

**Kertu Säsil Aas:**

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

I joined this specific project due to it being connected to classical books, many of which we had read during high school. It caught my eye, as I did not have a lot of knowledge, prior to this project, on the topic of censorship in the literature world. The project helped broaden my mind on this topic. Me and Elis were offered the chance to be the co-creation team, meaning we would get into contact with different librarians, do interviews with them and then make conclusions about those interviews and deliver the results to the seminar team for them to use this information in the seminar. However, our results did not get used in the seminar and ended up being more of a plant-the-seed for Banned Books kind of task, which was not the initial thought that we had in mind. Luckily, doing these kinds of interviews with people from different countries and backgrounds came in handy, helping with our skill when it comes to conducting interviews. I wish our information had been used by the seminar team, as we did a lot of work. The project was overall handled well by the project leader, Joseph, who made a timetable and had casual calls with every team to make sure we were doing our job right. Considering how much the project leader had going on in his life during this project, he handled it very well. However, by the end of the project, everything kind of fell off and the calls stopped, which is also why we couldn't get into contact with the seminar team and were left confused with our task. The project was nice and not too stressful, but I think next time the teams should be in contact more and the tasks should be communicated better. We had very few meetings and could not share our progress with the other members. The interview answers were similar in a way, as me and Elis came to the conclusion that librarians do not have direct contact with censored books. This made us think that maybe the interviews were being held with the wrong people, perhaps talking to actual library owners or somebody, who ordered the books that are in use, would have been more useful. Many librarians did not seem to know much about censorship, except for their prior knowledge that had been taught at school. When it came to the questionnaire of the interview (which we made), the project leader changed them a bit without letting us know, which made it hard to gather any kind of data, as people answered to different questions. Also, I feel like it would have been better if we could have reached more people in each country, as it does not feel like actual data to use answers from one person in Estonia (for example) and 26 answers from Romania. This kind of data is hard to make a conclusion from, as the answers differ a lot and having only one person from a country answer these questions does not give very useful information. This project was good for learning how to conduct interviews and gather information, but that was

almost all we got from it. I wish we could have done more, as this kind of task got repetitive and boring very quickly. The project ended well and the seminar was done, which was great news and I think we achieved the goal of this project.