

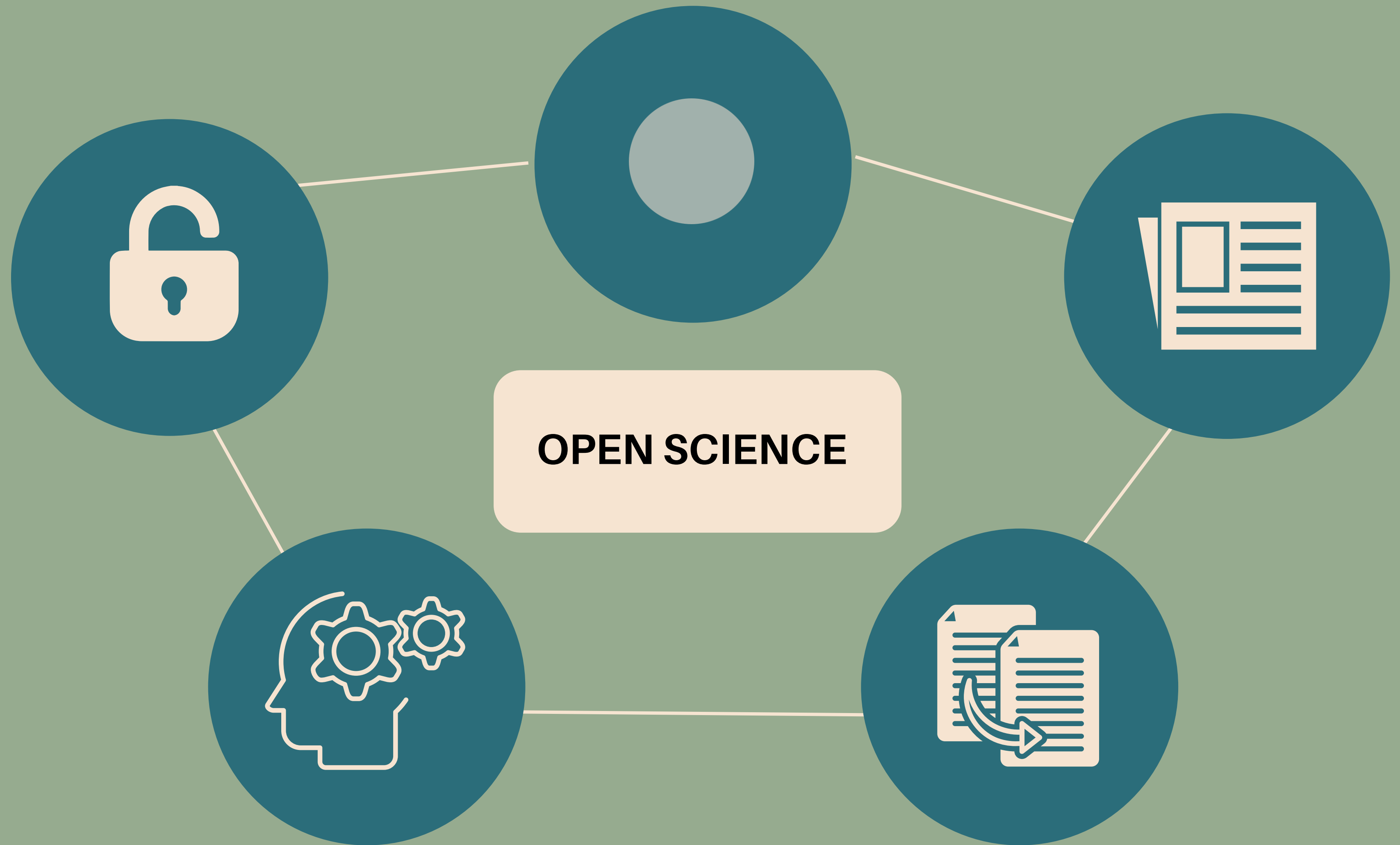


What, why and how?

## Citizen Science in Libraries with Special Emphasis on Collaboration between Academic and Public Libraries

Alisa Martek and Dolores Mumelaš  
National and University Library in Zagreb

Library, the Heart of the City: Citizen Science  
Ljubljana City Library  
24 May 2023



# CITIZEN SCIENCE IN LIBRARIES - HOW TO DO IT?

## TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

- a) libraries as main organizers
- b) libraries as collaborators

## FORM OF ORGANIZATION

- a) physical
- b) virtual
- c) combination of both

## PROJECT DURATION

depends on the project's scope and complexity

## PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

- a) citizen scientists
- b) professional scientist

## LEVEL OF ORGANIZATION

- a) local
- b) national
- c) global

**FIELD OF SCIENCE**  
It can cover all fields of science



## CITIZEN SCIENCE IN LIBRARIES - WHY DO IT?



Attract new  
users



Enrich  
their collections



Make their  
collections  
more  
accessible and visible



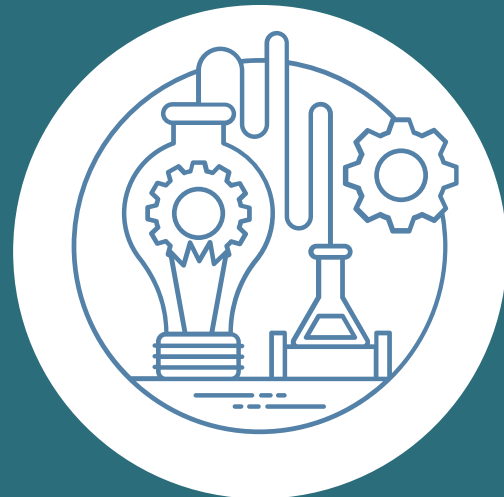
Develop  
new partnerships



Improve the  
perception  
of the library's  
social value



Develop  
new  
competencies



Popularize  
science



Improve  
scientific  
communication



Increase social  
cohesion



Get involved  
in pressing social  
and scientific  
issues

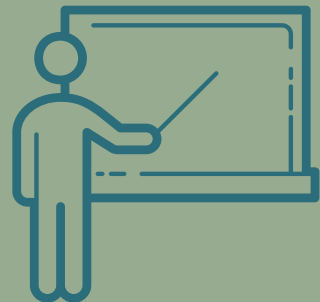
# CITIZEN SCIENCE IN LIBRARIES - WHAT TO DO?



provide space



provide printed and digital collections



educate the participants

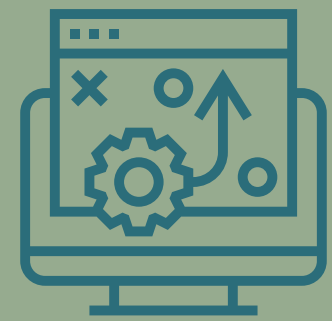


promote the ideas and projects for citizen science

## CITIZEN SCIENCE IN LIBRARIES - WHAT TO DO?



design portal for citizen science



develop new tools and applications that support citizen science



use already developed tools

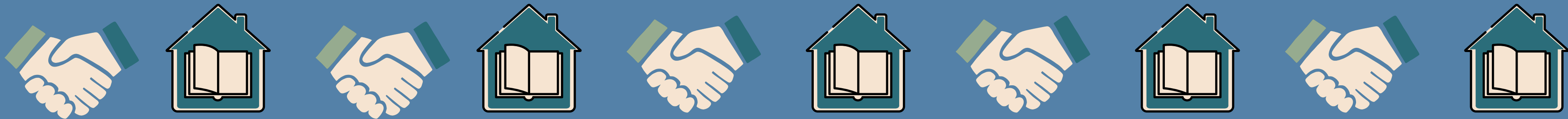


join existing projects through online citizen science platforms

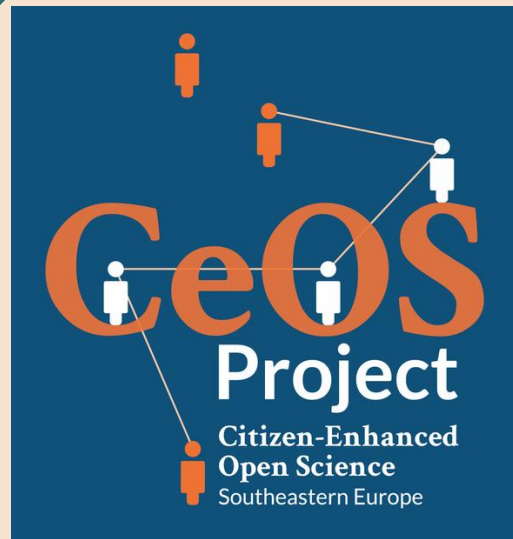
## COLLABORATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT LIBRARY TYPES

Collaboration between different types of libraries can lead to a more effective and engaging citizen science program, benefiting both the libraries and the communities they serve.

- **diverse expertise**
- **increased access to resources**
- **engaging a wider audience**
- **shared costs**



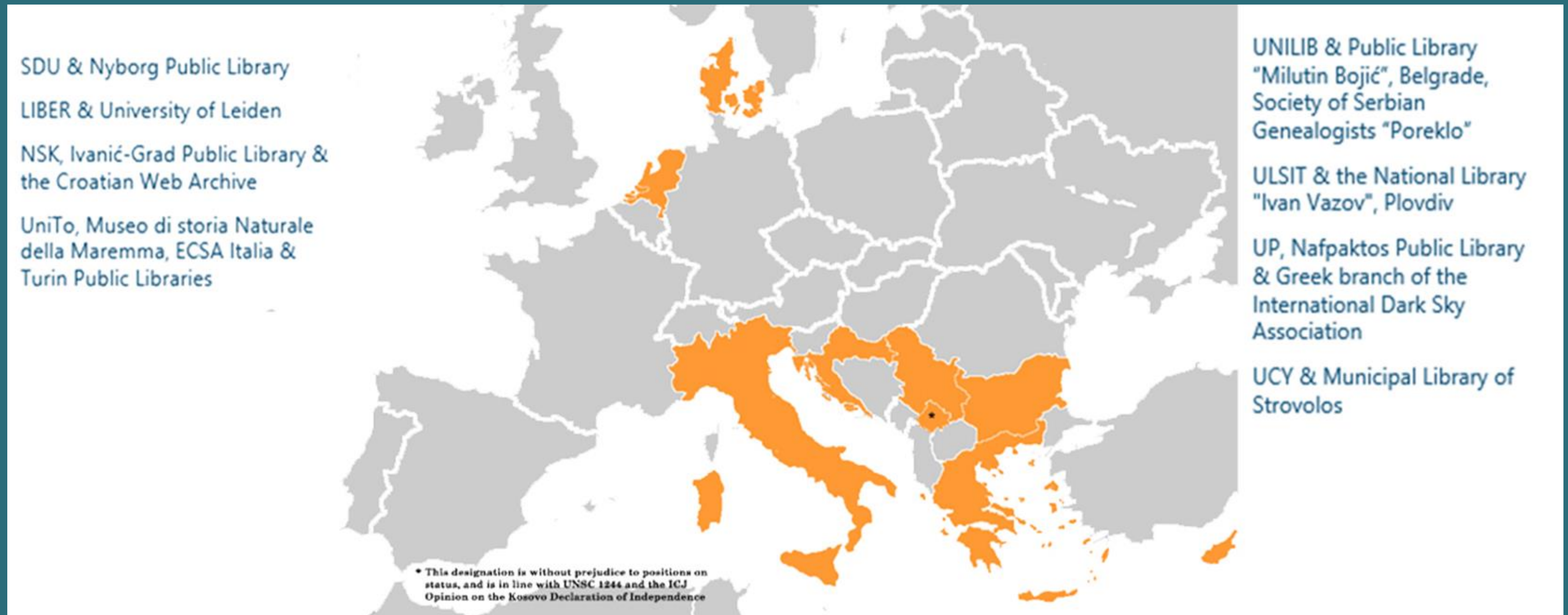
# CeOS\_SE project



- 1 Jan 2022 – 1 Jan 2025
- Project led by LIBER with partners in 7 countries
- GOAL: to raise awareness of mainstream Open Science and Citizen Science practices in SE European countries
- specifically in countries that have been seen to perform less well in OS or CS, or where there is limited awareness of or involvement in major developments related to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)
- <https://ceosse-project.eu/>



PR2: Report on implementation of citizen-enhanced open science in various open knowledge hubs in SE Europe



## STUDY ON COLLABORATION

Deliverable:

*Study Upscaling collaboration between academic and public libraries for CEOS in SE Europe,*  
195 pages

Two parts - analyzed:

- Results from survey

### **2. Results from conducted Citizen Science Activities**

investigating the possibilities for the organisation of Citizen Science in cooperation with academic and public libraries in SE Europe.



# LOCATION

LOCATION	LIBRARIES
ONLINE	2
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY	3
PUBLIC LIBRARY	3
OUTDOORS	0
IN ANOTHER EXTERNAL INSTITUTION	0
OTHER LOCATION	0



## FIELD OF SCIENCE

FIELD OF SCIENCE	LIBRARIES
NATURAL SCIENCES	3
ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY	1
MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES	1
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES	2
SOCIAL SCIENCES	4
HUMANITIES	2



# TARGET GROUP

TARGET GROUP	LIBRARIES
ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS	3
ALL LIBRARY USERS	3
SCIENTISTS	2
TEACHING STAFF	4
STUDENTS	4
CHILDREN	1
THE ELDERLY	1
OTHER	2



## LIBRARY STAFF SKILLS

LIBRARY STAFF SKILLS	RATINGS				
BEFORE CSA	1	2	3	4	5
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	0	0	2	3	2
ICT SKILLS	0	0	2	3	2
TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION SKILLS	0	0	2	4	1
MANAGERIAL SKILLS	0	2	2	3	0
ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS	0	0	4	2	1
AFTER CSA	1	2	3	4	5
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	0	0	0	4	3
ICT SKILLS	0	0	2	2	3
TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION SKILLS	0	0	2	2	3
MANAGERIAL SKILLS	0	0	3	2	2
ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS	0	0	2	2	3



## CITIZEN SCIENCE ACTIVITY COLLABORATION RATINGS

LIST OF STATEMENTS	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My library easily chose the public library to co-organise the CSA	5	2		
The aims of the collaboration were clear	4	3		
The collaboration met our strategic priorities	6	1		
It was easy to run and manage collaborative CSA	4	2	1	
All sides put in equal effort	4	1	2	
The public library staff demonstrated skills and knowledge in creating CSA	3	3	1	
The library staff of my library acquired new skills thanks to the staff of the public library	2	2	3	
We plan to organise more CSA in the future in collaboration with public library	5	2		





## THE RATINGS OF COLLABORATION BARRIERS

LIST OF STATEMENTS	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
lack of resources (staff, time, etc.)	1	5	1	
lack of experience in co-organising events		2	3	2
different work culture in higher education and public libraries		4	2	1
administrative barriers	1	1	4	1
financial barriers	1	3	3	
insufficient technical equipment		1	5	1
geographical distance of libraries		2	3	2
lack of knowledge about citizen science		5	2	





## THE RATINGS OF COLLABORATION BENEFITS

LIST OF STATEMENTS	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
It had positive outcomes for the local population	4	2	1	
It had positive outcomes for the scientific population	3	4		
It had positive outcomes for my library	5	2		
It helped library staff with knowledge transform	5	1	1	
It made libraries more visible to public	5	2		
It helped with improving existing library services	4	2	1	
It has created strong business ties	3	2	2	



## CONCLUSION

1. University libraries **CAN** organise Citizen Science in cooperation with public libraries, regardless of whether they are located in stronger or less developed countries in Europe.
2. Public libraries can help organisationally in **several ways**: by offering their own space, attracting users, promoting the Citizen Science to the local community in which they operate, offering collections, offering staff...
3. In addition to being able to collaborate with public libraries, university libraries can include **other external partners** in the implementation of Citizen Science.

## CONCLUSION

4. The CSA must be designed in such a way that it is **comprehensible to citizens** and that they can easily participate in it.
5. It is important to **transfer knowledge** about the importance of Citizen Science not only to citizens but also to **professionals**, with an emphasis on **librarians**.
6. **Enthusiasm** is more necessary than finances to conduct a Citizen Science.
7. The key to a successful Citizen Science is **collegiality**.

# THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!

Alisa Martek    [amartek@nsk.hr](mailto:amartek@nsk.hr)  
Dolores Mumelaš    [dmumelas@nsk.hr](mailto:dmumelas@nsk.hr)

National and University Library in Zagreb