



## **Putting on exchange of experiences with FIRE!**

FIRE! – our ERASMUS+ based Fertilize Innovation in Responsible Education! strategic partnership started in December 2018 in Berlin. kubus – Science Shop of Technische Universität Berlin – hosted the first meeting of four partners in the consortium of FIRE! Besides kubus there are:

**Boutique des Sciences Lille (BdSL) / Lille University, France, Science Shop of ADAMA MICKIEWICZA University in POZNAN, Poland and Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES) in Cēsis / Riga, Latvia.**

FIRE! addresses the staff of Science Shops and other intermediaries at the interface between science and society. The first meeting, December 2018 was training about e-tools in Citizen Science, science communication and participatory research, e.g. concerning online voting, online debates and tools to shape, e.g. citizen based research questions. We created this project to “put fire” to exchange of experiences in our respective areas of work and on learning from each other’s expertise – not under the pressure of “normal” project co-operation. FIRE! aims to a cooperative self-organized teaching and learning process based on our own experiences. Our diversity is the resource for our mutual capacity building regarding processes, tools / methods and skills. Each of us contributes examples of good practice, describes beneficial as well as inconvenient factors and the underlying considerations in a well-defined area of expertise. Together we reflect how and to what extent we can adapt these methods, tools and processes into our work.

Within our second Learning Teaching and Training Activity (LTTA), hosted by BdSL in March 2019 we learned in detail about co-operation between CSO / NGO and BdSL and Lille University and about the Participatory Action Research approach of BdSL. During our meeting we had the possibility to meet and talk with different CSO / NGO partnering with BdSL. That gave essential insights to the “down-to-earth” organisation of interaction! Each time we meet these everyday aspects of co-creation and interaction it is such an enrichment, because normally we know each other only on behalf of (research) project cooperation or meeting in conferences. Besides the specific agenda of each LTTA we learned more in depth about the working conditions of our partners and its organizational framework. These were important information to better understand each other and the respective way of conducting work; limitations as well as potentials of the different approaches.

In our third meeting, September 2019 at Institute for Environmental Solutions in Cēsis, Latvia we exchanged experiences in the area of “arts & sciences”: conducting a 1 day “design thinking” workshop about potentials and risks of developing tourism in the greater area of Cēsis opened up for us the opportunity not only to contribute to this important topic but as well to learn more in detail in which contexts “design thinking” can benefit the work of Science Shops – and in which contexts not! kubus contributed the presentation of two tutors of the students self-organized project laboratory “parallax lab” where students work on scientific topics in an arts based artistic manner. IES gave insight into their expertise co-working with artists on scientific topics as well. We got a lively impression of this way to communicate and work on scientific results / knowledge related to societal problems.

In March 2020 we will meet in Poznan at ADAMA MICKIEWICZA University (AMU) and together with Science Shop of AMU we will exchange our experiences in students’ engagement in research, Service Learning and students project laboratories.

BdSL, kubus, Science Shop AMU and IES are highly interested to continue our cooperation and exchange – and to invite other Science Shops to join our co-operation because the more we understand our respective conditions of work, organizational structures and areas of expertise the more we can benefit from cooperating – in projects of Citizen Science, Transdisciplinarity or Participatory Research – to the benefit of the society!

FIRE! deals with innovative science communication and the development of relevant and high-quality skills and competences and strengthening the recruitment and skills of Science Shop staff. This is essential for Citizen Science, providing opportunity for broader public engagement and democratization of science. Citizen scientists may design the method, gather and analyze data and / or communicate the results. Dialogue, participation and co-creation are the ways we involve civil society in scientific work; enabling citizens to influence, request and contribute scientific research for mutual benefit. Reflecting Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and Citizen Science on European level, dialogue between science and society needs efficient tools and formats and professional intermediaries. To reach these aimed goals is one of the main missions of FIRE!

FIRE! is innovative – it creates new concepts / processes as well as tools / methods and successfully implements them into the practice of the participating partners. The work process of the project itself is innovative: FIRE! is a project from the intermediaries, through the intermediaries and for the intermediaries. The innovation of the project is motivated in the working principles of the participating intermediaries. The project reflects on the working process of Science Shops practicing dialogue between citizens and scientists. Content and format of operating process go in line with each other. The whole project fosters intended future cooperation and continuing exchange of experiences between us. FIRE! fosters the development of social, civic and cultural translation competences. FIRE! aims to contribute to a process of (joined) continuing education for intermediaries on European level.