



Press Release

Tuesday, 1 November 2016

Future Library INELI Balkans Second Convening of the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators in the Balkan region

The power of network

All of the above will unfold in the second INELI-Balkans convening in **Sofia, Bulgaria, on 25-28 November 2016!** Four days of knowledge sharing, **pitching ideas**, creative expression and fun are awaiting the library Innovators who went through an intense process of new library service design this summer. The second INELI-Balkans convening will reveal the **winners of Innovation Awards** and mark the beginning of **five New Library Projects**. Above all, it will demonstrate the wealth of scalable project ideas and partnerships accumulated during a year's collaborative work, now manifested in a strengthened **Future Library INELI-Balkans network**.

Organized by Future Library in partnership with the Bulgarian Library and Information Association and the Global Libraries Bulgaria Foundation, the second INELI-Balkans convening boasts a rich program of educational activities that aim to highlight the work and potential of the network. Special focus will be given to the dozens of **innovative library services** prompted by the INELI-Balkans Call for New Library Services: original ideas and effective plans for serving the unserved, touching upon new impact areas, crossing over the boundaries of academic disciplines and economic sectors, and making libraries an integral part of their communities' learning infrastructure and development goals.

The new designs are evidence of the multiplier effect of the network and will be explored in relation to the existing Balkan library initiatives, such as a **virtual youth academy for 3D printing**, services for agricultural workers, services on financial management, robust digitization programs, lifelong education, schemes fighting urban unemployment and rural isolation, new technology services by libraries affected by natural disasters and surviving wars and more. The network will be viewed in its unique capacity to tap into the resourcefulness of libraries in the Balkan region and drive new developments, through its training and collaboration programs.

The November Convening is expected to be an immersive experience! The INELI-Balkans e-learning course will be revisited, while interactive sessions on evaluating impact and **sustaining the network** will provide the Future Library network members with new perspectives and future prospects. The program includes a delightful study visit to the state-of-the-art children's museum and learning space, **Muzeiko**, as well as presentations of innovation in libraries, such as the **new Varna Public Library**, the **Innovative Community Centers Association** and the **Libraries For Everyone** project. The grand highlight will be the **Innovation Awards ceremony**, during which Future Library will announce the 5 winners for New Library Projects.

Fueled by innovative thinking, reflecting and renewing their wholehearted commitment to the development of a networked environment, the Future Library INELI-Balkans talents will gather once more, this time to look back at a year of achievements, to reaffirm their ties and to celebrate the library network's power to bring southeastern European creativity and productivity to the fore.



Future Library through the **International Network of Emerging Library Innovators in the Balkan region** (INELI-Balkans) brings together leading library professionals from 11 countries, encouraging them through training, networking and innovation awards, to exchange knowledge, collaborate and experiment with new services. INELI-Balkans is a Future Library project supported by the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**.

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INELI-Balkans Promo Video: <https://youtu.be/ldUUaiHysQM>

Future Library INELI-Balkans Map

Follow the link below to explore the map of the Future Library INELI-Balkans participant libraries:
<https://goo.gl/ujMv8v>



Find out more

http://www.futurelibrary.gr/en/ineli-balkans_en/



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Future Library is a non-profit organization devoted to reinforcing the significance of libraries as unique centers of creativity, innovation and learning. It was established in Veria in 2011. It spun out of the Veria Central Public Library, recipient of the 2010 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation "Access to Learning" Award, addressing the call of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to contribute to the development of a sustainable network of public and municipal libraries across Greece. Key donors of Future Library are: the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Welfare Foundation for Social and Cultural Affairs (kikpe.gr), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the European Union (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Program).