeling of loneliness and a sense of disconnect. Loneliness has such far-reaching consequences that the health impact is comparable to smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day, according to one study published in the journal PLOS Medicine.
Also, we see a rising interest in various creative techniques as a response to the majority of time spent in the digital world. A lot of people in Zilina work in the IT sector, due to a popular programming department in the University of Zilina. We see these crafts as something that can bring people together and we would like to make use of this newfound interests.
If people want to dress up for a party or a masquerade ball they usually buy unsustainable single-use costumes. These costumes then end up in landfills and the microplastics pollute the water nearby.

C. Which of these areas do you think your challenge proposal is most connected to?
Please select an answer:

Circular economy and environmental wellbeing

2. CREATIVITY

A. What ideas and/or activities have you come up with to address this challenge? How will your library and community work together to deliver your solution? (Max. 1500 characters with spaces.)

We would like to establish a place where people could come and borrow a costume for a party, wedding or any other occasion. The library would provide the necessary infrastructure for making the process easy and smooth.
The Costume shop will be supplied by the Costume club. The Costume club will meet twice a month to make different parts of costumes - sew a skirt, make a helmet, design and 3D print an accessory. The Costume club will provide materials and skilled lecturers to guide the attendees. These will gain the skills to make their own costumes - designing, sewing and operating the machines. The costumes made in the club will be available for the public to borrow for a small fee (1-2€) that will serve for the upkeep of the costumes.
The library can also use the costumes for its own events - storytime, night with Andersen, Book fairies, etc. We can also organize costume parties for children or adults.
Further in the future we could organize a mini library-con where people could dress up as their favourite character and we would invite some local authors for a book talk.

3. INCLUSIVITY

**A. What type of library are you?
Please tick all that apply.**

✓ Public

B. Who are the people who will benefit from the proposed challenge work? Please tick all that apply.

- ✓ Children (under 12)
- ✓ Youth (12+)
- ✓ Women
- ✓ Ethnic minorities
- ✓ Elderly
- ✓ People experiencing loneliness, social isolation and/or mental health issues
- ✓ Low income earners

C. Please describe the ways in which they will benefit from the proposed challenge work. (Max. 1000 characters with spaces.)

Children and the low income earners will benefit from the possibility to lend a costume for a low price instead of buying new ones. Women can share their knowledge of the handicraft and gain knowledge about new technologies like 3D printing and design. This is also a benefit for the youth and elderly who can also bridge the intergenerational gap when meeting in the Costume club. The Costume club can be a safe place for people experiencing loneliness where they can meet new people while having some activity to focus on instead of their social anxiety. We would like to invite members of some ethnic minorities who could teach us about their traditional costumes. Thus they can talk about their heritage teaching the majority about the beauty of meeting diversity.

4. SCALABILITY

A. Is your proposed solution transferable, i.e. could it be put into action in other parts of Europe facing the same challenge? If so, how and why? (Max. 1000 characters with spaces.)

European population suffers from aging and loneliness. Creating small clubs can facilitate building of friendships, bridging the age gap and creating intragenerational dialogue. Handicraft is something that the older population knows and can teach the young who have found new interest in this hobby.
A costume shop can be set up in any library where there is a demand. Every library can prepare programs that make use of the costumes and each country can focus on their traditional clothes or costumes emulating their national fictional characters. This way they can make their costume shop fit their needs.

5. EUROPEAN VALUES

A. Why do you want to participate in the Europe Challenge? What do you want to learn from other communities in Europe? (Max. 1000 characters with spaces.)

We would like to see how other public libraries deal with small communities in their area and what other services can library offer to help people or to bring the community together. What is the main thing that brings people to libraries nowadays and how do libraries connect these new services with their traditional roles. We would like to learn how to spark interest in culture and literature, focusing not only on the national but learning what do we share with other European countries.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

A. How will you ensure that the challenge work you are proposing is delivered in a sustainable manner? (Max. 1000 characters with spaces.)

The Costume shop will continue in operation serving the community in Žilina also after the funding ends. We will continue to ask for funding from local grants to provide materials for the Costume club to make new additions to the collection and use the small fee for borrowing the costumes for the upkeep of the collection. People can work on the costumes for free as volunteers and using the library premises is also free for the public.

7. IMPACT

A. How many people will directly benefit from your proposed challenge work? (Please insert a number.)

150

B. What is the impact that you are hoping to achieve for local people or the environment with your proposed challenge work? How are you hoping this will change the role your library plays within the local community? (Max. 1500 characters with spaces.)

We would like to change people's minds from single-use buying to sharing within the community. That in itself will have a positive impact on the environment. By learning to sew people will also have the ability to mend or alter their clothes which also leads to less clothes getting thrown away.
The Costume club will create a new space for people to connect and build friendships. We also hope to help bridge the intergenerational gap. Members of the club can also develop their skills.
The Costume shop will serve all the citizens of Žilina who can come and borrow a costume for their own use.
We hope that these new activities will bring new visitors to the library who can then explore all the different services the library provides. By this we hope to strengthen the role of the library as a community centre and educational hub. We hope to also support the cultural and entertainment climate in Zilina by easier access to costumes for the masquerade balls.

8. What type of programme support are you applying for?
Please select an answer:

Option 2 - Participation in workshops & mentoring sessions (online/in-person) AND funding to support our challenge work.

8a. If your application is successful, which applicant (library or community group) should receive the grant ("be the main partner")? This is normally the library, but if this is not feasible, the community group can be designated as the main partner.

Library

8b. Please elaborate why the funding is necessary and how you intend to distribute the funding between library and community. (Max. 1000 characters with spaces.)

The library possesses two sewing machines and two 3D printers. If we want to set up the Costume club we need more sewing machines and materials to create the costumes. A laser cutter will help us cut the more intricate designs.
We want to ask some expert lecturers to share their knowledge of the more difficult traditional techniques.
We understand the need to communicate the project with the public and we would like to support it with press releases and posters in the city which seem to have most effect in our community.
The Costume shop has to be furnished with hangers and storage boxes to properly store the costumes. We would also like to be able to wash the costumes ourselves which requires a washing machine.
The library will receive the whole sum of the funding and will be responsible to buy all the materials and contracting the lecturers. The materials will then be freely available for the community to use. The library is also responsible for communicating the project.

9. Budget

a. What is the total cost of your proposed challenge work?

10000

b. How much funding are you applying for from the Europe Challenge? (Please insert 0 if you are not applying for funding.)	10000	

Please fill out the expenditure and financing budget tables below. Please insert short notes around the costs and financing.

Expenditure Table:

	Costs	EUR	Note - Explanation of costs
1	Production (staff)	1000	Contracting expert lecturers for the Costume club
2	Communication	1000	Informing the public about the Costume club and Costume shop
3	Volunteers (insurance, travel costs, honoraria)	0	
4	Purchase of materials	8000	Sewing machines (5), materials for creating different parts of the costumes, hangers, storage boxes, washing machine (1), laser cutter (1)
5	Total costs	10000	

Financing Table:

	Financing	EUR	Note - explanation of financing (e.g. names of other funders, cash or in-kind contribution, pending or confirmed).
1	Own resources (cash or in-kind)	0	in the form of the work of library employees in the preparation and realization of activities, the use of technology, spaces for activities, project management, transport costs, and others.
2	Other funding sources (cash or in-kind)	0	

| 3 | Europe Challenge funding (please insert 0 if you are not applying for funding) | 10000 |
| 4 | Total financing | 10000 |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

10. Where did you hear about the Europe Challenge call?
Please select an answer:

Word of mouth

11. Have you ever come across/applied to/worked with the European Cultural Foundation?

NO, I never heard of the ECF

Log in to theeuropechallenge.grantplatform.com to see complete application attachments.