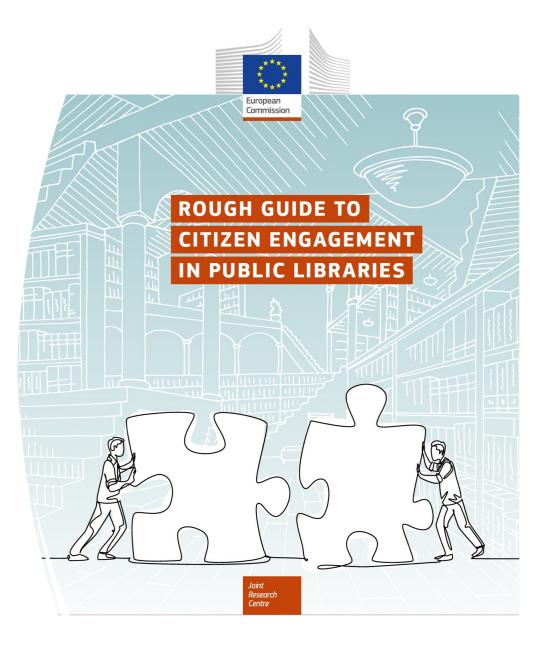
NEXT library 2023

New ways of democracy: citizen engagement in public libraries

Lisbon Libraries Network PL2030 Joint Research Centre



## Approach

Can public libraries' social infrastructure contribute to the making of more inclusive and effective policies?

Different languages

**Unexpected** conversations

Is this meaningful to me as an individual and to us as a collective? Do I understand the purpose? Does the process actually allow a conversation to happen?

Invited / univited forms of public participation **'Insurgente citizenship**': narratives that challenge conventional thinking

Policy issues reflexion and deliberation - leading to action

## Case studies

Inspirations from the PL2030 lighthouse libraries' network

- De Krook Library, Ghent, Belgium: The Comon project
- Aarhus, Denmark: Make their voices heard in a climate citizens' assembly
- Multiplo, Cavriago, Italy: co-producing the library's strategic plan for 2030
- Lisbon, Portugal: A green library is growing in the city
- Novi Sad, Serbia: Creating new spaces of dialogues
- Valongo, Portugal: Building *biotecas* in green spaces
- Democracy at the library in Finland: a project by Sitra

## Conclusions

Challenges arising from citizen involvement in public libraries are:

- Defining the meaning of community.
- Map communities accurately and respectfully, avoiding prejudice.
- Check whether the parties stakeholders are honestly committed to participate in decision-making (including marginalized populations and minorities).
- Silence does not mean agreement.
- Participation is not an authoritarian process, so conflict and disagreement are indicators of transparency and honesty.

## Rough guide download



Rough Guide to Citizen Engagement in Public Libraries (5.39 MB - PDF)

