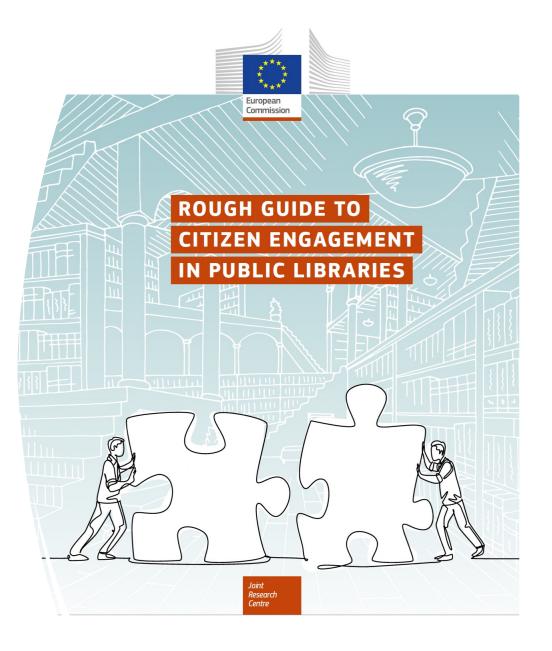
NEXT library 2023

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)

