Book of Your Life

Kick-off meeting
1 March 2024
In your opinion, what is the role of the library in university students' life?
“Libraries are more than just houses for books; they are the lifeblood of European communities.

They provide safe spaces, foster education, combat social inequalities, and build resilient societies. Recently, libraries across Europe are facing closure, attacks from extremists, and censorship.

The Europe Challenge is on the frontline of breathing new life into European libraries.”

André Wilkens, Director of the European Cultural Foundation
Book of Your Life (BoYL)

a project to support intercultural inclusion among university students at ELTE

• as part of the Europe Challenge 2024 initiated by the European Cultural Foundation & partners

• along intercultural values shared by ELTE, aligned with the Internationalisation Strategy

• in support of creating more inclusive university services at ELTE,

• as part of your life and needs

BoYL is implemented in the cooperation of the University Library and Archives (ULA), the ELTE Student Union (EHÖK), the Rector’s Cabinet International Strategy Office (ISO) and the Rector’s Cabinet University Strategy Office (USO)
The Europe Challenge

→ theeuropechallenge.eu
About the Europe Challenge programme

- unites libraries and their communities to jointly develop creative solutions for addressing various societal challenges
- provides a mentoring programme for librarians and community members as well as financial support for implementation of various joint activities
- 2024: 3rd edition of the programme and the most extensive to date
- „Democracy, Libraries and Communities” runs from January to September 2024
About the Europe Challenge programme

Examples of selected projects from Europe include:

- engaging youth and youth adults in library activities
- improving mental well-being and social cohesion among elders and different generations, such as providing reading groups and workshops
- organizing activities focused on sustainable practices, circular economy and much more.

With the BoYL project, ELTE is the very first and so far only Hungarian partner of the programme
The Europe Challenge learning programme
In your opinion, how can we create a multicultural, inclusive space in the University Library?
Setting the stage for BoYL

• @ELTE: 35,000+ student community and 2,500 academic staff, over 10% of whom are from abroad

• variety of 140+ countries represented within the ELTE community

• ELTE Internationalisation Strategy

• traditionally good cooperation between the University Library and Archives and the ELTE Student Union (EHÖK)
What is BoYL about?

We aim at

• Enhancing acceptance and tolerance within the university community
• Promoting the cultural inclusion of international students and supporting their mental well-being
• Developing, based on the students’ needs, the services offered by the University Library and Archives
• Introducing practices and activities in this context sustainable beyond the project timeline (Jan-Sep 2024)
Our methodology

• **Thematic background**: rooted in the library’s collection as well as the cultural and linguistic diversity of international students: literature, books, cultural heritage, art

• **Participatory approach**: actively involving international & local students early on in the creation of a community space at ULA and the co-design and implementation of related activities

• **Top-down and bottom-up**: integrating institutional strategic aims with bottom-up initiatives, thus ensuring buy-in from all levels - students to top-management

• **Sharing of knowledge and good practices**: across a European network through the Europe Challenge Learning programme
What exactly will we do in BoYL?

Planned activities

Step 1: co-design of physical space & related activities, 2024.Q1

- transformation of a former study room at ULA into a community space, incl. wall painting done by ELTE students
- upcycling workshops (furniture) and decoration projects
- co-design of event/activity series based on links between ULA’s collection & international students’ personal interests

Step 2: implementation of activities (intercultural social events), 2024.Q2-3

- In-person events and online campaigns: intercultural trainings, interactive lectures, cultural programmes, book exchange, pop-up student exhibitions, introduction to favourite books, CHARM-EU Libraries’ Meetup etc.
## Planned BoYL activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IN-PERSON EVENTS</th>
<th>ONLINE CAMPAIGNS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UPCYCLING WORKSHOPS in March</td>
<td>BOOK OF YOUR LIFE from 04.03.2024</td>
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<td>COMMUNITY SPACE GRAND OPENING in April</td>
<td>POP-UP EXHIBITION CALL TO STUDENTS from 04.03.2024</td>
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<td>POP-UP EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES April to September</td>
<td>MY FAVOURITE READING SPOT AT ELTE in April</td>
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<td>ROUNDTABLES, READING NIGHTS May to September</td>
<td>VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK in May</td>
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Let’s read the Book of Your Life together!

• Be active!

• Share your thoughts & ideas!

• Engage your community!

• Follow our social channels and participate!

Webpage
https://www.elte.hu/boyl (COMING SOON)

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/elteinternational/
https://www.facebook.com/ELTEkonyvtar

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/elteinternational/
https://instagram.com/ELTEkonyvtar