

Implementing BESPOC For Citizen Science Central Services in the Baltic Region

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Credit:

in this presentation,
all ideas are man-made
while most images are AI-made
(some are not).

Presentation overview

- ▶ Introduction of the project
- ▶ Project outcomes
- ▶ Lessons learned from stakeholder engagement
- ▶ BESPOC



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Overview of the project

- ▶ ***University libraries strengthening the academia-society connection through citizen science in the Baltics***
- ▶ Duration: 01.01.2022 –30.06.2024
- ▶ Partners: University of Tartu Library, TalTech, University of Latvia, Kaunas Technological University, Vytautas Magnus University, Web2Learn and Immer Besser GmbH + associated partners (public libraries)
- ▶ <https://www.libocs.ut.ee>



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Need for the project

- ▶ Academic libraries in Baltic states have been actively involved in OS activities
- ▶ The need of Baltic universities and libraries to fully integrate Open Science (OS) and Citizen Science (CS)
- ▶ Involvement in CS is still in the development phase
- ▶ Lack of knowledge base



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Project outcomes



- 1) **Report on drivers and barriers** of civic engagement in open science and the role of university libraries in the Baltics
- 2) **Study and an information campaign:** the transformative role of university libraries for citizen and open science in the Baltics
- 3) A **collection of resources for staff training** in Baltic academic libraries on the topic of civic engagement in open science
- 4) 5 module Open **Access training course** for librarians
<https://tinyurl.com/LIBOCSonline>
- 5) **Institutional change:** Series of consulting activities with partner universities – policy+culture change
- 6) **A toolkit for librarians** on CS/OS

All milestones with documents are available <https://www.libocs.ut.ee/milestones/>



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Lessons learned from stakeholder engagement

- ▶ Each Baltic university library has its own journey (also in the BESPOC model)
- ▶ The smallness of Baltic states allows a national approach
- ▶ Bring together CS projects/activities within the institution/country
- ▶ Need to increase the knowledge of libraries' potential (in CS)
- ▶ Libraries can be links (public-researcher, researcher-researcher, university-researcher)
- ▶ Funding is important, but it needs to start with building bridges and establishing connections



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BESPOC Implementation at LibOCS Partners



Institutional change: testing and implementing a citizen science single point of contact at universities

BROAD ENGAGEMENT IN SCIENCE, POINT OF CONTACT



Community Builder
(CB)

Policy and Development
Plans for Citizen Science
(P&D-CS)

Activities Portal
(AP)

Legal Office and Safety
Office Connector
(LS-C)

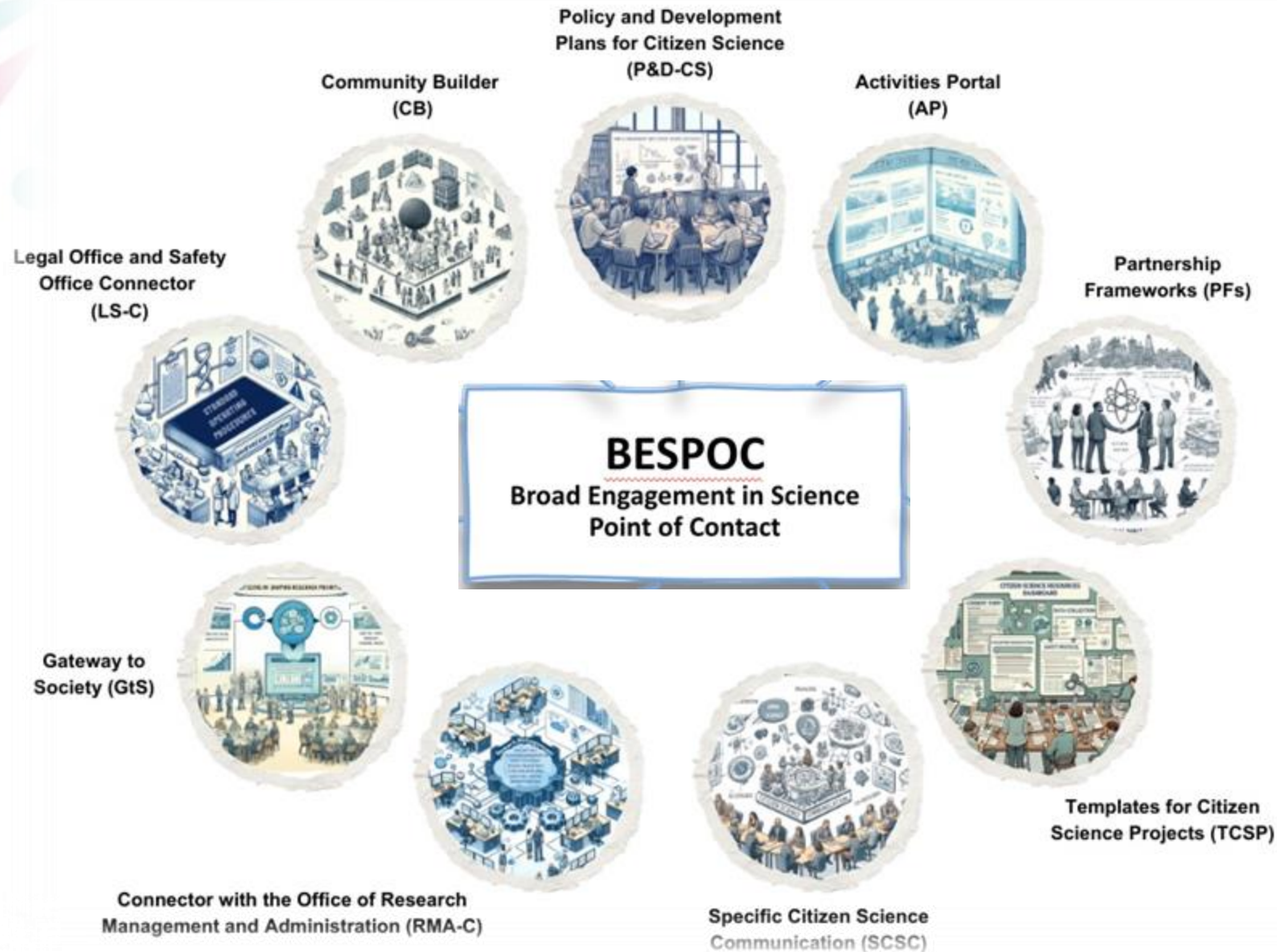
Partnership
Frameworks (PFs)

BESPOC beyond citizen science: institutional support for Science-Society Engagement

Gateway
Society (GS)

Templates for Citizen
Science Projects (TCSP)

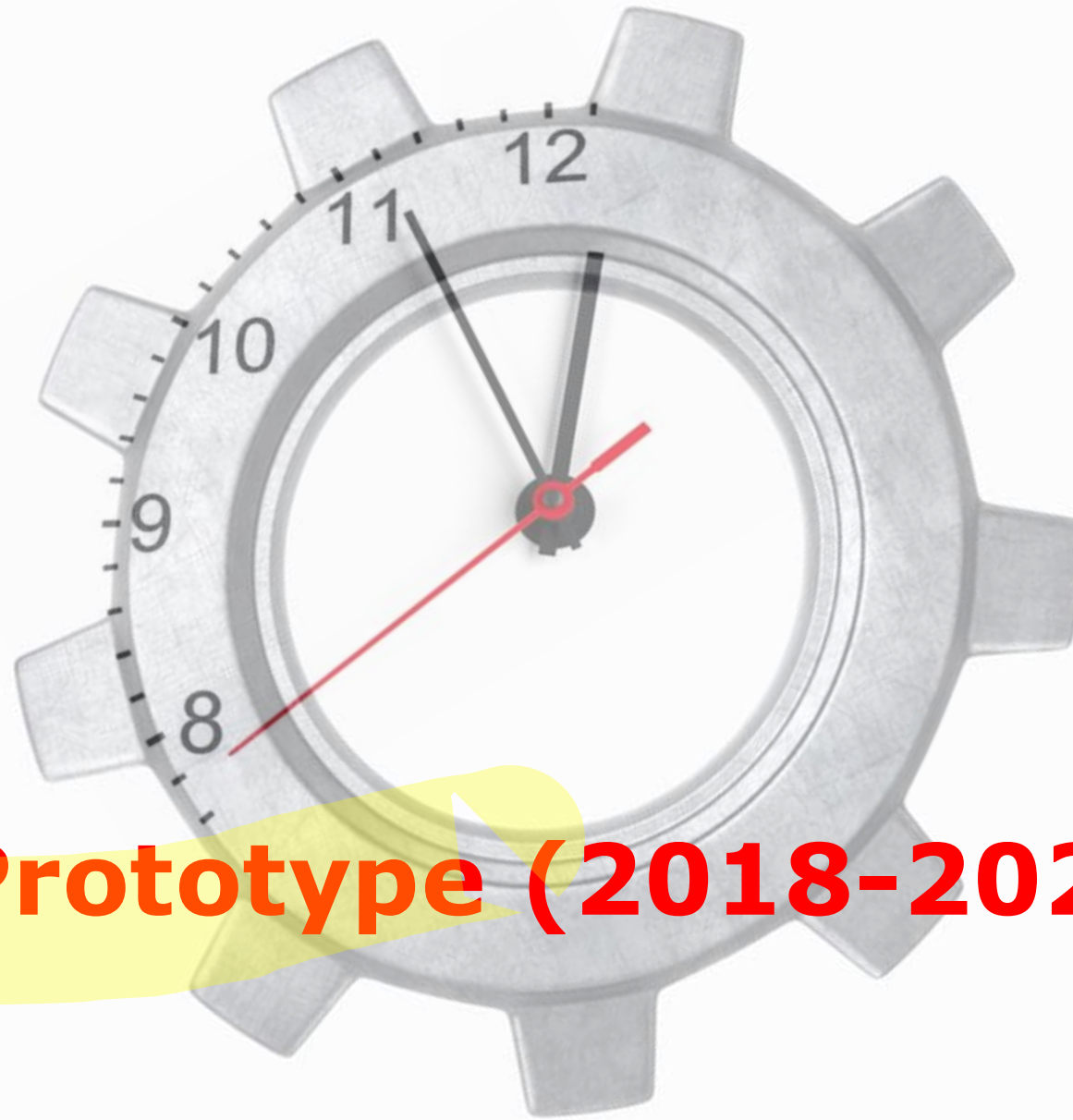
BROAD ENGAGEMENT IN SCIENCE, POINT OF CONTACT



BESPOC Brief Presentation video:
<https://vimeo.com/870255373/2da1ea4990>

<https://vimeo.com/478021537>

<https://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.501/>



BESPOC Prototype (2018-2020)

BESPOC

Implementation Handbook

Increasing Engagement between
Researchers and the Public

BESPOC Prototype > BESPOC Model
1st version: 2022



Why that hassle?

Lib  OCS

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Imagine a project: Knowledge4All

a participatory science project run by a consortium of research libraries



The project aims to understand the impact of open-access scientific literature published between 2010-2022 on the general public in the field of public health.

Volunteers are recruited to help researchers on the following tasks:

- identify **the utility** of open-access scientific content for increasing trust in science
- determine how much the lay citizens **understand** the open-access content
- determine how much lay citizens are able to **re-use** the open-access content
- what are the **positive** sides of having access to that content
- what are the **concerns** regarding having the content open to the public
- help the researchers to **communicate** Knowledge4All final results
- support the researchers to **engage** with policymakers and **promote** the necessary changes, according to the project findings.

Imagine more:

the Knowledge4All Consortia is supported by a BESPOC office



Wouldn't it be great if

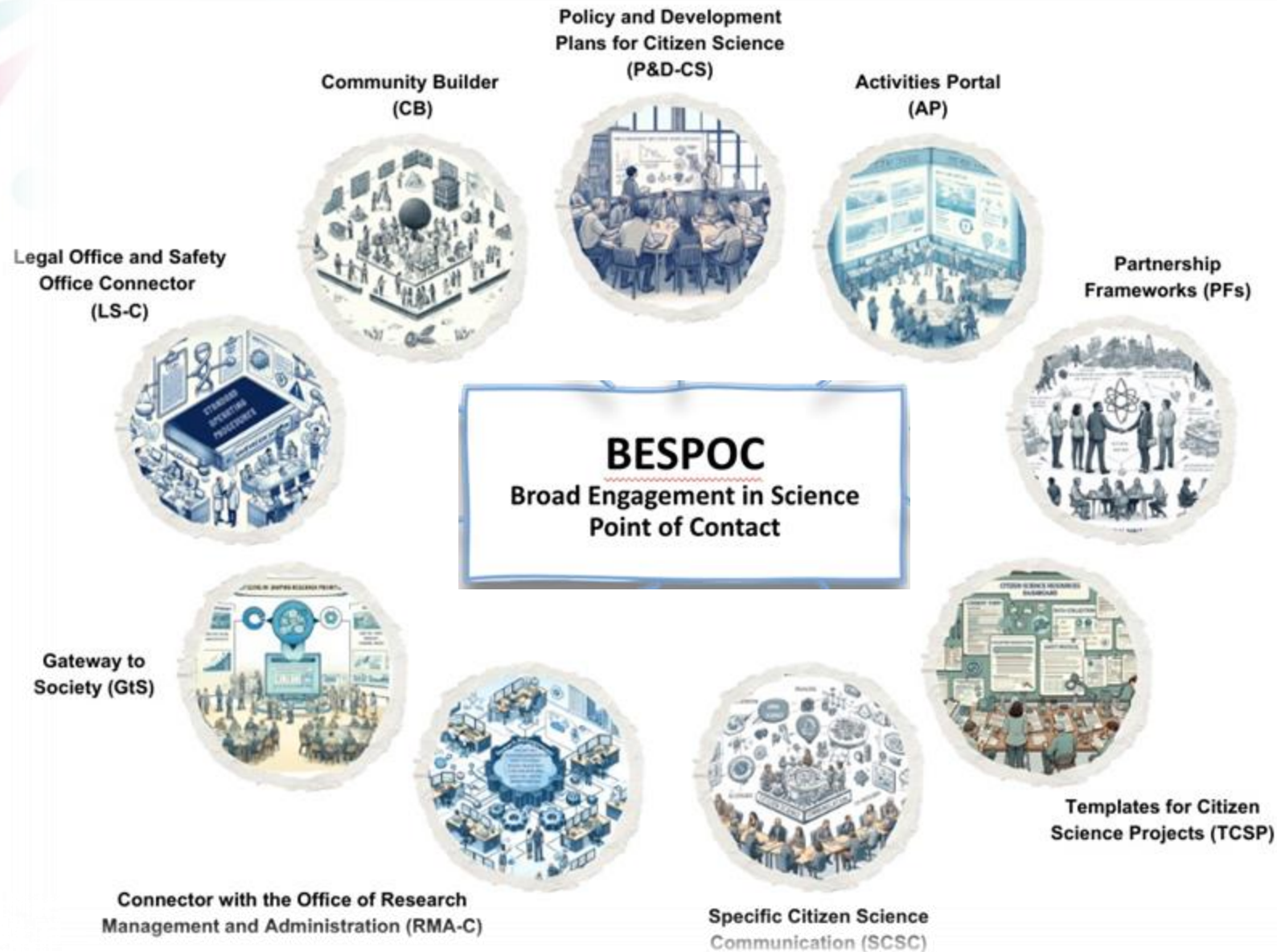
all the following are available to you before even starting...



Volunteer recruitment form	80% ready
Consent Form Template	80% ready
Data Collection Sheet	60% ready
Volunteer Feedback Form	70% ready
Conflict Management Checklist	80% ready
Qualitative Interview Template: Understanding of Open Access Articles	30% ready
Volunteer Guide: Helping Researchers Communicate Final Results	70% ready
Knowledge4U Researcher Guide: Recruiting, Training, and Collaborating with Volunteers for Dissemination	40% ready
How to engage with outside communities (a guide)	80% relevant
How to secure and improve data usability (a guide)	90% relevant
.... and much more	

Strong connections with partners and networks outside your institution	Ready to listen you
Your institution has a clear strategy to support public engagement in research	Road map, strategy
Your CRIS system has tools and metrics to support participatory science	Ready to use
Your institution has a training kit for communicating science to society	Updated, ready to use
Your PhD schools include participatory science in their curricula	The norm
The Research Office support public engagement in research and are collaborative	Strong relationship
You have the right tools to promote policymaking based on your research findings	Trust, collaboration
Your Legal team and Safety Office is responsive and collaborative when you need them	Strong relationship
Your institution has a programme to nurture and cultivate communities of interested and active citizens that support research	Clear Strategy
.... and much more	

BROAD ENGAGEMENT IN SCIENCE, POINT OF CONTACT



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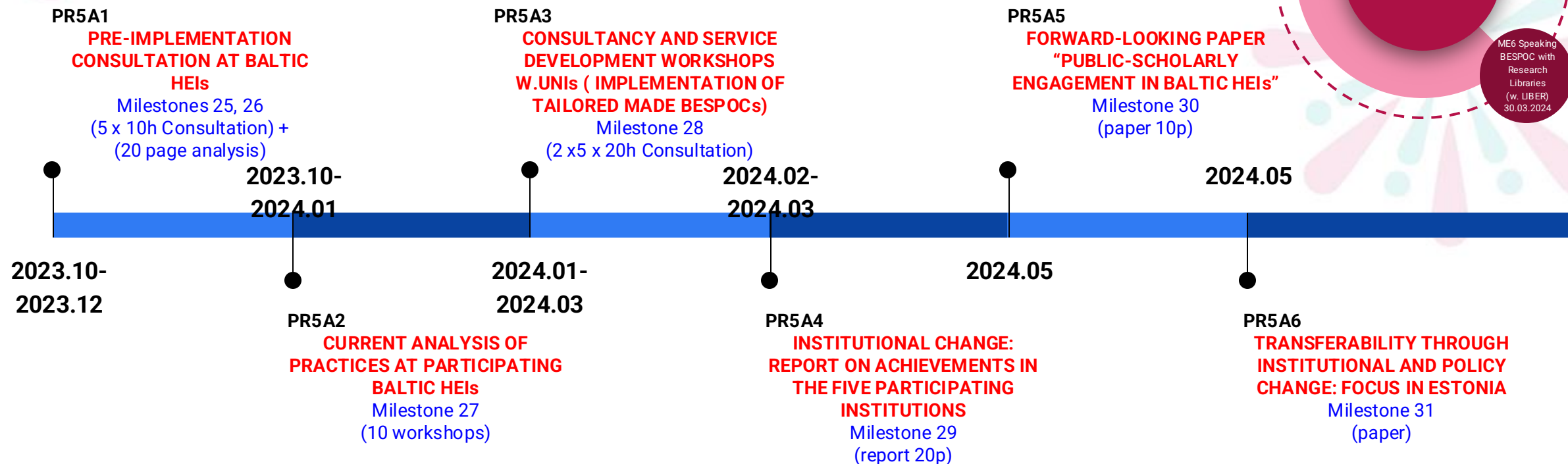
<https://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.501/>

BESPOC implementations in *LibOCS*

**TAL
TECH**



6 Activities + 2 Multiplier Events (9 Milestones)



The BESPOC Implementation Methodology in LibOCS

Pre-
Implementation
Consultation
and Analysis

Collaborative
Tools and
Communication
Platforms

Priority Setting
and Custom
Workshops

Diverse
Participant
Recruitment

Comprehensive
Module
Implementation

Analytical
Framework

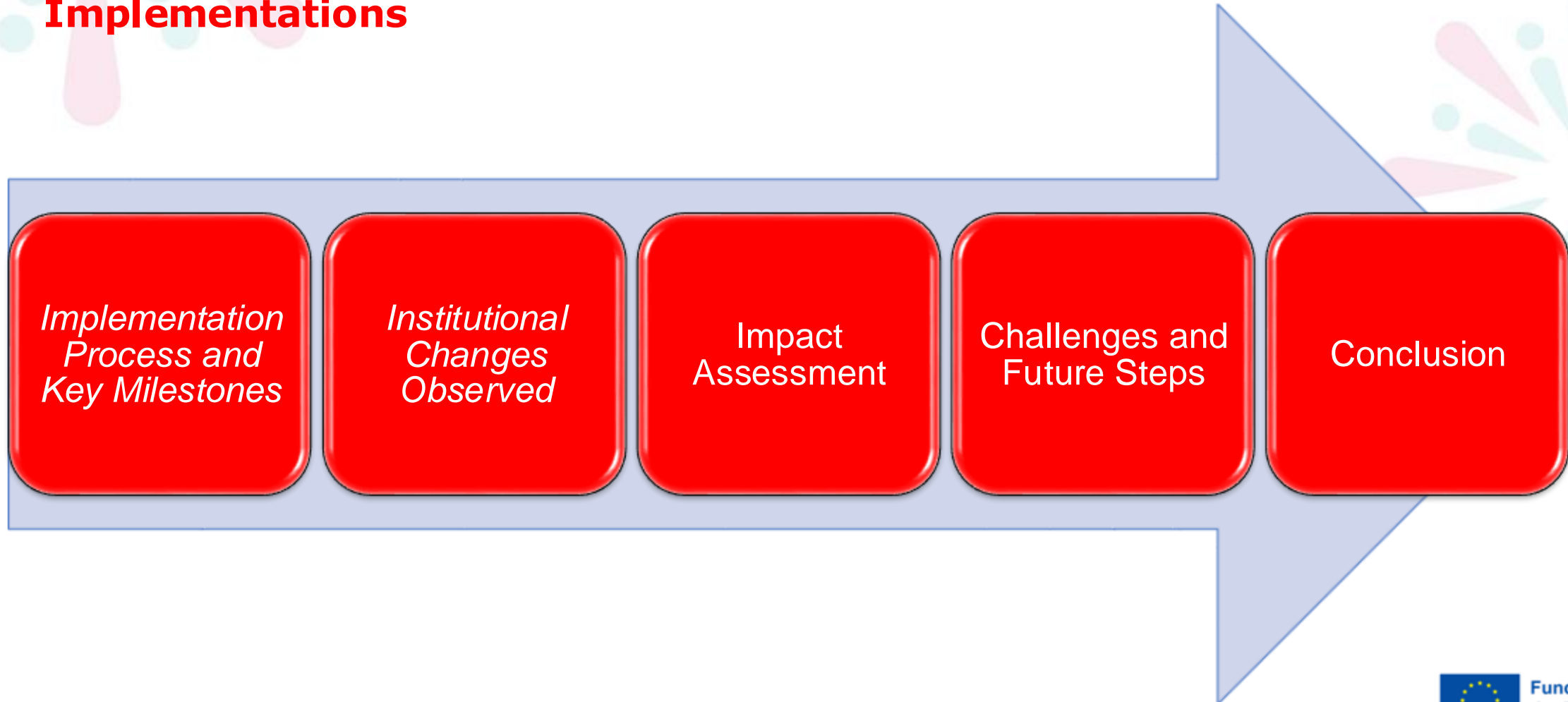
05.06.2023 – 25.10.2023 – 01.03.2024

The Implementation Score (1 to 10)

9,2

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations



Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESPOC Implementations

The cross-institutional analysis recognize the unique specificity and priorities of each university.

The BESPOC implementation focuses on valuing collaboration over competition, encouraging mutual support, sharing practices, and engaging in meaningful dialogue.

6 Activities + 2 Multiplier Events (9 Milestones)

The 2 Events (2 Milestones)

ME with CS Practitioners

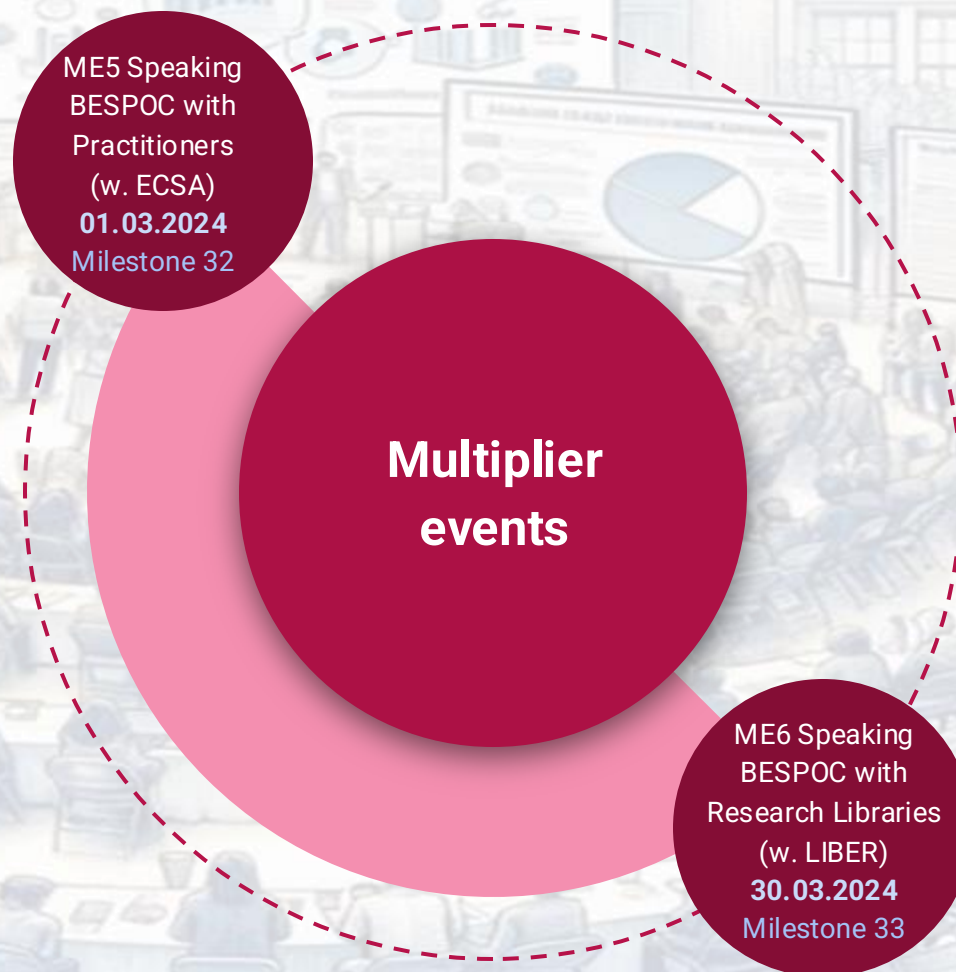
Registrants: 175

Actual Participants: 75

ME with research libraries

Registrants: 196

Actual Participants: 54

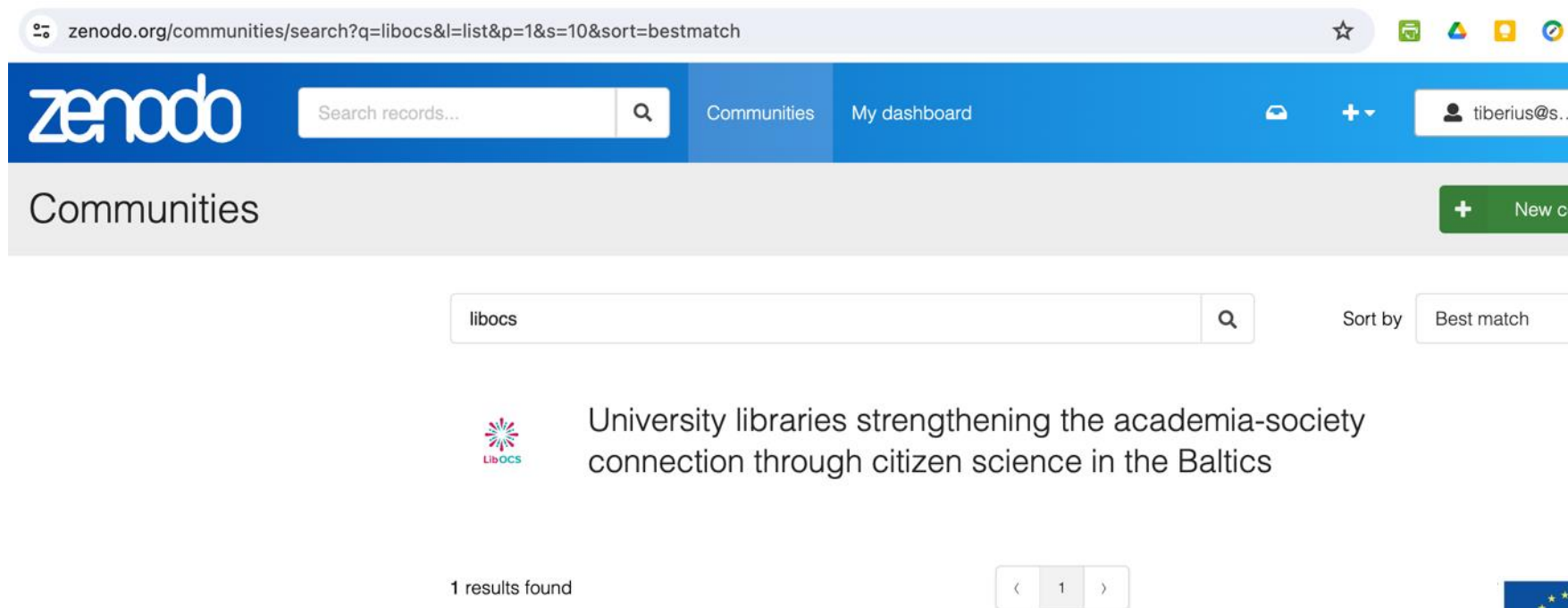


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Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 1: Enhance stakeholder engagement

Develop targeted communication strategies to better engage researchers, administrators, and students, highlighting the mutual benefits of citizen science for academia and society.

Organize interdisciplinary forums and workshops that bring together stakeholders from within and outside the university to foster collaboration and share best practices in citizen science.

Steadily build up this kind of engagement. Getting the large variety of stakeholders on board for citizen science or academic public engagement takes time, perseverance and is a long-term commitment.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 2: Expand public outreach and education

Increase public awareness and understanding of citizen science through regular public lectures, exhibitions, and media outreach.

Place citizen science in the larger context of public engagement activities for your organisation and connect your efforts with similar ones from your colleagues responsible for the educational programs

Offer citizen science (participatory science) training programs for the public to enhance their scientific literacy and skills, making it easier for them to contribute to research projects.

Actively contribute to transitioning existing communities of interest to communities of knowledge and further on, to communities of practice and showcase the added value of your university or research organisation.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 3: Develop the existing or new digital platforms and systems (p1)

Develop or enhance your existing online portals that facilitate the sharing of research projects and results, allowing for greater transparency, participation, and dissemination of knowledge. While not all your research projects are suitable for citizen science, it is important to responsibly present your ambitions and results to the larger public.

Explore if your existing CRIS system is suitable for expanding towards a more public interface, including more interoperability with your institutional repository.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 3: Develop the existing or new digital platforms and systems (p2)

Understand the special requirements of engaging and communicating with the public, including among others the language, the format, and the frequency of your digital communications.

Utilise social media in a responsible way to engage broader audiences and create communities around specific research topics or projects. Support social media platforms and tools that nurture a healthy audience (e.g. filter disinformation and prevent opinion polarisation).

Grow your audience in a way that actively supports you in identifying accounts that misleadingly present themselves as being part of (or connected to) your organisation. In return, offer curated and trustful information through your platforms and develop engagement programmes openly available for those interested in connecting with research activities.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 4: Institutionalize citizen science

Incorporate citizen science into university curricula by developing courses or modules that cover its principles, methods, and ethics, encouraging future researchers to engage with the public.

Establish dedicated support structures within universities, such as offices or centres for public engagement and citizen science, to provide guidance, resources, and support to projects involving public participation.

Aim for streamlining research-related public engagement and participatory science, moving away from strategies that align with the typically short lifespan of projects and embracing long-term strategies.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESPOC Implementations

Recommendation 5: Other recommendations (p1)

Allow your BESPOC service to gain greater adaptability of the BESPOC model to fit your specific needs, cultures, and structures, enabling more tailored approaches to implementing citizen (or participatory) science.

Adapt your service to modular implementation strategies that allow you to prioritize certain aspects of the BESPOC model based on your immediate goals and capabilities.

Consider the detailed guidelines and resources for each BESPOC module, including case studies, templates, and best practices, to assist your researchers in the practical aspects of implementation.

Milestone 29: [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10949874]

Citizen Science Institutional Change Through BESCPOC Implementations

Recommendation 5: Other recommendations (p2)

When necessary, consider external training and consultancy services, ensuring that your organisation has access to expert advice and support throughout the implementation process.

Support the creation of a network among institutions implementing the BESPOC model (or similar) to encourage the exchange of experiences, challenges, and successes.

Encourage collaborative projects that involve multiple institutions, leveraging the strengths and resources of each to tackle larger societal challenges through citizen science and research-related public engagement.

Build professional connections and attract enough resources to develop comprehensive guidelines on legal and ethical issues related to citizen science, such as data privacy, intellectual property, and participant consent, to assist your research communities in navigating these complex areas.

Milestone 30:

[doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11067939]



Forward-Looking to Public-Scholarly Engagement in Baltic HEIs

What the Future Could Hold?

The Significance of Institutional and Policy Change in Advancing Public-Scholarly Engagement for the Future

A Call for Further Action

You can find us:

Website: <https://www.libocs.ut.ee/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LibOCSproject/>

Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@LibOCSproject>

X: [\(11\) #LibOCS - Twitter Search / Twitter](#)

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Thank you



Tiberius Ignat, SKS Knowledge Services, Germany
Liisi Lembinen, University of Tartu Library, Estonia

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