

Elis Vaher:

Self-reflection of The Banned Books ELU project - Co-Creation team

I joined this particular project because it seemed the most interesting of all and I thought that book censorship is something I've always been interested in, but don't know a lot about, so I took this project as a chance to learn something new that would actually interest me. I was quite enthusiastic, but unfortunately we, the co-creation team, didn't get as many responses as we had hoped. We also had some confusion with the questionnaire, one interview was done by Joe, the project leader and due to his previous, already existing contact with the librarian he had to change some questions. We had also hoped to have all the necessary responses and data by the middle of March, but we spent a lot of time contacting and waiting for librarians' answers to the first contact. Estonian librarians didn't show much interest, which was a shame since at first we had the idea of doing another seminar in an Estonian university - TalTech. At one point we offered to change the questionnaire and contact people that would have a bigger say in the choice of books in libraries, but our idea didn't get any positive feedback from the team. And to be completely honest, I would have liked to be more involved and in better communication with the other teams working on this project, especially with the seminar team that was supposed to use our data to create the seminar. I personally felt like they didn't value our collected data as much as I had hoped. I didn't really understand what our work added to the value of the project since the seminar was created without asking for any data from us. I also don't think that our data could be applied to every one of the 5 countries that were presented in the data. We provided the numbers of all respondents and figured that we can't really put the answers on the same scale due to the large differences in respondent group sizes. For example, we had only 1 reply from Estonia and 26 from Romania - we would need 25 more responses from Estonia to put this data on the same scale with Romania. Although this project didn't go as I had hoped, it was still interesting to learn about book censorship and explore new ways to learn. Overall, this project definitely widened my knowledge and I know that Joe had a lot on his plate while leading this, I think he handled it well.