

# Co-creating accessible audiobooks for open and equitable access to knowledge

Korina Defteraïou, Dr. Katerina Zourou, Web2Learn

In collaboration with Panteion University Library and its Information Centre

Graphics: Panagiota Fabrikanou, Web2Learn

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Week for  
Academic Libraries, HMU, 21st-  
25th of September 2026**



Co-funded by  
the European Union



- Designing and implementing citizen science projects with interdisciplinary teams.
  - 8 expert staff members.
  - Established in 2014.
  - Customized software solutions (open recognition of skills).
- Active in EU grants (Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, national funds).

Areas: professional training, citizen and open science, social innovation

15 ongoing EU-funded projects

> 3000 end users reached

Sectors:  
Higher Education, VET, School Education, Adult Education

Focus on:

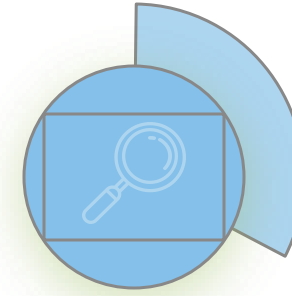
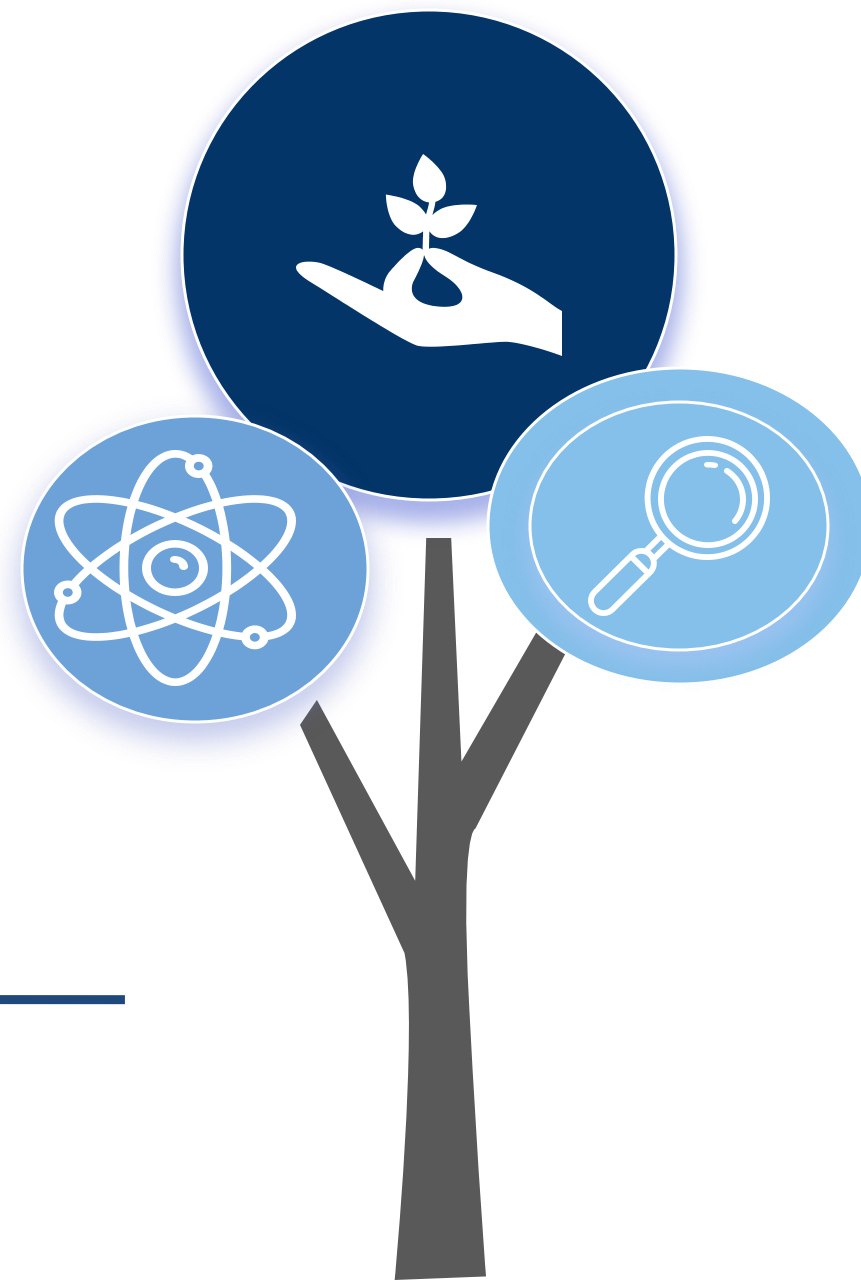
- strengthening higher education-society collaboration
- enhancing EU-Ukrainian university library collaboration in crisis response

Erasmus+ KA2 project in  
the Higher Education  
sector

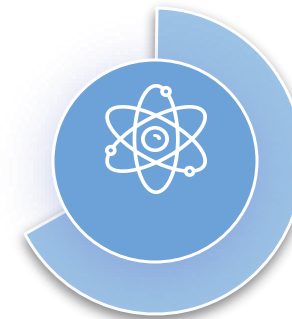
March 2025 - February 2027

## Goals

---



**Position university libraries  
at the forefront of crisis  
response**



**Upskill university libraries'  
staff in innovative and  
interdisciplinary approaches  
to crisis response**



**Promote and sustain  
university libraries-driven  
open knowledge and civic  
engagement**

# Project partners



1

University of Tartu



2

Web2Learn



3

Kaunas University of  
Technology



4

Ukrainian State University of  
Science and Technologies



5

SKS Knowledge Services



The background image shows a vast, circular library atrium. The walls are composed of multiple levels of curved wooden bookshelves, densely packed with books. A large, circular skylight at the top allows natural light to enter the space. The floor is a light-colored, polished surface. The overall atmosphere is one of a modern, well-lit academic environment.

# CAELUM in Greece

An action designed and implemented by Web2Learn  
in collaboration with Panteion University Library and  
its Information Centre

# Scope of the action

To advance the role of academic libraries in:

- promoting open knowledge
- addressing the needs of people with disabilities
- facilitating digitally mediated citizen participation

**Format:** Co-creation of audio books

**Method:** Crowdsourcing: A combination of collective content creation by citizens with the aid of technological platforms

**Aim:** Sustainability of the action and adoption of the model by other libraries



# Phases of implementation

**01.**

Designing



**02.**

Launching the implementation with a small group of volunteers



**03.**

Open call and communication campaign

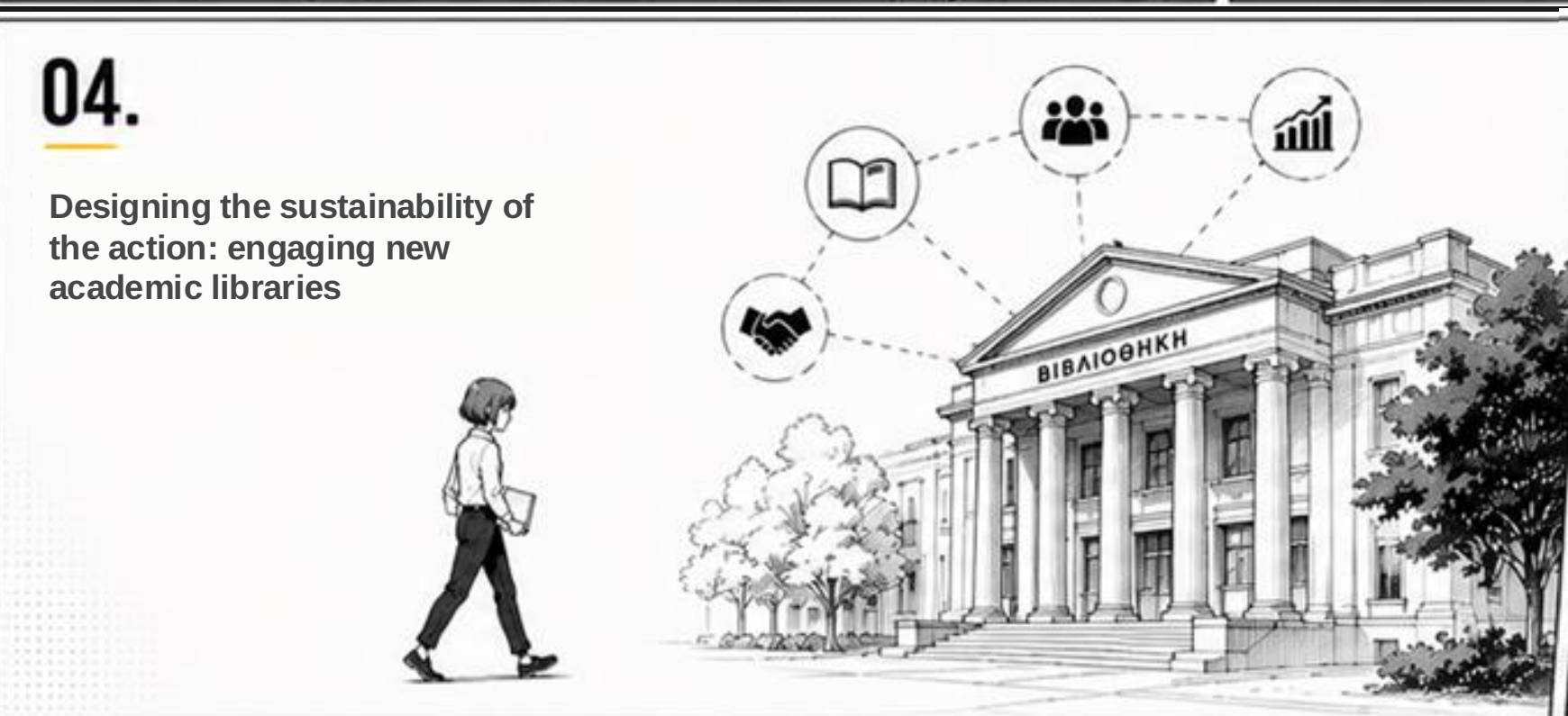
194 volunteers

February-March 2026



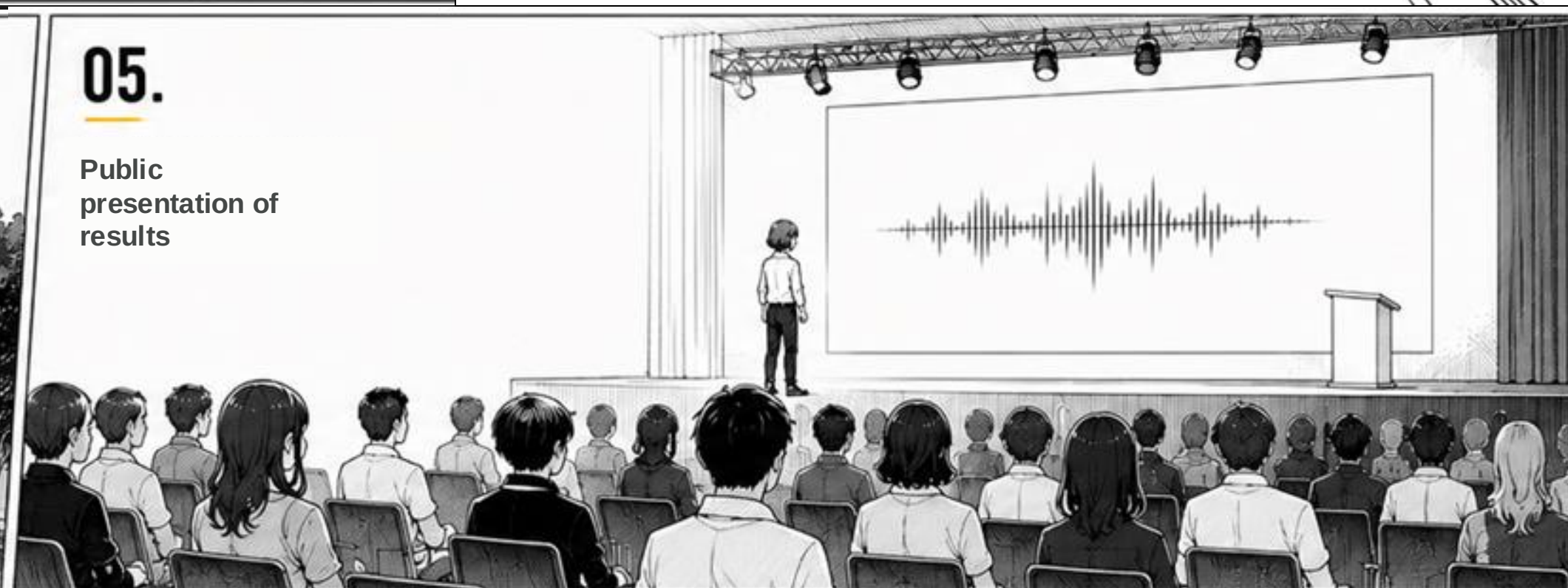
**04.**

Designing the sustainability of the action: engaging new academic libraries



**05.**

Public presentation of results



# 01.

## Designing



# 02.

Launching the  
implementation with  
a small group of  
volunteers

8 volunteers

January 2026

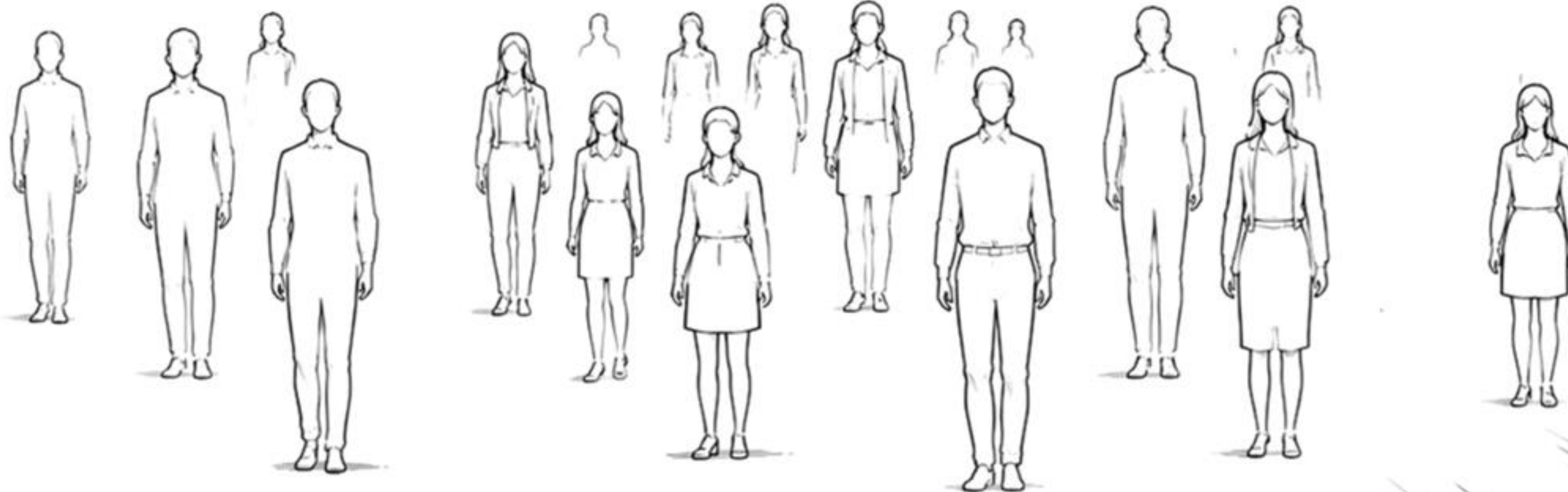
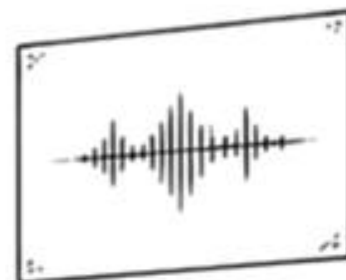


# 03.

Open call and  
communication campaign

**194 volunteers**

**February-March 2026**



# 04.

## Designing the sustainability of the action: engaging new academic libraries



# 05.

Public  
presentation of  
results

A black and white illustration of a public presentation. In the foreground, the backs of several rows of audience members are visible as they sit in chairs, facing a stage. On the stage, a person stands to the left of a large projection screen. The screen displays the text 'New action plans from: 4 academic libraries 1 municipal library'. To the right of the screen is a podium. Stage lights are visible on a rig above the screen.

**New action plans from:**  
**4 academic libraries**  
**1 municipal library**

# Website in GR: Audio books for equal access to knowledge

Αρχική Ηχητικά βιβλία Υλικό Ανοικτή πρόσκληση Ιστορίες εθελοντών Η γνώμη σας



## Ηχητικά βιβλία για ισότιμη πρόσβαση στη γνώση

### Συμμετοχική δημιουργία ηχητικών βιβλίων για εντυπoανάπηρους φοιτητές

Η Web2Learn, σε συνεργασία με τη Βιβλιοθήκη και το Κέντρο Πληροφόρησης του Παντείου Πανεπιστημίου, υλοποιεί μια σειρά καινοτόμων δράσεων που αναδεικνύουν τον ρόλο των ακαδημαϊκών βιβλιοθηκών στην υποστήριξη ατόμων με αναπηρία και στην προώθηση της



<https://web2learn.eu/el/caelum/>

“It motivated me to continue reading for others.”

“I started to think about how important it is for everyone to have access to books.”

“A positive sense of belonging to a group.”

## **This is what the volunteers said:**

“I improved my concentration and self-esteem.”

“A sense of giving and new knowledge.”

# Sustainability of the action

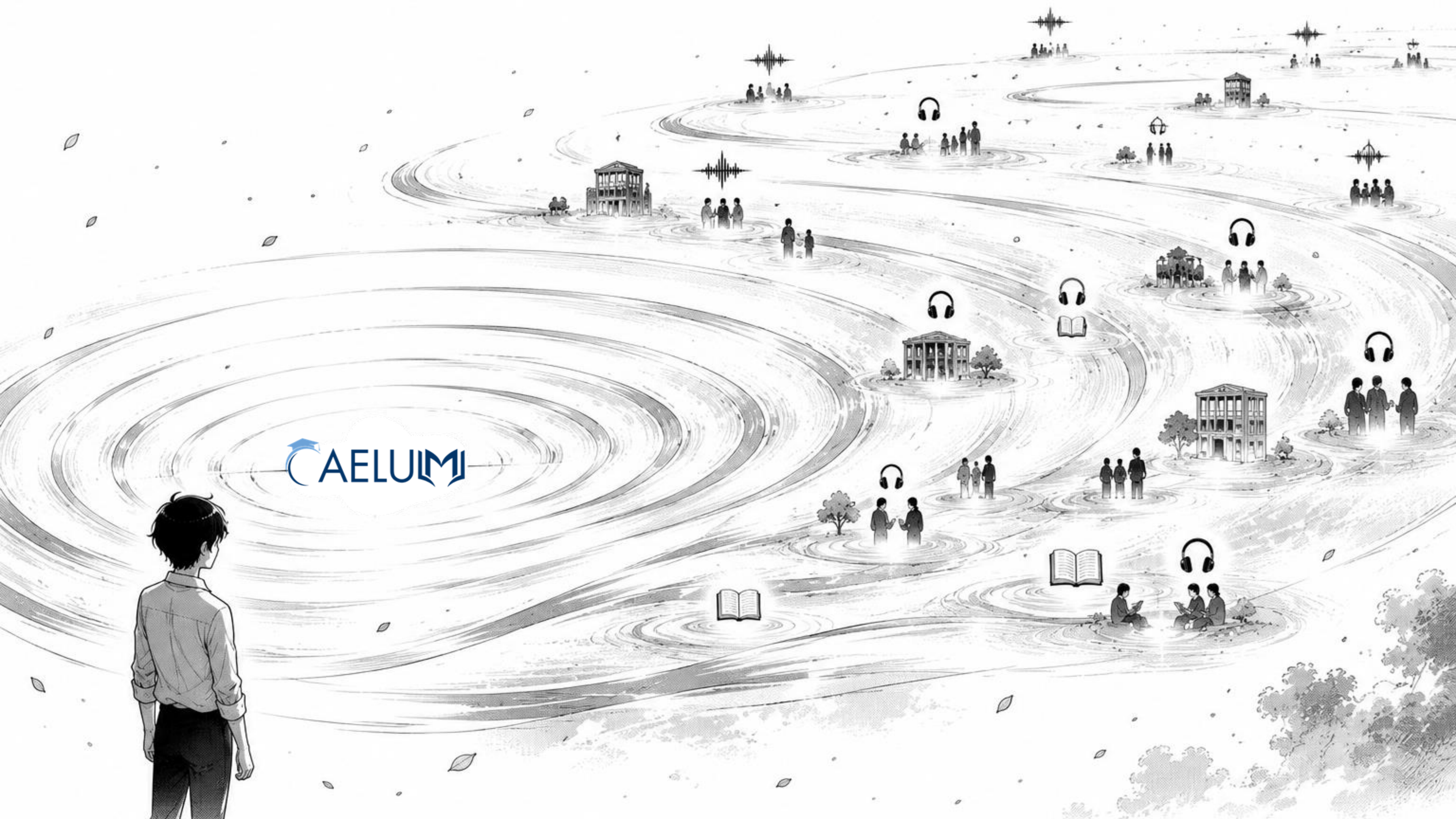
**Scope:** to develop a sustainability toolkit for the design and implementation of similar initiatives by other libraries, based on their actual needs.

1. Sustainability plan

2. Sustainability plan  
and assessment

3. Sustainability plan  
template

4. Action plan



CAELUM

|  Key stakeholders                                                                                          |  Key roles                                                                               |  Functions of each role                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  Key resources                                                          |  Communication plan |  Revenue streams                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Academic library</li> <li>-Academic department</li> <li>-Non academic organisation</li> <li>-Students' club</li> <li>-University service</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Community coordinator</li> <li>-Quality checker</li> <li>-Ambassador</li> <li>-(Open) data officer</li> <li>+ Volunteers</li> </ul> | <p>1. Community coordinator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-acts as "hub person" (front desk)</li> <li>-channels volunteers to the info and registration center</li> <li>-collects registrations and allocates tasks</li> <li>-monitors volunteers' tasks</li> </ul> <p>2. Quality checker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-sets the standards and guidelines for recording</li> <li>-upskills volunteers to become ambassadors</li> <li>-supervises ambassadors in quality checking</li> <li>-does the final quality check &amp; delivers to data officer</li> </ul> <p>3. Ambassador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-variable: best serves the needs by case/skills</li> </ul> <p>4. (Open) data officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-is the copyright expert</li> <li>-places files to the library repository</li> <li>-ensures metadata and standardisation</li> <li>-aggregates to other repositories</li> <li>-connects to digital archives</li> </ul> <p>+ Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-create the audio files</li> <li>-support the communication flow</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Platform for volunteer management</li> <li>-Repository for audio books</li> <li>-Physical meeting space</li> </ul> | <p>Procedures and media (e.g. social media, radio campaign)</p>                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Own contribution</li> <li>-National grants</li> <li>-EU grants</li> <li>-Corporate social responsibility</li> <li>-Crowdfunding campaign</li> </ul> |
|  <b>Idea!</b>                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                             |



# 1.Sustainability plan

## 2. Sustainability plan & assessment

|  Key stakeholders    |  Key roles                                                     |  Functions of each role |  Key resources                                                                                                                                                   |  Communication plan                                                                                                                                      |  Revenue streams                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>[Define the stakeholders]</p> <p>Guiding question:<br/>-Is the role of each stakeholder clear?</p> | <p>[Define the role of each stakeholder]</p> <p>Guiding question:<br/>-Do the stakeholders possess the necessary skills to fulfill each role?</p> | <p>[Describe the functions of each role]</p> <p>Guiding question:<br/>-Is the flow of work clear?</p>      | <p>[Describe the resources]</p> <p>Guiding questions:<br/>-Is there an appropriate platform for the management of volunteers?<br/><br/>-Is there an available repository for the audio books?<br/><br/>-Is there a space for physical meetings?</p> | <p>[Define the procedures and the media of communication]</p> <p>Guiding questions:<br/>-Have I established appropriate communication procedures for new volunteers?<br/><br/>-Do I have the necessary communication channels in place?</p> | <p>[Describe the revenue streams]</p> <p>Guiding questions:<br/>-Are the available resources sufficient?<br/><br/>-Do the current staff have the necessary time to carry out the action?</p> |

### Guidelines for assessing the guiding questions

- For each guiding question, assess your answer using the following colors:  
Green: **Yes**, Yellow: **Maybe**, Red: **No**
- For each guiding question, assess the level of risk:  
In a frame: When there is a risk / Without a frame: When there is no risk

- After completing the above assessment cycle, group the questions marked yellow, red, and in a frame, and brainstorm possible solutions.



| <br>Key stakeholders         | <br>Key roles | <br>Functions of each role | <br>Key resources | <br>Communication plan | <br>Revenue streams |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>  <b>Idea!</b> </div> |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                        |



3.Sustainability  
plan template



## 1) Phases and timeline

Indicative: Planning and Preparation | Pilot implementation with a closed group | Expansion to a larger group, etc.



## 2) Measurable milestones

Indicative: Number of stakeholders | volunteers | workshops | books



## 3) Sustainability plan

Indicative: Identifying stakeholders, assigning roles, key infrastructure, communication channels



## 4) Feedback and optimization

Indicative: method of collecting feedback, assessment, improvements

## 4. Action plan

# Results

- 200 citizens participated at various stages of the action;
- 86 volunteers recorded book chapters;
- 4 academic libraries and 1 municipal library designed their own action plans for new actions;
- 4 open access audiobooks created;
- 684 pages recorded by volunteers;
- 4 video testimonials from volunteers; and
- 151 visits to the website



Image by pixabay

# A glimpse of the workshops

W2L



Web2Learn Open, social learning AELUMI Βιβλιοθήκη & Κέντρο Πληροφόρησης Library & Information Centre

## Έλα κι εσύ στη δημιουργία ανοικτών ηχητικών βιβλίων!



Τα ηχητικά βιβλία διευκολύνουν την πρόσβαση των εντυποανάπηρων φοιτητών στη γνώση.

Μπορείς κι εσύ να συνεισφέρεις με τη φωνή σου και λίγο από το χρόνο σου στη δημιουργία ηχητικών βιβλίων ελεύθερα προσβάσιμων σε όλους και όλες!

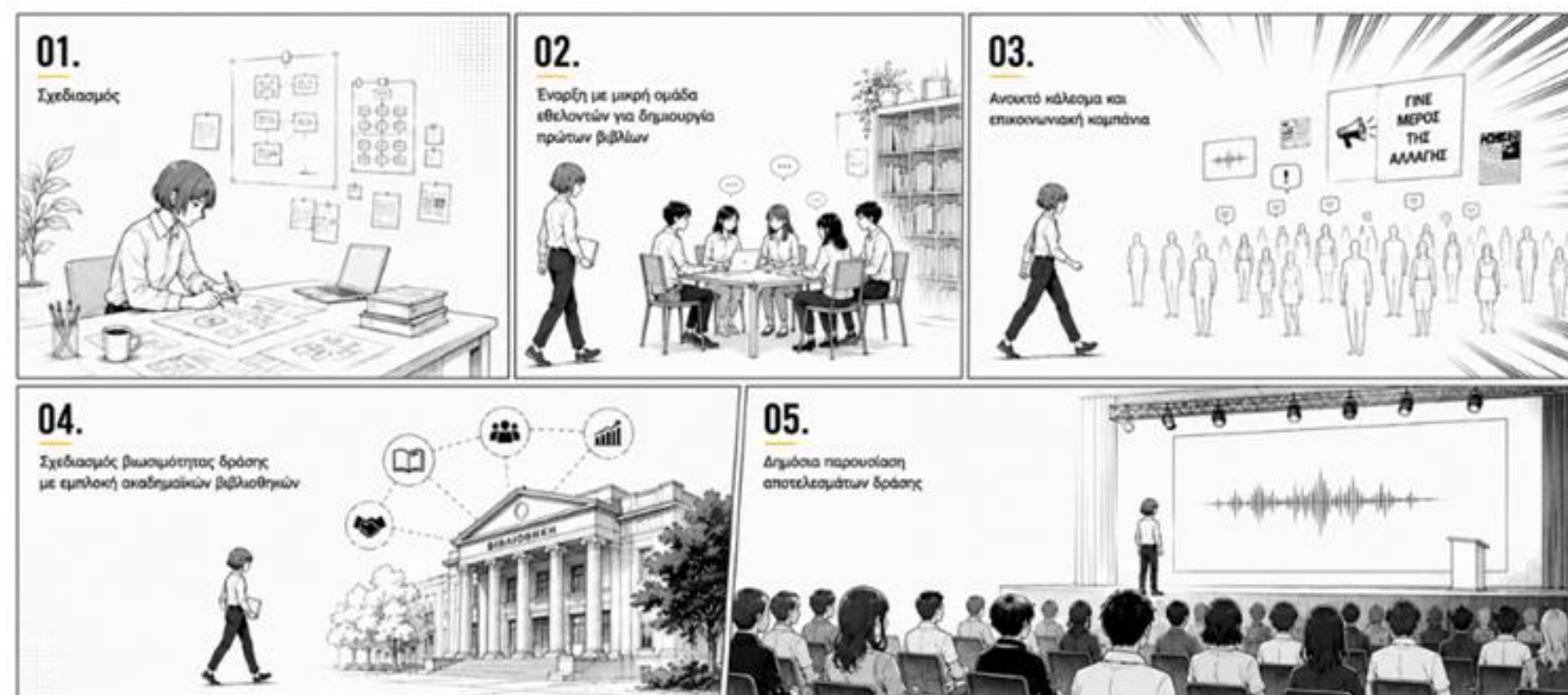
Εργαστήριο γνωριμίας:

Τρίτη, 31 Μαρτίου 2026, 15:30-16:30

Αίθουσα Σεμιναρίων Βιβλιοθήκης και διαδικτυακά



Κάνε την εγγραφή σου εδώ



## Σκοπός της Δράσης

Ανάδειξη του ρόλου των ακαδημαϊκών βιβλιοθηκών:

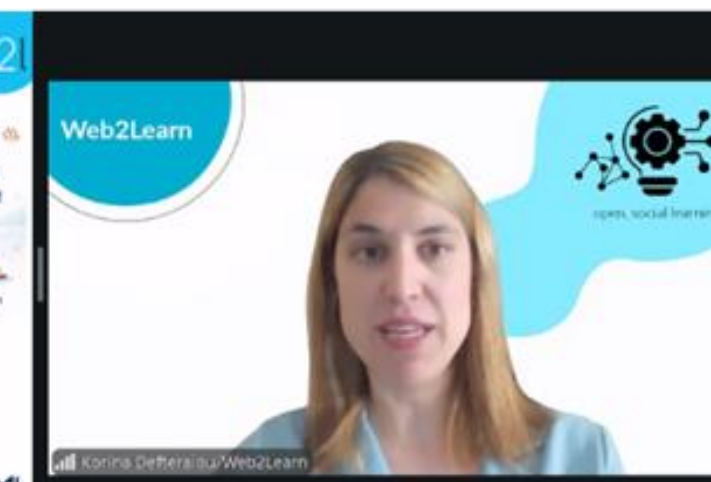
- στην προώθηση της ανοικτής γνώσης
- στην κάλυψη αναγκών ατόμων με αναπηρία
- στην ψηφιακά διαμεσολαβούμενη συμμετοχή των πολιτών

Μέσο: Ηχητικά βιβλία

Μέθοδος: Πληθοπορισμός (crowdsourcing):

Συνδυασμός συλλογικής παραγωγής περιεχομένου από πολίτες με τη βοήθεια τεχνολογικών πλατφορμών

Στόχος: Βιωσιμότητα της δράσης και υιοθέτηση του μοντέλου από άλλες βιβλιοθήκες



# What's next?



An online open access course on:

Resilient Libraries in Times of Crises:

Challenges and opportunities for university libraries-driven crisis response



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## **Resilient Libraries in Times of Crises**

**A Course for University Libraries, Laboratories, Universities and other  
Research Organisations**

Erasmus+ Project: CAELUM – Open Science Supporting Vulnerable Communities: Empowering University  
Libraries in Crisis Response

# Indicative Bibliography

- Birk, K., Tõiste, T., Ignat, T., et al., Zourou, K., Oikonomou, S., & Saviča, M. (2024). Implementing Citizen Science Activities in Baltic University Libraries: On the Road to a Citizen Science Hub. LIBER Quarterly, 34(1), 1–34. DOI: 10.53377/lq.19068.
- Jaeger, P., Wentz, B., Bertot, J. C. (2015). Accessibility, Inclusion, and the Roles of Libraries, Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and the Inclusive Future of Libraries. Advances in Librarianship. Volume 40. Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1108/S0065-283020150000040008>
- Krishna Nandanan et al., Multi-stakeholder-centric micro-level sustainability assessments and policy recommendations, Environmental and Sustainability Indicators, Volume 26, 2025, 100710, ISSN 2665-9727 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indic.2025.100710> Retrieved from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S266597272500131X>
- Treinta et al., Design and Implementation Factors for Performance Measurement in Non-profit Organizations: A Literature Review. 2020, Front. Psychol. 11:1799. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2020.01799 Retrieved from: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.01799/full#cite>
- Samuel Greengard, Ways to Make Sustainability More Viable via Crowdsourcing, 2023, Information Week. Retrieved from: <https://www.informationweek.com/sustainability/ways-to-make-sustainability-more-viable-via-crowdsourcing>

# Thank you



Follow us



Website CAELUM: <https://caelum.ut.ee/>

CAELUM action in GR: <https://web2learn.eu/el/caelum/>

Web2Learn: <https://web2learn.eu/>

Email: [info@web2learn.eu](mailto:info@web2learn.eu)