

On the 21st of October 2024, a Conference of Librarians of the Euroregion Nysa took place. Library Activities Beyond the Building

The Conference was organised in Lubań by Jelenia Góra Information and Regional Education Centre Książnica Karkonoska and Kultur - und Weiterbildungsgesellschaft mbH in Löbau, as a result of many years cooperation between Polish, German, and Czechish librarians who meet regularly, forming the EUREX Libraries Working Group within the Euroregion Nysa.

On a sunny Monday, librarians from three countries arrived in Lubań in order to share their experiences related to the conference theme.

The Polish side was interestingly presented by libraries from Lubań, Jelenia Góra, Kowary, Bogatynia and Zgorzelec. The participants watched and listened about a wide range of offers prepared for readers and residents, including outdoor animation activities, city games, interest clubs, regional walks, social campaigns, festivals, the National Reading event, fairs, visits to other institutions and facilities, cycling rallies, ecological education, volunteer and integration initiatives within the local community, as well as promotions of regionals collections, tourist services, and revitalisation of urban spaces. Danuta Bunij from the library in Kowary beautifully summarised the statements of Polish libraries: “We are whenever we are invited... and whenever we invite ourselves”. At the same time, Marta Justyńska humorously emphasised that modern librarians should have unlimited abilities and skills, ideally if they can ride a bike, sing, dance, knit... and know how to use modern technologies.

German librarians discussed interesting projects implemented in Zittau, Bischofswerda, and Löbau. They presented the *Lesekinder* project, aimed at preschoolers who, according to research, do not have contact with books at home. This project is realised in places that do not have libraries and engages the local community in reading to children. In the next presentation, a librarian from Bischofswerda took the audience to the zoo, where the major reading adventure occur. Books are read near animal enclosures, fairy tale characters walk around the zoo and a small theatre performs short performances. The atmosphere is bright, filled with children’s laughter. Activities of the library in Zittau, which is not a municipal library, focus on making itself visible in urban spaces. Its activities are based on collaboration with local institutions, and schools, participation in city events, organising outdoor activities, and promoting itself through signs and even garbage trucks that travel around the district. Another way to reach the public is by providing practical support to libraries in the district and by using mobile libraries.

After the break and informal discussions, during which new ideas for library cooperation in Euroregion Nysa emerged, Czechish librarians took the stage.

They spoke about the literature night in Czeska Lipa which takes place in several places across the city and attracts large crowds of participants. They also shared information about the Night with Anders in Turnov, during which a parade of fairy tale characters marches through the city, there are concerts, fire shows, and children spend the night in the library, reading fairy tales

and playing games based on literature. In the Semily district, great emphasis is placed on supporting the small libraries and building a neighbourhood support network around them. The presentation focused on showing that, even with limited financial resources but with the major support of the local community a great deal can be achieved. Small libraries have significant potential. Librarian from Liberec, who traditionally participates in a massive EDUCA WEEK fair and organises literary walks throughout the region, presented a proposal for the activities of a large provincial library in the urban and regional space. These outdoor meetings with literature, writers, and history are extremely popular.

After the discussion, participants visited the Municipal Public Library in Lubań.

The conference proved that Polish, German, and Czechish libraries of the Euroregion Nysa can meet the requirements of modern users by actively responding to their expectations. They step beyond the walls of their libraries to entertain, educate, develop interest, promote reading and the region's advantages, organise important social initiatives, support activities of others, and gain satisfaction from it. The meeting let participants exchange their experiences and inspired them for the following events. Thanks to the practices of others, librarians can avoid mistakes and offer an even more engaging range of activities for children, youth, adults, and seniors.

All presentations will be published on the Jelenia Góra Digital Library website before the end of the year

<https://jbc.jelenia-gora.pl//dlibra/metadatasearch?action=AdvancedSearchAction&type=-3&val1=Relation:%22Projekt+Dzia%C5%82alno%C5%9B%C4%87+bibliotek+poza+budynki em.+Konferencja+bibliotekarzy+Euroregionu+Nysa%22>

The project *Library Activities Beyond the Building. The Conference of Librarians of the Euroregion Nysa* is co-financed by the European Union from the European Region Development Fund under the Small Projects Fund Poland - Saxony 2021-2027

Joanna Jagodzińska

Translation: Victoria Andrushenko

