

## Partner search from Central Denmark

<b>(Preliminary) Title of the project</b>	Pillars of Democracy
<b>Outline of the project idea.</b>	<p>Living democracy requires active civil participation: competent, aware and dedicated citizens; citizens, who are able to understand and operate in the society, they are a part of; citizens, who actively involve themselves in rethinking the comprising solutions and thereby create a wide foundation for development of a society.</p> <p>Democracy is challenged not only in Denmark, but in the whole EU, amongst other reasons, because the economy is under pressure and new digital platforms demands digital understanding and ability and determination to learn.</p> <p>The library has an extended tradition as a central institution, which supports active social participation, because the library brings knowledge, enlightenment and debate into the open and popular area. But this traditional role requires renewal and rethinking to make relevance to the modern society, and here empowerment is a key concept.</p> <p>Therefore the aim of the project is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To create forums for citizens to rethink the social conditions.</li> <li>- To create a living environment for debate, dialog and learning</li> <li>- Development of methods and testing programs for massive support of citizens' education and digital understanding</li> <li>- Rethinking and revitalizing of the role of the library as an institution for democracy and education</li> </ul> <p>Target group of the project is the youth in the age of 17-25 years old. It is especially relevant to work with this target group. On one hand because they are the citizens of both the present and the future - and they are the ones who can carry on with traditions of active civil participation. On the other hand because we see a special challenge now in how youth gets involved in democracy in other ways than those we have traditionally seen. They do not enter political organizations and their participation in elections is low. They are committed to single cases and global questions instead. Traditional society institutions such as libraries should therefore convert their role in work with the democratic basis to support and challenge the ways the young people engage in democracy.</p>
<b>Programme and call</b>	<p>Primarily we are looking for partners in Eastern Europe or Baltic countries to exchange experiences.</p> <p>As a part of the project, we are planning to apply for the programme "Youth" part of the Erasmus+ programme and perhaps "Europe for</p>

	citizens”.
<b>Deadline for call</b>	n/a
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Herning Libraries
<b>Partners already involved</b>	18 libraries in the central region of Jutland are involved.
<b>Describe the kind of partners you are looking for and their expected role in the project</b>	<p>We would like to get in contact with other institutions in Europe, which have the same challenges with project “youth participation in democracy” as us, that is - institutions we can learn together with. It could be libraries, but not necessarily. Secondly we would like to get in contact with institutions, which have worked with youth and democracy - that is, institutions, we can learn from. This could be institutions in the “new democracies” in Eastern Europe or Baltic countries, because we assume that institutions in these countries have been more consciously working on strengthening of democratic involvement.</p> <p>We are not looking for project partners in the understanding that we have project funds to organize their participation. We are looking for partners who stand in front of a similar project and would like to exchange experience with us. And as mentioned above, we are looking for partners who already have knowledge in the field “Youth and democracy”; partners who we could make a study visit to or could participate in workshops, conferences etc.</p>
<b>Foreseen project duration</b>	Project is scheduled to start in the third quarter of 2014 and continue until 2017 (inclusive).
<b>Contact information</b>	<p>Sara Jorgensen  Head of development, Herning Libraries  Mobile: +4524842177  Mail: bibsaj@herning.dk</p>
<b>Deadline for expression of interest</b>	December the 15th - preferrably as soon as possible.