

## **Collected data & conclusion (Co-Creation team)**

**The goal:** Find out what librarians in different countries would want from a book censorship seminar, what they already know and don't know, what experience they have with book censorship, their feelings about the topic.

Respondents were from Estonia (1), Holland (1), Moldova (4), USA (1) and Romania (26)

**Important note!** With Romania and Moldova some questions were lost in translation or difficult to translate word-for-word. The symbol “-” means that a country didn't give an answer to that question or didn't have any comments about it. The number next to the answers indicates the number of people that answered that way.

### **Answers to the questionnaire:**

#### **1. How much do you come in contact with censored books in your job?**

Holland: not at all

Moldova: not at all

Estonia: not at all

Romania: not often (15), not at all (7), often (2)

USA: not often

#### **2. What would you like to know more about censorship?**

Holland: the process of censoring a book, the process behind it

Moldova: forms of censorship, how censorship works in different countries, specific censored books

Estonia: who does the censoring, what are the arguments/reasons for censoring

Romania: -

USA: forms of censorship

#### **3. Do you know if and how censorship rules differ in different countries?**

Holland: has heard about China, USA and homecountry Netherlands

Moldova: haven't heard anything

Estonia: USA and LGBTQ+ topics being banned

Romania: have heard a little (15), medium (3), a lot (3)

USA: China and Iran, book availability is very strictly monitored

#### **4. What do you think about censoring books, do you think it's necessary?**

Holland: yes, in some cases

Moldova: yes (2), not necessary (2)

Estonia: not necessary

Romania: yes (16), not necessary (5), no comment (2)

USA: not necessary

**5. If there was a seminar on book censorship... Would you like information on censored books online or as a seminar? How long should it be?**

Holland: in person, in 1 hour sessions

Moldova: online for 1 hour or in person 1 hour

Estonia: in person at least 1 day, but for shorter sessions online

Romania: -

USA: -

**6. Is censorship even talked about in your workplace? Has it ever come up?**

Holland: yes

Moldova: no

Estonia: yes

Romania: yes, it's talked about (20), no, it makes me uncomfortable (6)

USA: yes

**7. How do you think book censorship impacts a country's literature world?**

Holland: -

Moldova: -

Estonia: under-the-floor secret organisations, the censored ideas get out anyways

Romania: -

USA: people need freedom of speech, might scare people

**8. Are there any topics you think should be censored?**

Holland: self-help books, dieting and lifestyle topics

Moldova: propaganda and heavy violence

Estonia: no, but the way of talking about things should be censored

Romania: medical books

USA: -

**Conclusion & more details:**

None of the interviewed librarians come in contact with censored books in their day-to-day job. Most librarians would like to know about different forms of censorship and how it works in different parts of the world. The most common countries known for their censorship rules and laws were the USA and China, Iran was also mentioned. Opinions about the necessity of censorship were split. Regarding the actual seminar, the Dutch librarian and some Moldovians preferred a 1-hour online seminar. The Estonian librarian agreed, but said that for a longer seminar she would prefer an in-person one. We also asked about the librarians' feelings regarding talking about book censorship in their workplace. The Dutch and the American librarians felt comfortable and said that this topic is talked about at their workplace. Moldovians said that it's not talked about and half of them wouldn't

feel comfortable talking about it. 20 Romanian librarians felt comfortable with book censorship, but 6 of them felt uncomfortable talking about it and said it's not a common topic. One person feared they might go to jail for talking about censorship. Luckily that didn't happen. The Estonian librarian thought that Estonians are quite liberal and she felt comfortable talking about it. Most librarians thought that some topics that should be censored are: medical advice, self-help, lifestyle and dieting, heavy violence, drug abuse and political propaganda.

### **What we actually delivered (in Romania):**

The plan for the in-person seminar in Romania was to give the Romanian librarians a 2-hour presentation, discuss and explain the topics that came up most in the questionnaire answers (forms of censorship, how it works in different countries, some examples) and have a little group task at the end of it. The presentation consisted of a quick introduction of the Banned Books Museum and Joe (Joe gave the seminar in Romania), explaining banned/burned/censored books and showing the audience some examples, „Charlie and the Chocolate factory” was a very popular discussion topic for the Romanians. Then Joe explained the difference between editing a book and censoring it, after an hour Joe played a game related to book censorship, just to give the librarians a little break. Then he explained the idea of the 7 Censorships Model and why it's necessary. After another quick break, Joe continued with the 7 Censorships Model and played another game, which sparked a great discussion between the librarians. At the very end, the librarians got a group task. Although the plan was for 2 hours, the seminar actually ended up being 3 hours and 30 minutes long. We didn't expect this much discussion and questions from the audience, but that's only good and hopefully they keep the conversation going.