**STUDENT SHOWCASE PROPOSAL**

**THE LIBRARY AS A CIVIL- PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP MODEL**

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# Introduction

The purpose of our research aims to introduce and examine potentials of civic-public partnership within the context of public library activities, so as to pay more attention to the processes of participatory, and democratic deliberation of its members. Since various activities of civil society organizations intersect with scopes of public library advocating for a new collaborative model of partnership needs to be discussed, yet researched.

# Theoretical framework

The public sphere in libraries implies a place of encounter where interaction among citizens of a democratic society is possible. This is particularly important for communities with a scarce amount of meeting places. Libraries are sometimes referred to as *the community's living room'* (IFLA/UNESCO 2009, 17). The development and raising awareness of the need for a constant exchange of opinion within the public library space strengths the civil community of a democratic society. Civic-public partnership represents a joint action of the public and the civil sector, a collaborative co-operation and communication, serving the purpose of establishing a better, a more meaningful, and a potentially more complete use of public space (Mišković, Vidović and Žuvela 2015, 62).

# Research questions

1. Are the models of a civil-public partnership recognized among librarians in public libraries and civil society organizations in our case?
2. What are the models of a civil-public partnership between libraries and civil society organizations in our case?
3. What are the challenges and benefits for civic-public partnership between the public library and civil society organizations?
4. Where lies the potential of these two public libraries in the functioning of projects according to the model of a civil-public partnership?

# Methodology

Through interviews with employees and users of public libraries in Sarajevo and Zenica, as well as memebers of the Nautilus Youth Association, we will attempt to explore whether public society organizations, as well as libraries, recognize the model of civil-public partnership as a potential collaborative action.

Interview protocol

1. Have you ever, either in practice or in theory, encounter the phrase of a civic-public partnership?
2. How do you understand the model of a civil-public partnership within the context of a policy of cooperation?
3. Under which conditions this form of collaboration would be acceptable ?
4. Where do you see the potential of public libraries in the functioning of projects according to the model of a civil-public partnership?
5. Where do you recognize the interests of non-government organizations in the collaboration with librarians in the public space?

# Research Results

# The Public Library in Zenica willl attempt to establish a civil-public partnership in the future. On the other side, different departments of Sarajevo's libraries came across a civil-public partnership implementation, where some kinds of collaborative management were present, but the full potential of a civil-public partnership had not been reached because it included only the use of space. Non-government organizations usually lack the space for hosting some of their activities, while it is necessary for public libraries to have a constant influx of new members and the inclusion of innovative programmes in order to function properly. However, it is important to note that, besides the space, the library can also offer other tipes of potential, for example, its staff who with all their competences fit into the assumed programme and their inclusion is the biggest challenge of establishing this partnership.

# Conclusion

Nancy Kranich (2012) speaks of public library engagement in the civil society where she states: 'Numerous national and community-based organizations look to public libraries as partners in civic activities (83)**.**The workshops, which were designed and realized together with civil society organizations, were held in the library's public space, are only bacis condition of the well-functioning social community which does not stop striving for democratization processes. It is of the utmost importance to mention the exact thing that Kranich (2005) wanted to stress in her work entitled *Civic Parnerships*: *The Role of Libraries in Promoting Civic Engagement:* 'If libraries are to fulfill their civic mission in the information age, they must find active ways to engage citizens in order to encourage their involvement in democratic discourse and community renewal. (Kranich, 2005, 16) Although there is a certain form of civil-public partnership in our example, public good management models do not ensure equal citizen inclusion in the decision-making processes for program activities in the public library which is crucial for esteminating democratic society.

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