Second European Report on Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries: 2023 Update

Full version
Report prepared by the EBLIDA Secretariat
in collaboration with the National Library of Latvia

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Digital products and services have a considerable environmental impact. The larger the image and file size, the larger the energy consumption. Therefore, for the design of this report it was decided to use vector graphic. In this way the data load was lightened to have as low CO emissions as possible.

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Introduction

In 2020, EBLIDA released the First European Report on Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries. One year ago, the enthusiastic response from library associations showed a quite disparate picture, from front runners fully committed to the attainment of SDGs to a minimal level of awareness. In general, the Agenda 2030 was still considered an accessory objective, not pivotal in library activities. One year later, in 2021, an interesting shift can be noticed and the situation reported by the 2nd European Report offers a totally different scenario.

Not only is the level of awareness much higher than in the past, but a good number of library associations have convincingly embarked upon the Agenda 2030 pathway. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the catastrophic impact of the pandemic and the poor global SDG record in 2021, coherent and fully-fledged policies are now being enforced. There is a clear understanding, at least at top level, that libraries can make the most of SDG strategies.

This provides evidence of the validity of the EBLIDA approach. In 2019, six months before the European Commission re-oriented its work programme towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, EBLIDA made the proposal that SDGs implemented in libraries should not only be stories told to administrators and policy-makers for advocacy purposes, but ought to consist of a fully-fledged concept framing library work into a much broader and far-reaching scope.

This strategy proved to be accurate during the Covid crisis, when libraries developed along two directions: the digital library and the socially inclusive library. The Covid crisis has clearly shown that open access to information does not necessarily mean open access to accurate information. When accurate information has a cost, libraries remain safe harbours for free access, guaranteeing quality output and access to certified information.

The chapter of the socially inclusive library fully complies with the social and economic pillars of the Agenda 2030. The EBLIDA Second European Report on Sustainable Development and Libraries provides many hints on how SDGs are perceived in libraries, but also on how libraries can be perceived in society. The EBLIDA accompanying programme "Think the Unthinkable — a European library agenda meeting sustainable development goals to be funded through European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2021-2027" lays the foundation for possible funding for SDG-oriented projects.

This report is opening new directions for future EBLIDA strategy in the SDG field. It fulfils the library's commitment towards the attainment of SDGs in society, reinforces SDG-oriented policies in libraries at European scale and boosts the preparation of projects at national and international level. In this respect, it is a milestone for library work whose impact will be measured hopefully in the very near future.

Ton van Vlimmeren, President EBLIDA

Methodology

In June 2021, the EBLIDA Secretariat sent out a survey addressed at library associations and at the community of EBLIDA experts who are promoting the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. This community stationing in the EBLIDA Sustainable Development House includes the EBLIDA Executive Committee, the EBLIDA Expert Group ELSIA (European Libraries and Sustainable Development Implementation and Assessment) and TTU ("Think the Unthinkable") coordinators.

Responses were received from library associations and other representative institutions from 17 countries. These countries and associations/institutions are: Bulgaria (Bulgarian Library and Information Association), Czech Republic (Czech Library Association and Masaryk University), Denmark (Aarhus Public Libraries and Danish Library Association), Estonia (Estonian Librarians' Association), Finland (Finnish Library Association), France (French Library Association), Germany (German Library Association), Greece (Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists), Italy (Italian Library Association, CSBNO and Rete delle Reti), Latvia (National Library of Latvia and the Library Association of Latvia), Lithuania (Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania and the Library Association of Lithuania), the Netherlands (The Alignment House), Portugal (Portuguese Library Association and the General Directorate for Book, Archives and Libraries), Romania (The Association of Librarians and Public libraries in Romania), Spain (FESABID), Sweden (Swedish Library Association), Switzerland (Swiss Library Association Bibliosuisse).

Most responses covered all aspects of the survey, thus providing full information about policies enforced at national level and main projects. Some of the responses are the expression of the official policy of the national library association or the entity which plays a central role in the implementation of SDGs; some of the others are expert opinions which picture the situation in each country in a realistic way.

With 19 questions, the survey was partly structured with pre-coded questions and partly unstructured with free answers. A long list of some 50 projects, chosen by respondents among the most qualified, exemplifies the SDG-oriented policies followed by libraries for each concerned country. The resulting report is divided into two parts: the first synthesises the content of the answers; the second includes a series of country profiles which clearly illustrates the nature and the level of effort deployed by library associations and their partners in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in libraries.

In September 2021, the National Library of Latvia organised an online conference — "Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Baltic museums and libraries" — in collaboration with the Latvian Museum Association and the Library Association of Latvia. After this successful conference, the National Library of Latvia wished to extend the promotion of SDGs from the Baltic area to the rest of Europe. A natural ally was found in EBLIDA, whose three-year commitment to the Agenda 2030 has helped boost SDG activities all over Europe.

The "Second European Report on Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries" has been jointly drafted by EBLIDA and the National Library of Latvia.

Part I: Synthesis of the Report

1. SDGs: national perception and coordinating entities

1.1 SDGs in European libraries are not only about projects, they are also about how library personnel and users perceive and apply them in their everyday work. Respondents were given the possibility of choosing different statements reflecting their perceptions. Half of the respondents agreed that the level of awareness of SDGs in libraries has increased, but that activities are still lagging behind. Remarkably enough, 47% of the responses conclude that SDGs are implemented in a convincing and active way. Another 33% expresses the opinion that, in spite of a good understanding of policies and objectives, SDGs are not implemented in libraries. No one, however, shows complete ignorance of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

With which of the following statements would you agree?
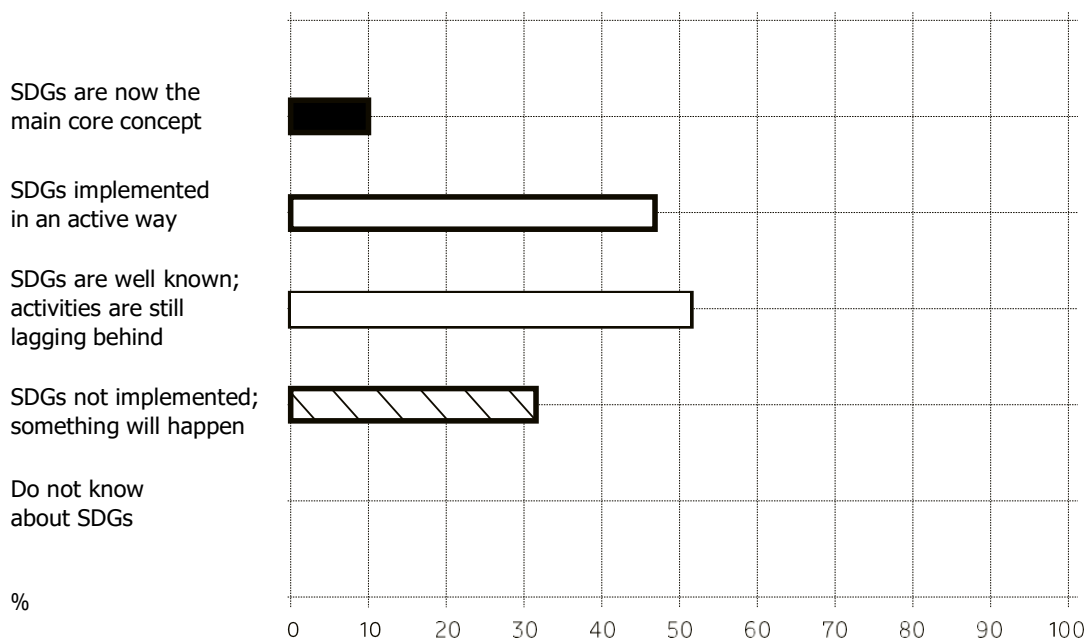
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
In my country library operations have been, or are being adapted to the Agenda 2030 on sustainable development: sustainable development is now the core library concept	10,53%	2
SDGs are being implemented in the libraries of my country in a convincing and active way	47,37%	9
SDGs are well known by librarians at national level; nevertheless, activities are still lagging behind	52,63%	10
In my country SDGs were not implemented at all in libraries; however, the European Commiss on and national governments have put SDGs at the core of their concerns and something will also happen in libraries	31,58%	6
Do not know about SDGs	0,00%	0
Other (please specify)		6

1.2 A good 84% of national library associations and/or library agencies state that there is a clear promotion of SDG-oriented schemes, with a selection of SDGs that are relevant at national level and the definition of well-established policies. This result confirms that awareness, at least at top level, has increased from 2020 to 2021, together with the understanding that SDGs are a central drive for library development.

Have library associations and/or library agencies in your country identified policies with a view to pursuing sustainable development policies in libraries?
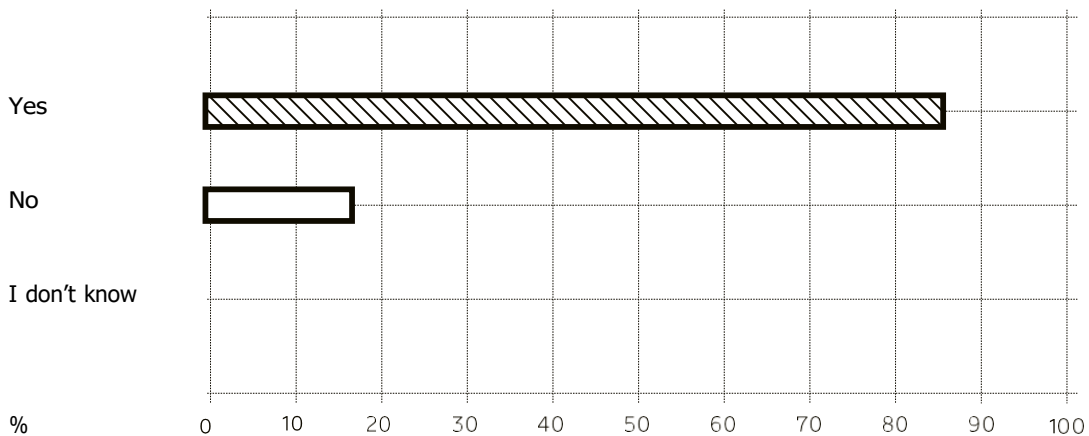
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Yes	84,21%	16
No	15,79%	3
I don't know	0,00%	0
Comments		3

1.3 15 out of 17 SDGs are recognised as being relevant for ordinary library work. Not all of them, however, enjoy the same priority and are implemented with equal effort. Unsurprisingly, almost all respondents (95%) selected SDG 4 "Quality education" as the pivotal SDG for libraries. Interestingly enough, SDG 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities" and SDG 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" are also strongly associated with library work (respectively 68% and 63% of the answers) — library heritage is core in SDG 11, whereas SDG 16, Target 10, deals with access to information. SDG 17 is also strongly associated with library work, although this SDG is understood more in the sense of traditional library cooperation than recognition of the need for international partnership (57% of responses). In the wake of the Covid crisis, it is not surprising that SDGs 3 "Good Health and well-being" (47%) and SDG 10 "Reducing Inequality" (48%) are also at the core of library policies — evidence, if any, of the socially inclusive nature of library work.

Library professionals are to a large extent female; therefore, it may be surprising that SDG 5 "Gender Equality" is considered a core business for libraries by only 42% of respondents. Awareness activities about SDG 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production" and SDG 13 "Climate Action" also enjoy popularity in SDG-oriented library activities (42%).

All other SDGs — SDG 1 "No poverty", SDG 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth", SDG 6 "Clean Water and Sanitation", SDG 7 "Affordable and Clean Energy", SDG 8 "Decent work and economic growth", "SDG 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure", SDG 15 "Life on Land" — are less popular in libraries (from 10% to 30% of the answers). SDG 2 "Zero Hunger" and SDG 14 "Life below water" are not immediately perceived as being close to library work, although occasional projects may take place within the framework of research libraries.

If you answered YES to question No. 3, which goals are central to the SDG-oriented library policy of your country? (please tick all relevant goals)
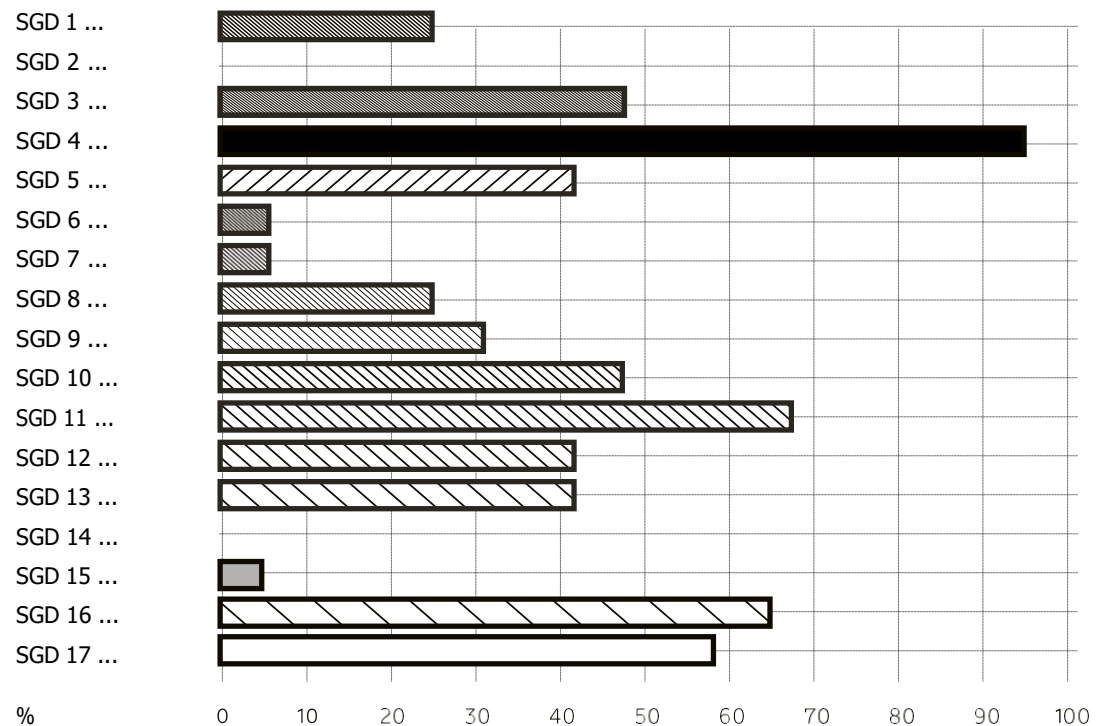
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses	
SDG 1. No Poverty: Access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation	26,32%	5
SDG 2. Zero Hunger: Providing food and humanitarian relief, establishing sustainable food production	0,00%	0
SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy	47,37%	39
SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty	94,74%	18
SDG 5. Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, fairer representation of women	42,11%	8
SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation: Improving access for billions of people who lack these basic facilities	5,26%	1
SDG 7. Affordable and Clean Energy: Access to renewable, safe and widely available energy sources for all	5,26%	1
SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth	26,32%	5
SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Generating employment and income through innovation	31,58%	6
SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities: Reducing income and other inequalities, within and between countries	47,37%	9
SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable	68,42%	13
SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Reversing current consumption trends and promoting a more sustainable future	42,11%	8
SDG 13. Climate Action: Regulating and reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy	42,11%	8
SDG 14. Life Below Water: Conservation, promoting marine diversity and regulating fishing practices	0,00%	0
SDG 15. Life on Land: Reversing man-made deforestation and desertification to sustain all life on earth	5,26%	1
SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice	63,16%	12
SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Revitalize strong global partnerships for sustainable development	57,89%	11
Comments		5

1.4 More than 70% of respondents certify that a group of library experts working at national level is in charge of promoting and coordinating the library's endeavour to implement the European 2030 Agenda. This group may be officially established through formal agreements between the involved entities, or can be informal. It may be argued that even in countries where the SDG penetration in libraries is scarce or insufficient, there is a strong institutional basis. This is an encouraging sign for future progress.

Is there an informal or official group, or more groups, in charge of promoting / coordinating libraries in the attainment of sustainable development goals in your country?
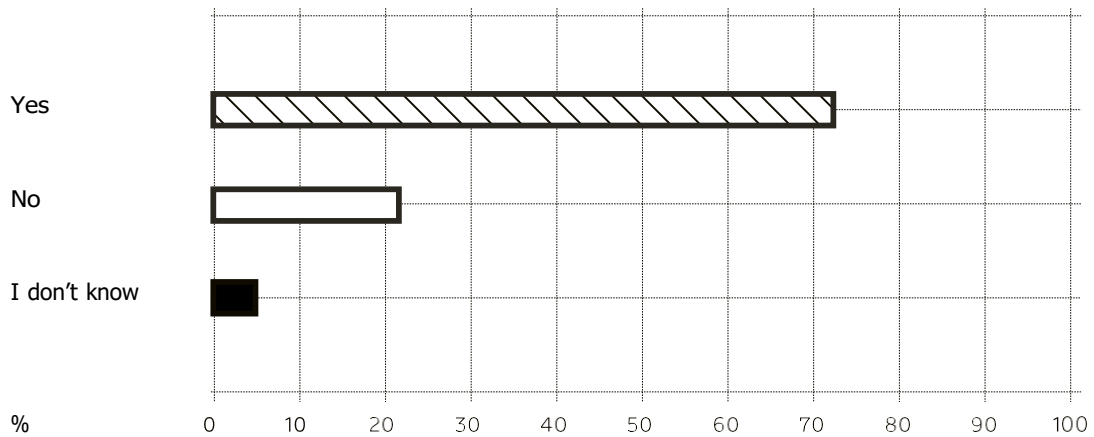
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Yes	73,68%	14
No	21,05%	4
I don't know	5,26%	1
If yes, what is/are its/their name(s)? — Please add contact person & email:		15

2. Visibility at national level and library advocacy

2.1 Do libraries implement SDG projects as a result of well-coordinated policy, or do they act in the wake of a spontaneous determination to support the SDG cause? The EBLIDA community is divided in half. Most (53%) report that there is no written policy or guidelines designed to foster the implementation of SDGs in libraries; an almost similar percentage (47%) states that an SDG-oriented library policy is formulated in official documents in a more or less formal way.

Are there official documents produced by library entities in relation to the promotion and attainment of sustainable development goals in your country?
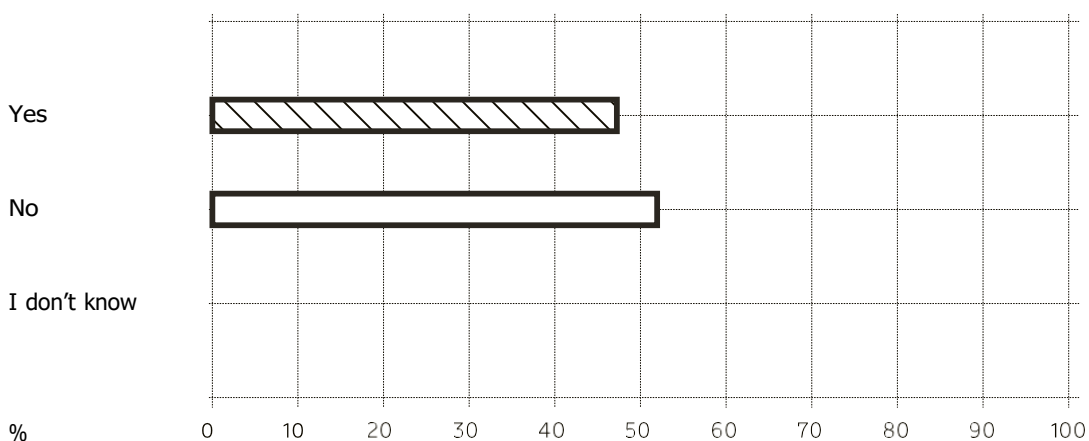
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Yes	47,37%	9
No	52,63%	10
I don't know	0,00%	0
If YES, could you please provide links to them? Comments:		12

2.2 In some cases, official SDG-related documents established by national authorities mention libraries as agencies committed to the attainment of the Agenda 2030. Answers reporting about this institutionalisation of library work, however, are not straightforward. 42% of the respondents are adamant in stating that libraries or library work is not mentioned in official SDG-focussed documents produced out of libraries. But, another 37% reports that libraries have found their own place in national SDG-focused documents. The high percentage of "do not know" answers (21%) shows that a significant number of respondents is unaware of the SDG administrative architecture set in place in their own country.

Is there any mention of libraries or library activities in the official SDG documents (National Voluntary Report, SDG National Roadmap, etc.)?
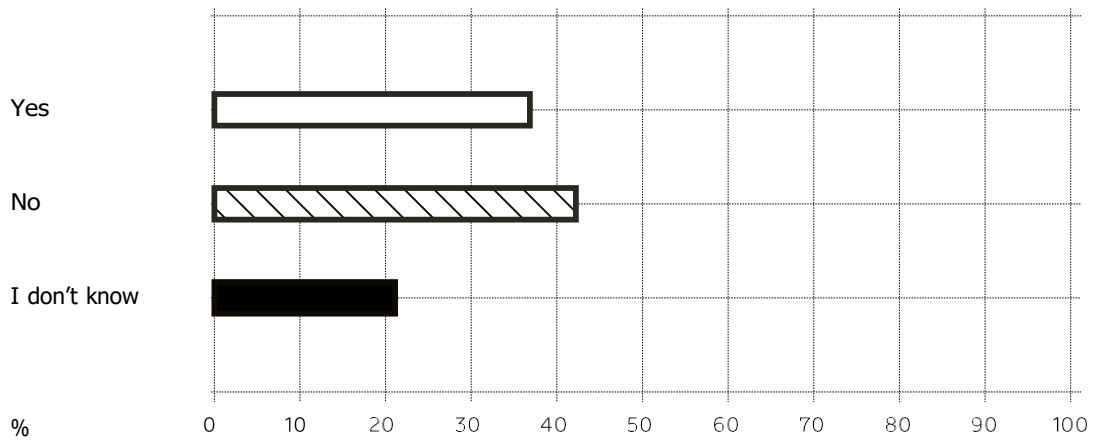
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Yes	36,84%	7
No	42,11%	8
I don't know	21,05%	4
If yes, could you please provide link(s) to it/them?		8

3. How are SDG-oriented library projects funded?

3.1 Support for SDG-oriented library projects is part of the ordinary library budget in 53% of the cases, while one third of respondents reports that SDGs are implemented by means of additional library funding.

In general, financial support for SDG-oriented library projects is part of the ordinary library budget or is generated from additional library funding?
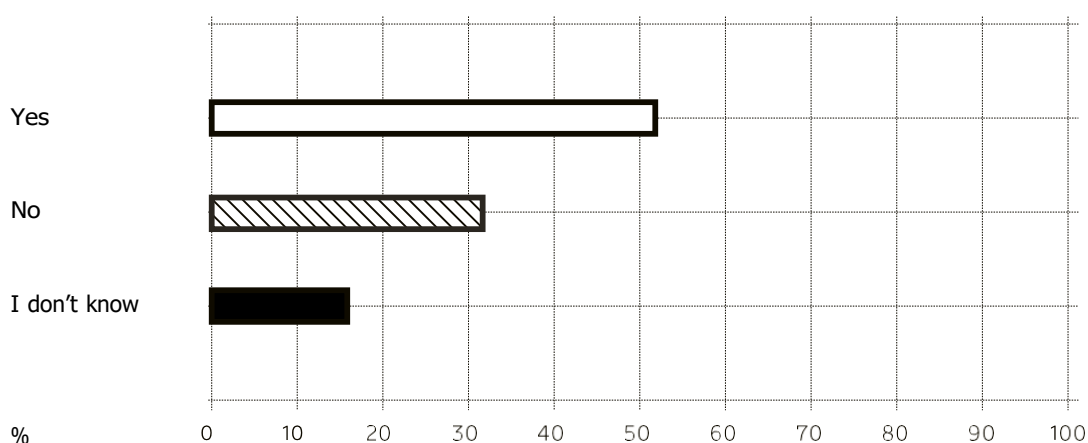
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Ordinary library budget	52,63%	10
Additional funding	31,58%	6
I don't know	15,79%	3
Comments		8

3.2 Additional, non-cultural funding for SDG-oriented library projects is provided by ministries (79% of respondents), international organisations (European Commission, Structural Funds, etc., 58%), national or international foundations (53%), City/Provincial/ Regional Councils (53%); Non-Governmental Organisations (47%). In several cases (21%), SDG-oriented library projects are funded by commercial enterprises.

3.3 In general, it can be said that the state or local cultural agencies are providing the bulk of funding (37% of the responses); nevertheless, other departments have started funding SDG-oriented library projects, like the economic (16%), social affairs (11%) and educational departments (5%). In 34% of the answers, funding for libraries is coming from other sources (16%) or is unknown (16%) to the respondent.

If additional funding is provided, support is provided by (multiple answers are possible):
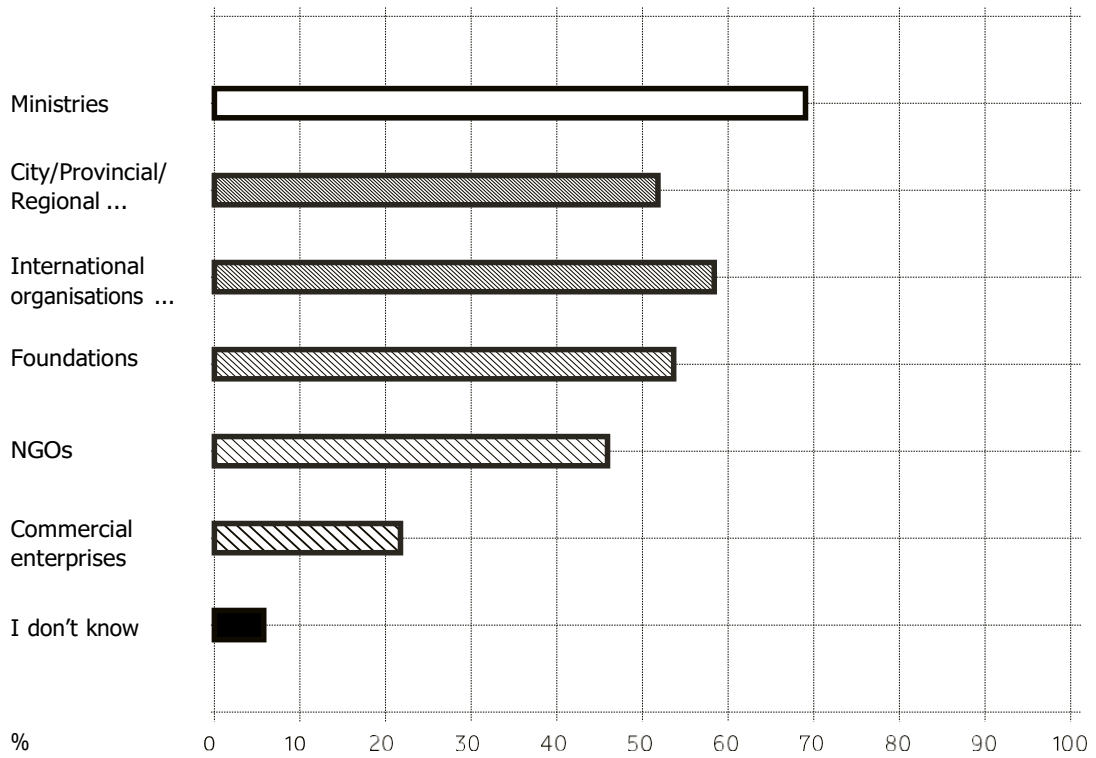
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Ministries	78,95%	15
City/Provincial/Regional Councils	52,63%	10
International organisations (European Commission, Structural Funds, etc)	57,89%	11
National or international Foundations	52,63%	10
Non-Governmental Organisations	47,37%	9
Commercial enterprises	21,05%	4
I don't know	5,26%	1
Other (please specify)		1

If additional funding for SDG-oriented projects is provided by international, governmental or local agencies, which department would allocate them:
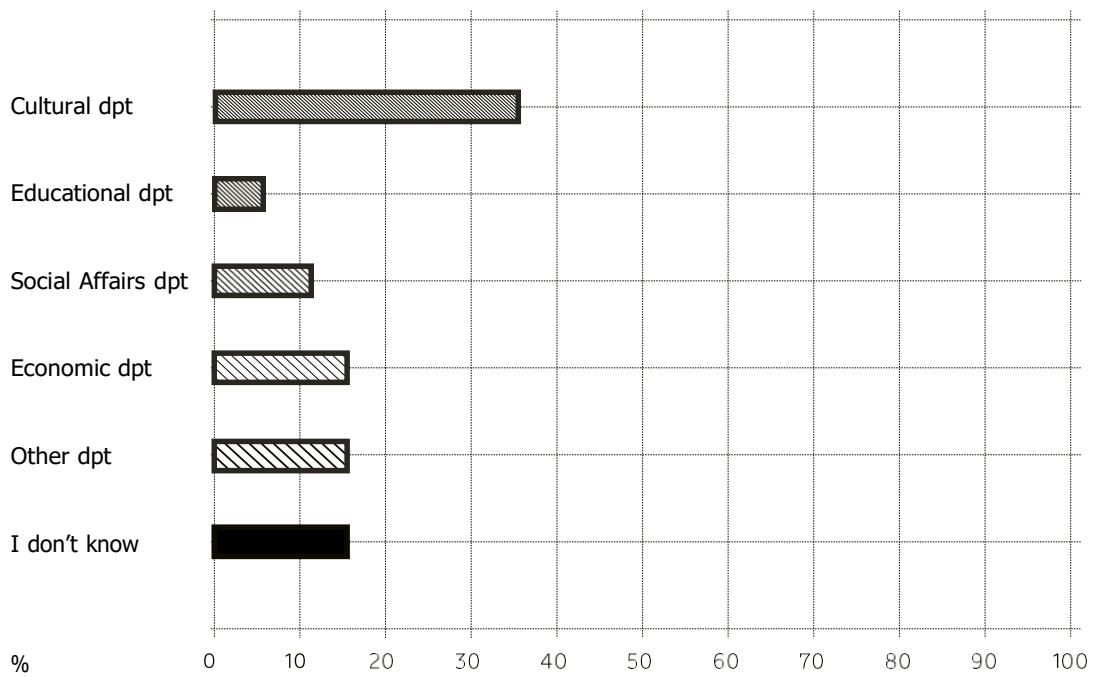
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Cultural department	36,84%	7
Educational department	5,26%	1
Social Affairs department	10,53%	2
Economic department	15,79%	3
Other departments	15,79%	3
I don't know	15,79%	3
Other (please specify)		5

4. International partnership

4.1 Almost half of the respondents (47%) are unable to answer whether, and to what extent, SDG-oriented library projects benefit from international/European partnership. A good 37% indicate that library projects are not part of ordinary activities and do not benefit from international/European partnership. Only 16% of respondents acknowledge an EU grant for library projects. An investigation on the impact of EU programmes in libraries is therefore strongly needed.

In your country, to what extent are library projects not part of ordinary activities benefiting from international/European partnership?
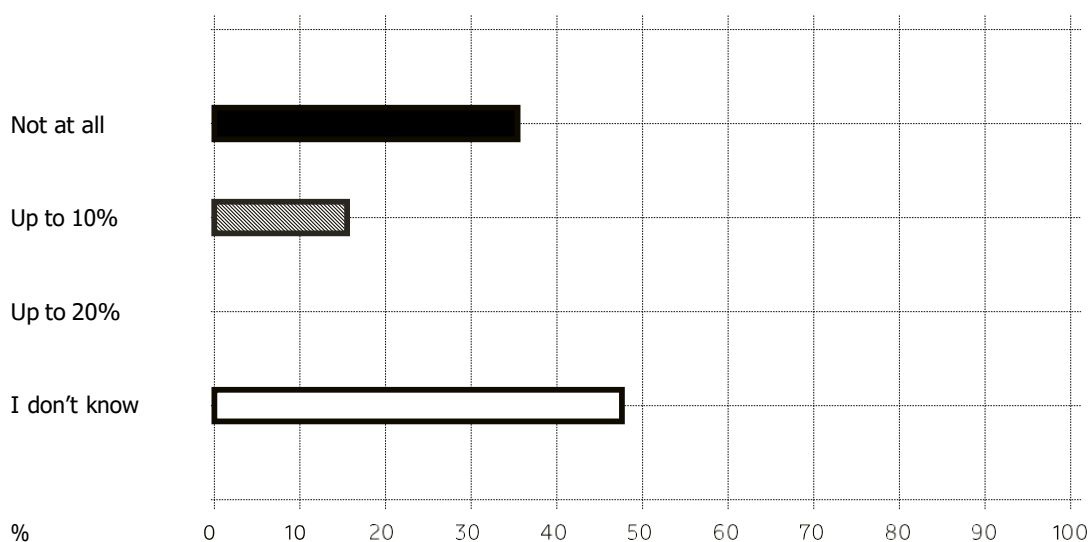
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Not at all	36,84%	7
During the last two-three years European/international funding for library projects was consistent, up to 10% of the library budget	15,79%	3
During the last two-three years European/international funding for library projects was consistent, up to 20% of the library budget, and beyond	0,00%	0
I don't know	47,37%	9
Other (please specify)		5

4.2 Along the same line of thought, almost half respondents (47%) indicate that some libraries have benefited from EU Structural and Investment Funds in the past. The remaining 53% of answers state that such information is not known or that libraries have not benefited from EU Structural and Investment Funds.

4.3 More than a third of the respondents (37%) believe that the SDG reorientation of EU Structural and Investment Funds 2021–2027 will promote library activities. Whether this will represent a genuine opportunity remains uncertain.

Have libraries in your country benefited from EU Structural and Investment Funds in the past?
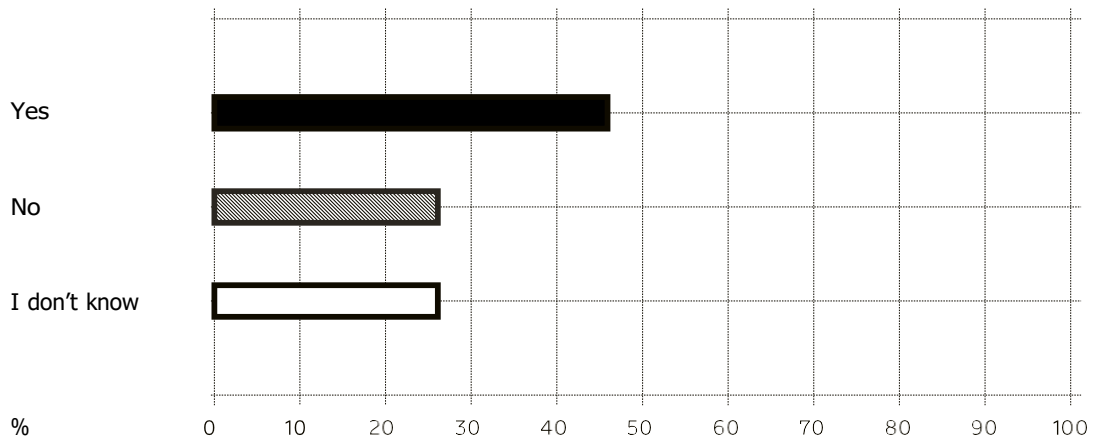
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Yes	47,37%	9
No	26,32%	5
I don't know	26,32%	5
If YES, could you provide titles, links and financial value?		7

The EU Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 (European regional development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Policy, etc.) have been thoroughly re-oriented in light of the new Sustainable Development priorities set up by the European Commission. Are there initiatives, or library endeavours which may lead you to think that libraries will make the most out of them?
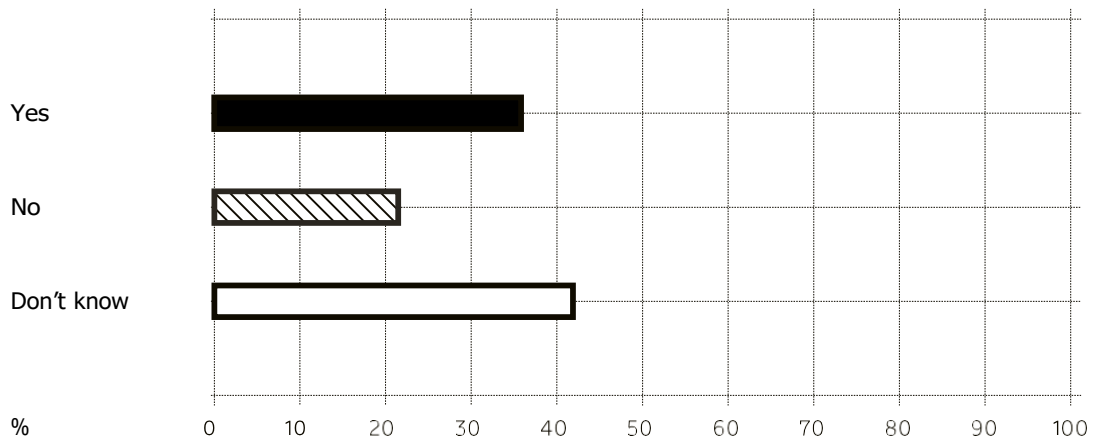
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Yes	36,84%	7
No	21,05%	4
I don't know	42,11%	8
If yes, could you please provide link(s) to it/them?		3

5. Evaluation of SDG-oriented library projects

5.1 The administration of SDG-oriented library projects is not yet so advanced as to corroborate a re-shuffle of the traditional library framework. One third of the answers do not mention any evaluation scheme, although there are plans to start this process. SDG-oriented projects are normally evaluated according to standard library procedures (32% of the responses) or in relation to the criteria set up by the funding agency/institution (11%); only in a small number of cases, official SDG indicators (UN, Eurostat, UNESCO indicators) are applied (5%). 21% of responses were not aware of any form of evaluation whatsoever.

Are SDG-oriented library projects evaluated in your country?
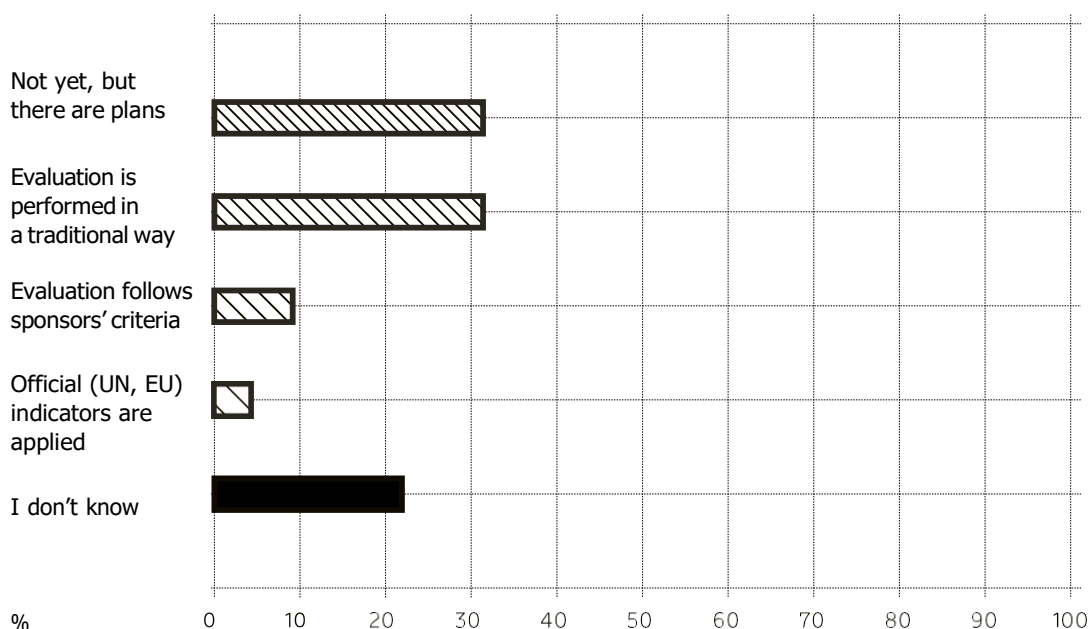
Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
Not yet, but there are plans to evaluate SDG-oriented library projects	31,58%	6
Evaluation is performed according to standard library procedures	31,58%	6
Evaluation is carried out only in case of additional funding and in relation to the criteria set up by the funding agency/institution	10,53%	2
As far as possible, official SDG indicators (UN, Eurostat, UNESCO indicators) are applied	5,26%	1
I don't know	21,05%	4
Comments		6

5.2 Lack of evaluation or evaluation carried out in a traditional way suggests the need for innovative assessing schemes. Unsurprisingly, 68% of respondents would like to see library indicators in this field. In general, it can easily be said that project evaluation in compliance with SDG official indicators (UN, UNESCO, Eurostat) is very difficult since they are hardly connected to library activities and/or are managed by the National Institute of Statistics.

If you evaluate SDG-oriented library projects, how would you qualify your experience (multiple answers are possible):

Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
We tried to evaluate projects, but were unsuccessful	10,53%	2
We find SDG official indicators (UN, UNESCO, Eurostat) difficult to apply because they are not connected with library activities	15,79%	3
Indicators are managed by National Institute of Statistics and we do not have contact with these people	5,26%	1
We would like to have library indicators – would it be possible to develop them?	68,42%	13
Comments		7

5.3 In all countries covered by the survey, library activities meeting SDGs are quite similar. What varies is the priority given to these activities. Respondents agree that partnerships with civil society on projects regarding digital inclusion and digital citizenship is the objective of many projects (84% of the responses). A good number also mention debates on SDGs with citizens (79%) and green library premises, energy-saving infrastructure, waste management, SDG policy with staff (63%). 58% of the responses consider that SDG-oriented projects should be centred on library collections, although only 37% of them consider library exhibitions the most suitable activity.

5.4 More than half of the respondents believe that libraries in Europe may benefit from the EBLIDA Sustainable Development House (including the EBLIDA Matrix and SDG-KIC). The biggest problem is that, in general, libraries do not have enough resources and know-how to file applications for EU funding.

If you evaluate SDG-oriented library projects, how would you qualify your experience (multiple answers are possible):

Answered: 19   Skipped: 0

Answer choices	Responses	
We tried to evaluate projects, but were unsuccessful	10,53%	2
We find SDG official indicators (UN, UNESCO, Eurostat) difficult to apply because they are not connected with library activities	15,79%	3
Indicators are managed by National Institute of Statistics and we do not have contact with these people	5,26%	1
We would like to have library indicators – would it be possible to develop them?	68,42%	13
Comments		7

6. Conclusions

1. Overall, the progress of SDG implementation in European libraries is quite heterogeneous: in some countries, libraries are fully integrated into the national SDG policy; in others, SDG attainment in libraries is done in a practical way, with no involvement of national authorities.

2. The crucial point for the successful implementation of SDGs is librarians' awareness. Their level of awareness has certainly increased, but activities in libraries are still lagging behind.

3. European libraries are divided in half: some 50% implement SDG projects as a result of well-coordinated policy, while the other half stands for the SDG cause in a spontaneous way. Both movements are therefore possible: a top-down approach, where the impulsion is provided by national or centralised agencies, or a bottom-up approach, with local groups taking the lead in informal endeavours taking place in loose frameworks.

4. Libraries link their projects and activities to the majority of SDGs; obviously enough, areas traditionally linked to libraries — such as education, sustainable community, access to information, freedom of expression and peace — are at the forefront.

5. The nature of the measures implemented by libraries shows how they contribute to this or the other SDG; nevertheless, libraries don't see clearly what their role should be in the attainment of at least two other SDGs (living nature and biodiversity, reduction of global hunger).

6. SDG-oriented projects can be multi-layered and require multi-tasking, but the main focus remains on digital and inclusive issues, as well as on green libraries. If library collections are seen as a significant instrument in fostering SDG issues, exhibitions are not considered to be particularly relevant.

7. 68% of countries would like to have library indicators for the evaluation of SDG-oriented library projects; as a consequence, there is a strong need for indicators in SDG-oriented library projects and activities.

8. Only 32% of SDG-oriented library projects are realised on the basis of additional library funding — provided by ministries, international or national organisations or foundations, City/Provincial/Regional Councils, Non-Governmental Organisations and commercial enterprises; that shows that a great deal of work still has to be done in order to arrange closer and stronger partnership with a diverse range of institutions, whether regional/national and/or international; more active project management skills should be provided to libraries.

9. Almost half of the respondents (47%) are unable to answer whether, and to what extent, SDG-oriented library projects benefit from international/European partnership. It means that an investigation into the impact of EU programmes in libraries is strongly needed.

10. Professional organisations and librarians' associations have a great role to play in raising librarians' awareness about SDGs. More active library participation, boosting evaluation tools, raising libraries' awareness of the EU Structural and Investment Funds as well as other EU opportunities, are fundamental tasks for national library associations as well as library organisation active at European level.

Part II: Country profiles

1. Bulgaria

1.1 General background and who's who. In Bulgaria there is a general awareness of the importance of SDGs for libraries; nevertheless, library activities are still finding their orientation and connections with relevant entities and national authorities. A key role in Bulgaria is being played by the Global Libraries — Bulgaria Foundation, which has different roles: a) project manager in some of the SDG-oriented library projects, b) create awareness on SDG-related activities and c) provide expertise for libraries. Many of these activities are organised in collaboration with the Bulgarian Library Association.

Libraries are mentioned in National Voluntary Report presented to the United Nations in 2020 ("**Националната програма за развитие БЪЛГАРИЯ 2030**", National Development Program 2030); Axis 5 "Spiritual and vital Bulgaria" and Priority 13 mention, respectively, "Libraries" and "access to information" as an objective. They are included in the axe "Culture, heritage and tourism" with a view to supporting "Local development" and "Social inclusion".

The report says that "cultural policy, culture and related creative industries" are a factor of identity and cohesion, aimed at creating cohesive and inclusive societies and improve the quality of life of the individual citizen and the stimulation of creative and innovative thinking. Activities will be carried out in support of local cultural centers, including theaters, community centers, libraries, museums, galleries, etc., using the achievements of modern (digital) technologies to increase the accessibility of creative cultural products."[1]

1.2 SDG priorities and policies in Bulgarian libraries

The Global Libraries Foundation and BLIA consider that the focus of SDG-oriented projects in Bulgaria should be the following:

— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— pursuing green library objectives (such as energy saving infrastructure, waste management, SDG policy with staff).

Also taking into account the priorities of the NVR report in Bulgaria, The Global Libraries Foundation and BLIA deemed it possible to promote SDG-related projects within the scope of the following SDGs:

SDG 1. No Poverty: Access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation,
SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy,
SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty, SDG 5. Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, fairer representation of women,
SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation: Improving access for billions of people who lack these basic facilities,
SDG 7. Affordable and Clean Energy: Access to renewable, safe and widely available energy sources for all,
SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth,

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1   https://www.minfin.bg/upload/42211/Bulgaria+2030+proekt.pdf

SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Generating employment and income through innovation,

SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable,

SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Reversing current consumption trends and promoting a more sustainable future,

SDG 13. Climate Action: Regulating and reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy,

SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice.

1.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **"Construction and development of the Center of Excellence Heritage BG",[2] funded by OP NEIR 2014-2020, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (SDG 11).** The main objective of the project is to build a modern infrastructure for research and innovation in the creative and recreational industries involving integrated teams for interdisciplinary research, policies and practices (representatives of the "St. Cyril and Methodius" National Library of Bulgaria and 11 other cultural, scientific and academic institutions).

   Objects of the Bulgarian cultural heritage are being studied, processed, described and catalogued in the specialised laboratories. Samples of cultural heritage are also being examined for their potential social, economic and environmental effects at regional, national and local levels. The results will be directly applicable libraries, the educational and scientific institutions, and in the business organisations.

2. **"Sustainable development goals and migration"[3] (SDG 16).** The project aims to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the countries of the European Union by raising the awareness of EU citizens and decision-makers. By the end of the project, 26,000 people and 980 journalists from at least 7 EU countries should be aware of and able to inform the public about the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the links between them and migration processes, and will aim to cover the most at least 2,800 representatives of institutions and raise the awareness of at least 6.5 million European citizens on the subject.

3. **"The Written Treasures of Lower Danube"[4] (SDG 11).** The project "Written Treasures of the Lower Danube" (ROBG-290) is funded by the cross-border cooperation program INTEREG Romania — Bulgaria V-A, Priority Axis 2: "Green Region". The aim of the project is to promote the joint preservation, protection, promotion and development of the written cultural heritage of the cross-border region through diversification of tourist services and development of literary tourism. The outcome will be a new integrated tourist product "Cross-border destination for literary tourism Lower Danube", with activities aimed at building a cross-border partnership network. Partners in the project are the Global Libraries — Bulgaria Foundation, which is also a leading beneficiary, the Alexandru and Aristya Aman District Library — Dolj (Alexandru & Aristia Aman Dolj County Library) and Lyuben Karavelov Regional Library, Ruse. The project lasts 24 months. The total value of the project is EUR 486,029.02.

2   http://www.nasledstvo.bg
3   https://bpid.eu/product/faces-of-migration
4   http://litdanube.eu

4. **"Financial Literacy Through Public Libraries"[5] (SDG 4).** The overall objective of the project is to upskill librarians to provide basic financial literacy support to adult users. This age group (55+) needs further support to cope with a rapidly changing and complex financial environment where financial products and services are becoming more numerous, complex and risky. Special emphasis is placed to librarians in small cities and rural areas where different educational activities and lifelong training on key competencies are so necessary. The FINLIT project supports also the implementation of specific growth, education, and cohesion policies related to EU 2020 Strategy and Digital Agenda for Europe.

5. **Gender Identity: "Child Readers and Library Collections" — G-BOOK[6] (SDG 5).** The project "Gender Identity: Child Readers and Library Collections" aims to promote gender positive children's literature in terms of roles and models, a literature that is open-minded, plural, varied, free from stereotypes, that encourages respect and diversity. G-BOOK is one of the 66 winning projects selected among 430 proposals presented for the call Creative Europe. It involves 6 European partners: the project leader is Centro MeTRa (Department of Interpretation and Translation of the University of Bologna — Forli Campus, Italy). Project partners are: the University Library "Livres au Trésor" and the Research Centre "Pléiade" of the University of Paris 13 (France), the Research Centre Anilij (National Association for Research in Children and Youth Literature) of the University of Vigo (Spain), the School of English — Dublin City University (Ireland), the Regional Public Library "Petko Rachev Slaveikov" (Bulgaria), and Biblioteka Sarajeva (Bosnia Herzegovina).

6. **Global Libraries — Bulgaria Foundation (FSBB) is also a partner in:**
— "Get Your Facts Straight! Media Literacy for All" — a program co-funded by the European Commission which provides media literacy training to students and young people from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as to their parents and / or grandparents; (SDG 8)
— "E-skills for E-inclusion" project, whose main purpose it is to develop a computer literacy training program for vulnerable groups and facilitate their access to the labour market. This project is being implemented in partnership with 5 other organisations from Northern Ireland, Spain, Italy and Romania and is funded by the European Erasmus + program (SDG 8).

1.4 Funding sources and evaluation. These projects as well as others do not fall within the remit of ordinary library budgets and enjoy additional funding provided by international organisations (European Commission, Structural Funds, etc), ministries, national or international foundations, Non-Governmental Organisations, commercial enterprises. This funding is normally allocated to the cultural and education departments, which are closely collaborating with SDG-related governmental agencies. Evaluation is carried out according to the rules set up by the funders.

5   https://finlit.eu/edu/?redirect=0
6   https://g-book.eu

2. Czech Republic

2.1 General background and who's who. In 2019, an informal "Sustainability in Libraries" working group was set up within the Masaryk University project [Social Innovation in Libraries](), 2017-2020; the information officer of the UN Information Centre Prague is one of the founding members. Its main goal is to raise awareness on the roles played by libraries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to build capacities and knowledge base to further increase their impact. Czech librarians feel indeed that SDGs are not implemented in libraries, but that they should become a priority, since they are already a core concern of the European Union priority and of the Czech national government.

Moreover, the Library Development Strategy 2021—2027, a national strategic plan (adopted by the government in July 2020) is directly linked with the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 — the basic state administrative document for sustainable development and the improvement of the quality of life of population. This strategy introduces libraries as pillars of civil society and natural community centres, education supporting institutions and curators of cultural and knowledge wealth. The project "from libraries to libraries" financed by the Czech Ministry of Culture under the VISK1 programme, helps libraries share know-how and examples of good practice with regard to their societal role. Finally, 2021 was chosen by the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic (SKIP) to be the Year of Sustainability in Libraries.

2.2 SDG priorities and policies in Czech libraries. SKIP (The Czech Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic) considers the following SDGs relevant for libraries in the Czech Republic:

> SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy,
> SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,
> SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities: Reducing income and other inequalities, within and between countries,
> SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Reversing current consumption trends and promoting a more sustainable future,
> SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Revitalize strong global partnerships for sustainable development.

SDG-oriented projects should therefore be focused on:
— Debates on SDGs with citizens,
— Library collections, library exhibitions,
— Projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— Pursuing green library objectives (such as energy saving infrastructure, waste management, SDG policy with staff).

2.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **"Start Life with a Book" — improving reading literacy**[7] **(SDG 4).** Until recently, only a handful of Czech libraries offered special services to babies, toddlers and preschool children and their parents or caregivers. Although the overall literacy rate in the Czech

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7   https://librarymap.ifla.org/stories/keywords/czechia

Republic basically reaches 100%, the PISA 2015 international survey clearly indicated that Czech students — compared to those from other OECD countries — were achieving below average results in reading literacy.

Therefore, the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic started a project in 2018 called "Start Life with a Book" (S knížkou do života). It was inspired by the original Bookstart project founded by BookTrust in the United Kingdom in 1992 with follow-ups in various European countries. Its goal is to show parents of young children how reading is important for their children's intellectual and emotional development and, consequently, future employment.

The Association has provided all participating libraries with a standard package to be given to the parents. Every library adds a free library card or a voucher to get one and can add any other items it considers fit for purpose, such as folding picture books or suitable toys. In the first year of the project, libraries received the package for free; starting from the second year, it can be purchased for a modest fee. The packages are distributed to parents at various occasions, most commonly the occasion of welcoming new-born citizens by the local authorities, at special events taking place in libraries or at maternity wards in hospitals.

An impressive number of 140 libraries have joined the project so far. As a result, libraries strengthened their links with local authorities and developed partnerships with local charities, and companies. The gift packages have been sponsored mostly by the Association's partners, especially private enterprises but also by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. Every participating library is expected to organise a minimum of four events for the children and their parents per year, which include activities such as reading, storytelling, creative activities, and movement. It is also expected that facilities such as baby feeding areas or changing stations are available — these can take a variety of forms, always depending on financial resources and space available.

According to a survey conducted in November 2018, 97% of libraries participating in the project report that parents and their children are interested in taking part in the future events. In many libraries, book clubs for parents with children under the age of five have been set up. During 2018, the participating libraries gave away approximately 10,000 packages. Apart from parents and children, the project has been acknowledged by politicians, especially from the Senate. In 2018, it received an award from the Czech Minister of Culture.

2. **Public libraries team up with primary schools to increase reading literacy[8] (SDG 4, 17).**
In the 2006 PISA survey — which tests 15-year-old students from all over the world in reading, mathematics and science — Czech pupils ranked only 21 out of 56 participating countries in reading skills. Therefore, supporting reading literacy has become an important issue for many stakeholders, including libraries and schools.

Ivana Hutařová, an active member of the Club of Children's Libraries, a division of the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic (Svaz knihovníků a informačních pracovníků České republiky), came up with the idea of a project called "I am already a reader — Book for First Grader". The project, which started in 2008, brings together libraries and schools to develop reading habits of primary school first-graders (age 6 to 7).

8   https://librarymap.ifla.org/stories/keywords/czechia

As part of the project, the children's section of public libraries organise events for school children, including library tours, reading sessions for both adults and children, meetings with book writers and illustrators, book discussions, and exhibitions. The number of events varies by library and number of school classes involved. For all children who participate in the events there is something extraordinary to look forward to — a book prepared exclusively for them. Every year a brand new (previously unpublished) book title for children with original illustrations is produced which is not made available for sale for at least three subsequent years. So far, more than 250,000 pupils have received the book.

In the past, the project was financially supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic and schools reached out to local libraries to collaborate in the project. Since 2011, the financing and implementation of the project is being organised through the Association. The partnership principle has been reversed; libraries undertake a more proactive role and it is now their initiative to get in touch with schools and work on the project together.

The number of project participants is increasing from year to year; in 2018, more than 500 libraries and over 800 schools were participating. Working together towards the common goal has strengthened partnerships between local libraries and schools.

This project is an important example of how libraries, through strengthened partnership with schools, can contribute to achieving the country's educational goals.
— Many other SDG-oriented library activities are included in an ad hoc website,[9] which support the implementation of SDGs in libraries.

3. **Libraries lend books, but you can have fun and learn (SDG 3, 4, 11, 12, 16, 17).** Libraries offer breakfasts, leisure universities, community gardens, folklore and local traditions. Within library premises you can create, realise a project, learn how to program, play chessboard, meet new people or just sit with a book or a magazine. Through their activities, libraries develop all of the eight key competences for lifelong learning defined by the European Reference Framework.

"What the library can do" is a website offering a map of specific community and educational activities throughout the Czech Republic and all types and sizes of libraries. Originated by the programme Social Innovations in Libraries funded by the ESF for the years 2017-2020, the project was supported by the European Union under the Employment Program. Its continuation and development is funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic under the VISK1 program for 2021 in the project Library Development Strategy: from methodology to practice (16033/2021 OULK-OLK).

4. **Library Development Strategy 2021-2027 (with a view to 2030) — national strategic plan (adopted by the government in July 2020), prepared under the Ministry of Culture (3, 4, 11, 12, 16, 17).** Libraries are designated as:
— pillars of civil society development and natural centres of communities,
— educational and education-based institutions,
— guardians of cultural and knowledge based wealth.

Activities for librarians consist of:

— year-round educational cycle for libraries on SDGs, officially supported by UN Information Centre Prague, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment and Czech Commission for UNESCO,
— developing a knowledge base in Trello notice board and a website,
— networking libraries which are interested in the SDG topic: map of libraries, Facebook page and group,
— networking with other organisations and stakeholders: KUMU map of topics, initiatives and inspiration,
— sharing know-how and examples of good practice.

Several libraries offer breakfasts, leisure universities, community gardens, folklore and local traditions. Within library premises you can do something you like, you can realise a studio project, learn how to program, play chessboard, know new people or just sit with a book or a magazine.

2.4 Funding sources and evaluation. There is no unique source of information for funding SDG-related activities. The bulk of libraries launch SDG-oriented projects through their own budget; some of them are able to use additional funding, which is normally provided by ministries, city/provincial/regional councils, national or international Foundations, non-governmental organisations. The budget is normally originated within the cultural agencies or cultural departments within ministries, local agencies, foundations or NGOs.

The Masaryk University project Social Innovation in Libraries, 2017-2020 is possibly the only library project which has received funding from the EU.

3. Denmark

3.1 General background and who's who. Denmark strives to be a pioneer in terms of sustainability, climate and the implementation of UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. SDGs are being implemented in a convincing and active way in almost all libraries, although in a part of them activities are still lagging behind. In Denmark public libraries are organised as part of 98 municipalities. A 2019 survey showed that 90% of municipalities are either already actively implementing / supporting the implementation of SDGs or are planning to do so in the near future.

Legislation and public investment solve only parts of our common SDG-related challenges. The implementation of SDGs requires broad support both at a national and a local level. As the most visited Danish cultural institution (37.4 million visits, DS2019), public libraries are already now a natural focal point for all citizens when it comes to civic engagement, access to knowledge and to the influence in changing habits and patterns of action. Since a public library-system is already in place in each of the 98 Danish municipalities, the libraries form a unique platform contributing to the development of common societal solutions in collaboration with other bodies/agents, and in cooperation with local citizens.

The Danish Library Association works together with Danish libraries to promote a 2030-focus at local level. Currently more than half of the Danish public libraries are involved in 2030 Activities according to official statistics (DS 2019); more are following, developing local SDG strategies and policies.

3.2 SDG priorities and policies in Danish libraries. Every year, the Danish Library Association publishes a Voluntary National SDG Review — DENMARK, (here is the 2021 PDF version].

The Danish Library Association considers that SDGs implemented in libraries should focus on the following:
— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— library collections and library exhibitions,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— pursuing green library objectives (such as energy saving infrastructure,
  waste management, SDG policy with staff).

All SDGs are important for public libraries in the sense that libraries perform a natural task of promoting SDGs and disseminating information about the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development with their publics. Nevertheless, when it comes to practical implementation of SDGs in libraries and the formulation of strategic library goals and policies, some SDGs seem to be of particular importance, such as:

SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy,

SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,

SDG 5. Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, fairer representation of women,

SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth,

SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Generating employment and income through innovation,

SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable,

SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Reversing current consumption trends and promoting a more sustainable future,

SDG 13. Climate Action: Regulating and reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy,

SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice,

SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Revitalise strong global partnerships for sustainable development.

3.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **Project Title: DB2030 Network**[10]**.** Related to SDGs: 04 Inclusive Quality Education and Life-Long Learning; 11 Sustainable, Strong Communities; 16 Promote peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development; 17 Partnerships.

   Content: A National 2030 Network of cross-disciplinary character including libraries, NGOs etc. is working to stimulate 2030 activities in the library environment in Danish municipalities, thus supporting 2030 initiatives at both national and local level.

   Methodology: The DLA2030 Network (DB2030 Netværk) has been established since 2019 as an informal network and is now counting more than 210 members on a national scale. A number of meetings/conferences have been organised to create awareness about and/or support SDGs in the last three years; more are in the pipeline.

   Outcome (expected): A strong 2030 focus in the work of the public libraries in Denmark wherever relevant also affecting the internal library organisation. Externally libraries extend their role in addressing SDGs in municipalities, local schools and other institutions as well as in local associations and individual citizens.

2. **Project Title: The World's Best Solutions Live! (Verdens Bedste Løsninger Live), Ballerup Public Libraries**[11]**.** Related to SDG: 4 Education — Education: festival for citizens and public education institutions on UN 17 SDGs presenting a critical, but optimistic approach to solving the SDGs; 11 and 17 — strong local societies and collaborations: Facilitating collaboration between local citizen groups, local, national and global educational institutions and "green" NGOs.

   Content: In 2019, the Ballerup Library held a two days festival on the SDG goals. The concept for the festival was inspired by Sunday Papers Live in London. Crucial was the involvement of the local high school and the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) in exploring the potential for collaboration of the two institutions in the "neutral" library setting. The library then collaborated with PLIX — Public Libray Innovation Exchange at MIT — and DTU in building Cube satellite models sessions together with citizens and students from the local high school in the library makerspace. On the first day of the festival 400 students attended. On day two of the festival, 250 citizens, volunteers, staff, keynote speakers and contributors spend a day eating, talking and learning about SDG goals. (This was a fine higher attendance than ordinary library users; the project was partly funded by the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces (in Danish: Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen).

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10 https://www.facebook.com/groups/706609713106254
11 https://bib.ballerup.dk/nyheder/events-udstillinger/worlds-best-solutions-live

Methodology: The festival was held in library premises, between the bookshelves, thus transforming library knowledge embedded in traditional books in a new form of learning where citizens present their different points of view and get a critical but optimistic approach to solving SDGs. The stage and surroundings were decorated with old lamps (second hand), small light balls, plates and pillows, sofas and armchairs, to make the library stage look like a homestyle relaxed environment. At the festival, students from DTU presented many products, from lunch prepared in the local organic farm to children making SDG hats, from music played by students of the local music school to local citizens which would collect rubbish outside the library. On stage, keynote speakers gave lectures inspired by the format of TED TALKs, stand-up and Sunday Papers Live. There were key people from Danish green organisations, celebrities with a green agenda, a chef who presented vegetarian food that tastes like meat and presentations about plastic in the oceans, sustainable clothes and much more. The format was deliberately flexible, so that other libraries/cultural institutions easily could copy the concept.

The satellite sessions: The CubeSat program was developed by PLIX — Public Library Innovation Exchange (MIT). Their idea of working with satellite technology could provide an understanding of how we monitor the globe from space — ice melting, forest death and so on. In collaboration with PLIX, there were two sorts of sessions: one for the public and the other for high school students. Members of the Coding Pirates — the local "programming club" for children and volunteer parents — and volunteers from the library's makerspace were present. In the version for higher school students, DTU made available their special knowledge of satellites.

Outcome (expected): Ballerup Library will hold other versions of the festival — an event with speakers on the theme UN 17 SDGs. This time the audience were keypersons and leaders from the Danish public libraries in Denmark, other professionals working with culture in Denmark, green NGOs and representatives from educational institutions. SDG-related knowledge and working methods will be presented and library contribution will focus on the "why" and "how". The festival showed that SDG-related activities can be organised both locally and nationally. Ballerup Library has now decided to organise the festival every year and is working to involve more citizens as volunteers. The library staff has now become aware of the relevance of SDGs into their activities. And the local community and politicians now know that the library can provide knowledge, inspire people to take action and play a role in the attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

3. **Project Title: 2030 Certification of Svendborg Public Library (Certificering af Svendborg Bibliotek)[12]. Related to SDG Goal(s):**
   SDG 17 — Partnerships for action SDG 3 — Good health, SDG 4 — Education
   SDG 12 — Responsible consumption

   Content: Through the help of the company Green Network, Svendborg Bibliotek has become certified Sustainable Business Partner. This means, that Svendborg Bibliotek has completed a CSR capacity measurement, which confirmed the required knowledge about sustainably and CSR tools.

   Methodology: Because of this certification, Svendborg Library has created a strategy for sustainability with the following focus points:
— to be a sustainable workplace,
— to be a house of knowledge and development of sustainability,
— To have healthy, competent and creative employees.

A strategy where librarians commit themselves to undertake specific actions. Working with sustainability is a conversion, for which good timing is crucial. Therefore, all librarians have to take part in working with sustainability to attain the 17 goals. As an example we are currently working on the transformation of the green areas surrounding the library into a giant buffet for insects, and an outdoor space for contemplation, mental health, well-being and much more.

Outcome (expected): Enlighten about, and contribute to, a shared responsibility; success criteria for our actions — i.e. how, and what, measuring the attainment of SDGs; support all employees in the implementation of SDGs.

4. **Verdensrum (Space)**[13]. Verdensrum ("Space") addresses SDG 17: "Partnerships for action" and consists of a physical library room in Dokk1 (Aarhus Public Library) whose name is indeed 'Space'. This large room, which also includes the front area, has a view on the Aarhus basin and the harbor. Communication in Verdensrum takes place in many different ways with many partners conveying the UN's 17 world goals to the many different target groups.

   Target groups for Verdensrum include:
   — citizens of Aarhus Municipality,
   — business enterprises,
   — Ttourists and international guests,
   — school students,
   — high-school students.

   It is about what happens across science, commerce, culture, history and social sciences.

5. **"Sammen om verdensmål"**[14]. Turning the UN Sustainable Development Goals into everyday goals. The project WORKING TOGETHER on THE WORLD GOALS aims to engage seniors e.g. 60+ in 2030-activities in local communities in order to 1) improve own life quality and to 2) promote sustainable development together – making a difference in the company of others.

   Since 2021 different activities have done and taken place. Such as a survey on the target group in relation to the project overall focus. Courses, webinars and workshops based on Design Thinking for libraries involved in the project.

   In 2022 a handbook on the ideas and experiences from the project libraries was published as well as a guide to library professionals – and many project related seniors and professionals actively took part in the annual Danish Climate Festival in 2022 (21.000 participants).

   A total of 30 municipal libraries out of the 98 Danish municipalities are involved in the project. To stimulate further development locally and in other municipalities the project produces a series of podcasts in 2023 demonstrating the will to action of the people involved.

13 https://verdensrum.aarhus.dk
14 https://www.sammenomverdensmål.dk/

"We see that those who knew the least about the world goals are moving just as much as those who know something about climate and biodiversity. It is not the knowledge of the participants that is decisive - it is the commitment and the will to make a difference", says Kira Gilling Hansen from the Danish Think Tank Libraries of the Future, responsible for the project.

The project is supported by several million DKK from the VELUX FOUNDATION.

3.4. Funding sources and evaluation. Libraries get financial support partly through their ordinary library budget and partly through additional funding. Additional funding is generated from international organisations (European Commission, Structural Funds, etc), ministries, city/provincial/regional councils. There will be a variety of different departments financing library projects and it depends very much on how the public library is organised within the local municipality. Although some public libraries in Denmark do take very active part in projects funded by for example the Erasmus or the Creative Europe programmes, the vast majority of activities in public libraries are financed by national funding. A Erasmus+ — program can be found: Newcomer Connectable. Normally funding is assigned to cultural departments and agencies and it may reach 10% of the total library budget.

Evaluation is performed according to standard library procedures and, due to the nature of the public library network, it is up to local municipalities to evaluate SDG-oriented projects. Alternative forms of evaluation were tested — unsuccessfully.

4. Estonia

4.1 General background and who's who. SDGs are often discussed, but not yet implemented in a convincing way in Estonian libraries. A working group within the Estonian Association of Librarians (ELA) — "Fresh Approach" — is for now acquired a leading position.[16]

During the year 2022 more than 100 libraries and librarians were involved in implementing SDG-oriented practices in the libraries' everyday work. Knowledge about the topic is spread very well in libraries and the working group has reached a next level in advocacy. In March 2022 a big survey of good practices in Estonian libraries began - more than 90 libraries answered and reported their results. Our libraries have participated with different activities in the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) two years in a row.[17]

The process of creating a manual for the Estonian libraries called "Green Library" started at the end of 2022. This document will also include self-evaluation criteria for libraries to get a nomination of the green library.

Concerning SDG-related documents having a national scope, it is worth mentioning that libraries are included in the general document "Estonia 2035"[18], the national strategic document which deals with libraries are included in the general document "Estonia 2035", the national strategic document that deals with SDGs and assesses Estonian advances in fulfilling the Goals.[19]

4.2 SDG priorities and policies in Estonian libraries. The main initiator is ELA's working group "Fresh Approach" and in 2022 the new professionals club of ELA also worked with the topic of green library and librarians' tasks in this process.

ELA has agreed that the focus on SDGs should concern the following library activities:
— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— library collections and library exhibitions,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— pursuing the green library objectives.

The same working group selected the following SDGs as central
for library development in Estonia:

> SDG 1. No Poverty: Access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation;
> SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy,
> SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,
> SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Generating employment and income through innovation,
> SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable,

16 https://bibliumt.wordpress.com/
17 https://esdw.eu/events/tund-enne-und-mobla-peost-naudi-teost-3/
18 https://valitsus.ee/en/estonia-2035-development-strategy/strategy/strategic-goals
19 https://valitsus.ee/en/estonia-2035-development-stategy/strategy/strategic-goals

SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Reversing current consumption trends and promoting a more sustainable future;

SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice,

SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Revitalize strong global partnerships for sustainable development.

4.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **Raamatud liikuma / Books on the move**[20] **(SDG 1, 4, 10, 11, 12).** The innovation project *Books on the Move* has set out to modernise the lending service and bring it into the 21st century. The project is driven by the wish to encourage better use of the physical book collections, and to render this body of knowledge relevant and conveniently accessible to the contemporary user. The idea behind the project was as simple as was is ambitious: to make the physical book collections of Estonian libraries universally avail- able and discoverable in a one-stop search, so as to enable quick delivery of the desiredbook to the user.

   As a result of the project, the National Library of Estonia (NLE) created a digital platform easily used both in computers and in mobile devices. After having found the required book, the user simply clicks "order", without having to consider the location of the book. An algorithm picks the most fitting, most expedient copy across all participating library holdings. With the help of our logistics partner, the book is then delivered to the user, either to a parcel locker or directly to an address indicated. Library lending becomes conveniently integrated into the users' daily routines. Remote loans will no longer be interlibrary transactions — the physical book becomes mobile in Estonia, and the broader library network will serve as the home library for each user.

   The project ran from 2020 to 2022. All relevant parties to the new lending service (libraries, users, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research, local municipalities) were engaged in the project through various working groups or advisory bodies. Books on the Move was co-funded by Enterprise Estonia and their Innovation Procurement Program.

   The new service was launched on 27 September 2022.[21] Within three months, more than 1200 books were delivered to the users. There are users from almost every municipality in Estonia, the oldest user is 83 years old, the youngest 15 years old. Currently 30 libraries have joined as service providers.

2. **Lending of e-publications (SDG 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17)**. The national service for the lending of e-publications covers e-books, e-newspapers, e-magazines, and audiobooks. The service can be used free of charge by all people with an Estonian personal identification code, both from a web browser and conveniently from a smart device. In addition, a separate mobile application is being developed, which allows e-publications to be used even without the internet connection. The service also considers the needs of schools to support teaching, and the needs of people with special needs, including, for example, the blind and visually impaired.

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20   https://www.nlib.ee/en/node/8181

21   https://minuraamatukogu.ee/

Why: A pan-European survey, in which the National Library of Estonia and Tartu University Library also participated - a total of 2,500 people - revealed that people want to borrow e-books from libraries. Almost 90 percent of the respondents considered it important to be able to download the book to their device. At the moment, there is no national free e-publication lending system operating on a uniform basis in Estonia.

The duration of the project is 2021-2023, the service will be launched in February 2023. The project is financed in cooperation with the European Regional Development Fund and the Ministry of Culture.

3. **MUIS2[22] (SDG 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16).** The National Heritage Board is developing a new information system for museum collections, the aim of which is to provide better and more user-friendly access to Estonian museum collections and to create a modern solution for museums that supports the preservation and management of museum collections.

4. **Bürokratt / KrattAI[23] (SDG 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 16).** #KrattAI is envisioning how digital public services should work in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI). #KrattAI will be an interop-erable network of AI applications, which enable citizens to use public services with virtual assistants through voice-based interaction. #KrattAI is not just an IT project to create an Estonian state virtual assistant, i.e. an user interface — although this may be necessary as an intermediate step. Instead, #KrattAI will, in the future, allow people to get everything they need from one device and through a virtual assistant in one communication session. #KrattAI is thus an interoperable network of public and private sector AI solutions, which from the user's point of view, acts as a single channel for public services and information.

Most of the time, people don't know which public agency to contact and they do not have an overview of their own obligations and of the opportunities offered by government.

Future benefits: People will communicate with the government 24/7; thanks to the interoperability of bots, it will be possible to have access to direct contacts efficiently between different government agencies.

#KrattAI will include the following steps:
— analysis and PoC on the use of alternative channels,
— classification of citizen messages: analysis and PoC,
— analysis and PoC of eesti.ee national mobile app,
— speech synthesis,
— information extraction,
— consent management platform,
— cooperation with companies,
— cooperation with Finland (#KrattAI and AuroraAI).

22 https://www.muinsuskaitseamet.ee/et/muis-20
23 https://www.kratid.ee/burokratt

5. **Massive digitalisation of Estonian cultural heritage, including printed material (books, newspapers, etc)[24] (SDG 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16).** The Ministry of Culture prepared an action plan for the digitisation of cultural heritage. Its objective is to make one third of the cultural heritage stored in our memory institutions digitally accessible by 2023 and to upgrade the infrastructure for storing information in the memory institutions.

   The action plan largely focuses on the heritage from 1900 to 1940. Documents, publications, photographs, films and objects are being digitised. The objective is to make key choices in terms of cultural heritage, and not to digitise the entire cultural heritage.

   The objective of the action plan is to make the following digitally accessible by 2023: 3% of the documentary heritage, 32% of artefacts; 60% of both film and photographic heritage and 28% of printed heritage; i.e. about 33% of our entire cultural heritage. The total cost of the project is €9.02 million, of which €8.19 million will come from the planned European Union structural fund investments. The action plan was prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, and the Ministry of Education and Research.

   The project of printed heritage massive digitalisation lasts 2019-2023, its goal is to digitise 3.5 million pages of culturally valuable and scientific literature and newspapers published during the Soviet era. All digitised publications are archived and made available through the digital archive DIGAR. For the beginning of 2023, books can be found in the Mass Digitisation 2019-2021 collection and newspapers in the Mass Digitisation 2019-2022 collection.

6. **Business analysis and service design of library services (SDG 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17).** Estonian libraries (~830 in total) currently rely on three different library systems (ILS) and three different user services portals. All these systems differ by their user experience, service provision, and their functionalities that support the day-to-day work of libraries.

   In 2022 first part of the project: business analysis and service design was carried out. Project focused on library services which ILS should include and how users should be able to interact with library via new user portal. The aim is to replace by the year 2026 three user services portals with a single portal and improve the ability of libraries to offer digital services. To provide optimised services, the concept of a single integrated library system (SILS) was developed, consisting of three separate components: a user service portal for readers, a central database of bibliographic records and a library system software for librarians. These key components are linked with several supporting systems and solutions that are necessary for the provision of library services.

   The project was carried out by the National Library of Estonia in cooperation with Ernst & Young Baltics and Rethink. The work was based on close cooperation with libraries who were involved through workshops, interviews, and discussions throughout the project. The project steering group, comprised of representatives of ministries, libraries and the Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities, was included in the exchange of ideas on modelling the future library system. The business analysis and service design project of library services was financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

   4.4 Funding sources and evaluation. Usually, SDG-oriented projects are financed from ordinary library budget, although additional funding may be provided if the activity is part of a special project. In this case, support is provided by International organisations (European Commission, Structural Funds, etc.), Ministries, Non-Governmental Organisations. Agencies which would provide additional funding may be cultural, but often they are departments within the Ministry of Finance.

5. Finland

5.1 General background and who's who. Finnish libraries are well aware of the importance of SDGs and library operations have been, or are being adapted to the Agenda 2030 on sustainable development; in many libraries sustainable development is a core library concept and SDGs are implemented in a convincing and active way; nevertheless, activities are still lagging behind in some of them. This successful policy started when libraries were incorporated in the National Voluntary Review 2020.[25]

In the Helsinki own voluntary report libraries were mentioned first, as institutions supporting literacy within the country. The second time was in the Secure Box, in the list of activities in education and training that should be continued, since they function well (p. 146). Research and development expenditure has picked up after a hiatus, while sustainable development is being taken more and more effectively into account at schools and nursery schools. However, while reading literacy has traditionally been strong among young Finns, it is now declining. Learning differences between girls and boys are among the largest of all OECD countries. Men also acquire less education than women" (p. 145).[26]

The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture just published in January 2023 a Civilisation/Education Report and according to it, the main findings are that learning outcomes of basic education and the education level of the population have been falling for a few decades now. The decline has been exceptionally fast, compared to international level.

5.2 SDG priorities and policies in Finnish libraries. Since libraries promote literacy and ensure equal access to information, the Finnish Library Association considers that the following SDGs are central to their policy:

> SDG 4.6: Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,
> SDG 16.10: Access to public information within SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice.

In 2021, A National Literacy strategy was published.[27] Its goal is that Finland will be the world's most multi-literate country in 2030. The literacy strategy includes goals and actions to strengthen the multiliteracy skills of people of all ages.

5.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **Sustainable Library 2030 road map (SDG 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17).** During the spring of 2020, the Oulu City Library prepared an action plan for sustainable development, the Sustainable Library 2030 roadmap. The plan is based on the objectives of the UN Agenda 2030 and the eco-promises prepared by the City Library in 2015. When preparing the roadmap, it was also ensured that it was in line with the objectives of the City of Oulu's environmental program, Towards a Carbon-Neutral Oulu 2026, which entered into force in autumn 2019.

25 Valtioneuvoston selonteko kestävän kehityksen globaalista toimintaohjelmasta Agenda2030:sta Kestävän kehityksen Suomi - pitkäjänteisesti, johdonmukaisesti ja osallistavast.

26 Voluntary National Review 2020. Finland report on the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Publications of the Prime Minister's Office, 2020:8, respectively, p. 144, p. 145 and p. 146.

27 https://www.oph.fi/fi/tilastot-ja-julkaisut/julkaisut/kansallinen-lukutaitostrategia-2030

Oulu City Library received the IFLA Green Library Award 2021 for the Green Library Project. [28]

The Sustainable Library 2030 roadmap recorded the most important areas for development in the near future (2020-22) and prepared a detailed implementation plan for them, as follows.

a) Promoting environmental awareness. The aim is to increase the environmental awareness of both customers and staff through the various means of environmental communication available. The aim is also to increase library's visibility as an ecological actor by communicating externally about the library's own responsible activities.

b) Reducing the environmental impact. The aim is to review the library's energy use, logistics, recycling and collection practices and to reduce the environmental impact of their activities, as well as to reduce the use of unnecessary plastic.

c) Responsible construction. In order to reduce the ecological footprint of library properties, the aim is to take ecology into account in connection with renovations and new construction, in the entire construction process — from design to the building. The aim is to design and implement the most energy-efficient facilities possible and to pay attention to environmental friendliness in all solutions related to practical equipment and interior design. Responsibility in construction is also reflected in e.g. involving customers and staff in the planning of future facilities. [29]

2. **Vihreä kirjasto (SDG 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13).** The Public Libraries' Environmental Awareness for the 2020s is a platform intending to share environmental information from the entire library field and to promote environmental work in libraries project, as well as environmental tools and training materials.

In 2021, the project "The environmental awareness of libraries for the 2020's, the survey conducted in 2012 was renewed and supplemented. The environmental awareness of public libraries, carried out carbon footprint measurements of 13 pilot libraries, examined the carbon footprint of libraries, i.e. how customers can reduce their carbon footprint by using the library, and created the Green Library pages as a bank of ideas and materials to renew and inspire the environmental work of libraries.

SDG 3: Reading promotes well-being and library card holders live longer.

SDG 4: Libraries support the reading and lifelong learning of children, young people, and adults alike. The environmental aspects are included in all library activities, from story time to art exhibition and events.

SDG 10: Public libraries provide free of charge basic services that are available to all. Libraries do not tolerate any form of bullying or discrimination. Libraries are responsible employers.

SDG 11: Libraries follow municipal environmental guidelines and many libraries have their own environmental programme, certificate or ecological subside system.

SDG 12: Libraries are pioneers in the circular economy and act as sharing economic platforms. Libraries offer premises and tools for sharing, reducing the need for consumption.

SDG 13: Libraries recycle and save energy. Libraries provide up-to-date and reliable information on environmental issues and help find information.

28 https://www.ouka.fi/oulu/english/news-archive/-/asset_publisher/dXe7/content/oulu-city-library-receives-the-ifla-green-library-award-2021-for-the-green-library-project/1448405

29 https://www.ouka.fi/documents/78400/596635/Kest%C3%A4v%C3%A4+kirjasto+2030+-tiekartan-tiivistelm%C3%A4.pdf/542f3a4b-737e-4147-b3ad-3865a96dd074

5.4 Funding sources and evaluation. Budget for SDG-related projects is generated from ordinary finances as well as additional sources of funding, including Ministries and other cultural departments or agencies. Evaluation is carried out only in the case of projects which receive additional funding in relation to the criteria set up by the funding agency/institution.

6. France

6.1 General background and who's who. Four organisations — Enssib (École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques), Cfibd (Comité français international pour les bibliothèques et la documentation), Bpi (Bibliothèque Publique d'Information) and ABF (Association des bibliothécaires de France) — have set up a Working Group in charge of monitoring the follow up to the UN 2030 Agenda in French libraries. These four organisations play an active role in mobilising libraries around SDGs and have created a joint website where library experiences are listed in a database and new activities are announced. In addition, ABF has created some SDG-related specific groups, such as Accessibib, Livre vert, Legothèque, Livr'Exil.

In general, SDGs are implemented in a convincing and active way; nevertheless, in many cases activities are still lagging behind, in spite of widespread awareness. Academic libraries seems to be more advanced than public libraries in this regard.

6.2 SDG priorities and policies in French libraries. There is widespread consensus among all entities being involved in SDG activities that they should mainly concern the following:
— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship).

The French Library Association has set up a whole apparatus which will draft documents in relation to SDG specific areas. These documents are produced, or will be produced by Committees such as Livr'exil, with a specific focus on welcoming migrants in libraries, Accessibilités, with a focus on the disabled, hospitals, illiteracy and prisons, Légothèque, with a focus on people's empowerment to access collections, spaces and services.
The Working Group in charge of monitoring the follow up to the UN 2030 Agenda in French libraries considers that priority SDGs for French libraries are:

> SDG 1. No Poverty: Access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation,
> SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,
> SDG 5. Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, fairer representation of women,
> SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities: Reducing income and other inequalities, within and between countries,
> SDG 13. Climate Action: Regulating and reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy,
> SDG 15. Life on Land: Reversing man-made deforestation and desertification to sustain all life on earth.

6.3 SDG-oriented projects
1. **Project one Migrants in libraries — Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 8).** How to welcome someone who does not speak French in a library? What resources can be offered on access to rights? How do you register a person having no administrative record? How can you promote cultural diversity by adapting the existing resources and actions of your library?

Faced with the many questions of librarians, in 2018 Bibliothèques Sans Frontières produced a dedicated online training course, "Welcoming people with migration in libraries". The result of a collaboration with librarians, associations and researchers, the training course is now available on the BSF Campus platform, which offers eight free and certifying training courses for French-speaking library stakeholders.[30]

2. **ENSSIB guide to implementing SDG's in libraries (SDG 9, 10, 11, 12).** The role of research, public and school libraries in the context of climate change is important, not only for the activities they can promote, but also in the advocacy they can raise with local elected officials and decision-makers. Climate change affects social, economic and ecological issues. This resource site, created by the Enssib library and the Enssib Sustainable Development working group, aims to give you access to a selection of documents on the 17 fields of global change that our societies are experiencing today, so that readers can draw on them for information and inspiration to implement their institutional sustainable development strategy.[31]

3. **Many projects of libraries in prison (SDG 4, 8).** For people in custody, the library is a right and an asset for rehabilitation. It is the duty of the public authorities to make this service available to them in viable conditions of use. Citizens, even when detained, continue to be human beings deserving of respect. They have the right to read, a right that is not limited by a court decision or the internal rules of an institution, including in the case of solitary confinement, disciplinary sanction or psychiatric internment. It is necessary and legitimate that the public authorities really ensure the satisfaction of this right. The media library must be able to promote a taste for leisure and entertainment among this population and give them the opportunity to carry out an important recreational activity.[32]

4. **One example of inclusive library open to disabled people (SDG 8, 10).** The Marguerite Duras and Marguerite Yourcenar media libraries in Paris, just as no few other libraries in France, offer a "Lire autrement" (Reading differently) space for the visually impaired. The librarians offer you a personalised welcome: they are available to guide you and advise you on what to find in library stacks. On request, they can accompany you from the metro station or bus stop to the library.[33]

5. **Gender equality, a specific collection and space in Olympe de Gouge in Strasbourg (SDG 5).** The City of Strasbourg is committed to promoting equality between women and men in all its public policies. One area of intervention is information and aware- ness-raising of the public and professionals in order to reduce gender stereotypes and facilitate a change in behaviours.

The desire to make documentation and information more accessible and to support documentary research on the subject of gender has motivated the creation of a resource space on gender equality open to all, where it is easier to meet with women's and feminist associations in the vicinity. The city is honouring more women with street names and public buildings in their honour; therefore the media library was designated with the name of Olympe de Gouges, as centre of excellence on the theme of equality.[34]

30 https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2021/02/05/comment-mieux-accueillir-les-publics-migrants-dans-les-bibliotheques

31 https://enssib.libguides.com/c.php?g=682683

32 https://www.abf.asso.fr/4/107/257/ABF/la-bibliotheque-de-prison-un-droit-pour-les-personnes-detenues

33 https://bibliotheques.paris.fr/poles-deficients-visuels.aspx?_lg=fr-FR

34 https://www.strasbourg.eu/documents/976405/1439068/0/36e98635-5292-b100-ee98-b167e8160910

6.4 Funding sources and evaluation. Normally, SDG-oriented library projects are evaluated in accordance to standard library procedures and only in relation to building aspects. SDG official indicators (UN, UNESCO, Eurostat) are difficult to apply because they are not connected with library activities; nevertheless, academic libraries seem less reluctant to use them.

The bulk of SDG-oriented activities is funded through ordinary library budget generated from local Councils and Non-Governmental Organisations normally active in the cultural field. Nevertheless, EU Structural and Investment Funds have been used in the past and there is serious commitment to use them in the near future. Tools set up by EBLIDA and the results of the Survey will be used to enhance SDG-oriented library policies in France.

7. Germany

7.1 General background and who's who. The German Library Association (DBV) undertakes the following with regard to the SDGs: firstly, it makes SDGs and their importance for library work known within the libraries themselves through providing information material, showing best-practice examples and offering training to library staff. This includes information for library users to help them to learn more about SDGs as well as including SDGs in their own working life. Secondly, the DBV is active in advocacy with the goal of including libraries and their role concerning SDGs in political strategies and programmes at national and federal level. As a result, libraries increasingly engage with SDGs: there are now many best-practice projects on what libraries can do to engage with SDGs, libraries actively participate in activities of partners such as the "Aktionstage Nachhaltigkeit"[35] and SDGs are increasingly included in library development plans of the federal states (Bundesländer).[36] The DBV has also organized a series of online seminars on libraries and sustainability.[37] Nevertheless, the German library picture is quite heterogeneous and therefore this statement does not apply to all libraries. There is no overall quantitative data on libraries' activities in the field of SDGs, but the German Libraries Association is collecting best-practice examples on its website www.biblio2030.de.

7.2 SDG priorities and policies in German libraries. German libraries engage with SDGs through a wide range of projects. Library activities may include, for example:
— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— library collections, Library exhibitions on SDGs,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— pursuing green library objectives (such as energy saving infrastructure, waste management, SDG policy with staff).

An overview of best-practice examples can be found here: www.biblio2030.de and in a brochure of the DBV.

Examples of projects through which libraries participated in the "Aktionstage Nachhaltigkeit 2020" can be found here.

Libraries provide access to knowledge and information, they are open to all ages and societal groups and they promote reading skills. The DBV therefore considers that through their basic mission, they thus contribute to all of the SDGs. The focus of the DBV has been to make libraries aware of this strong interconnection between the basic mission of libraries and SDGs, to showcase how they can include SDGs in their strategies and to provide best-practice examples for successful SDG-projects and to use these activities by becoming more visible and needed. When advocating for the inclusion of libraries and their contribution to SDGs into political strategies and activities at national level, particular emphasis has been put on the role of libraries as multipliers. Libraries as low-threshold institutions have the potential of reaching all groups of society and all ages and they are spread all over the country. As such, they hold the potential to make SDGs known to large parts of society.

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35 https://www.tatenfuermorgen.de/deutsche-aktionstage-nachhaltigkeit

36 See for example the library development plan of Baden-Württemberg: https://dbv-cs.e-fork.net/sites/default/files/2021-07/dbv_Bibliotheksentwicklungsplan_BW_2021_WEB.pdf

37 https://www.bibliotheksverband.de/online-seminare#Nachhaltigkeit

SDG 4: Libraries promote access to information and promote reading skills. As such, quality education is one of the core SDGs for libraries.

SDG 11: Several SDG-projects in Germany relate to the inclusion of migrants (see for example). As such "Sustainable and inclusive cities and Communities" is a frequently-mentioned SDG for German libraries.

SDG 13. Climate Action: Regulating and reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy. See for example the following project.

7.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **Ernte Deine Stadt (Harvest your city)[38] (SDG 13).** In 2015, the Bad Oldesloe City Library made use of the political and social trend towards "urban gardening" as an occasion to organise for series of events on gardening in urban areas. Their aim was to spread knowledge about the cultivation of food in the city, to deal with the question of the origins of food and to stimulate discussion within the community. Since then, the series of events, which has been expanded to include additional topics from the sustainability spectrum, has been successfully continued every year — for example through the construction of an insect hotel, photo exhibitions, or food sharing campaigns. The library hence becomes a place of encounter and creativity. It works closely with local actors, institutions, associations and initiatives.

2. **Treffpunkt Deutsch[39] (SDG 11).** The Heilbronner Stadtbibliothek has set up a project on language skills of immigrants through conversation with volunteers. These services have been very helpful in providing free and open access for all, computer and internet workstations, literature for learning German, personal advice. Refugees with a temporary residence status receive a free library card and there have been around 1500 that have been delivered since summer 2015. Learning a language works better when there are more opportunities to communicate with "native speakers". The Heilbronn "Treffpunkt Deutsch" (German Meeting Point) is born to meet this need, with volunteer "mentors" reaching users through flyers and, above all, through personal contacts with "guests" in the library, every week for 90 minutes to talk and learn. More than 2200 guests have visited the meeting place since then, which is no longer a place for refugees, but for people from all over the world who want to learn German. By profession, they are bakers, hairdressers, computer scientists or philosophers and they come from 40 countries, mainly from Syria, Eritrea, Iraq and Afghanistan, but also from Peru, Nepal and Belarus.

3. **Wie kommt das W in den Baum?[40] (SDG 4).** The Potsdam City and State Library at the Bildungsforum, Potsdam developed a creative integration initiative for children, where twelve German and refugee children took part together in a reading promotion project lasting several weeks. In cooperation with institutional and associated partner organisations, children between 9 and 11 year-old created large-format photos with tablets, digitally edited them, creatively alienated them, added texts and finally presented them in a joint exhibition.

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38 https://www.biblio2030.de/%20ernte-deine-stadt-in-badoldesloe

39 https://www.biblio2030.de/treffpunkt-deutsch-stadtbibliothek-heilbronn

40 https://www.biblio2030.de/wie-kommt-das-w-in-denbaum-slb-im-bildungsforum-potsdam

On the theme "How does the "W" get into the tree? A letter journey through Potsdam", children went on an excursion to discover letters in the city. In trees, cracks in walls, on banks, on houses or buildings. In the sky, on the ground or at eye level. Together, they used tablets to search for clues, literally got to know their common (new) hometown in a different way and photographed their finds. In group work, the sites were then documented and the letter pictures digitally transformed artistically and literarily. All children's artistic works and a portrait photo were presented in large format in the library.

4. **Dialogues for Integration: Hamburg Libraries Help Refugees Find their Way (SDG 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17).** Since 2015, Europe has seen the arrival of an almost unprecedented number of people fleeing war and poverty. A particularly large number of them have come to Germany, with over a million registrations for asylum, and almost half a million more applications in 2015 alone. Between 2015 and 2017, the city-state of Hamburg in particular, with a population of around 1.83 million, received around 66,000 refugees. This number adds to an already diverse population, with over a third — and almost a half according to some estimates — coming from migrant backgrounds.

For these newcomers, a key priority after shelter, food and medical care is language acquisition. Yet many have no way of attending language classes as they are often expensive and not open to all refugees and migrants. This is where libraries can make the difference.

As a key part of the city's 'Refugee Help Forum', the Hamburg Public Library System, Bücherhallen Hamburg, joined forces with the as the Volkshochschule adult education centre to support refugee language acquisition. Bücherhallen Hamburg do this through their 'Dialog in Deutsch' volunteer project, which is the largest volunteer language acquisition project in Hamburg. Through 109 conversation groups across 33 libraries, refugees and migrants are able to apply and practice their German speaking skills.

The groups are open and free of charge and are currently run by around 270 volunteers; no enrolment or registration is required. The 'Dialog in Deutsch' volunteers do not give language lessons, do not hold tests but rather gives topics to discuss during a 'Dialog in Deutsch' session to enhance oral skills.

Every year around 40,000 participants, from all migrant backgrounds benefit from the 'Dialog in Deutsch' conversation groups. In order to meet the dramatic increase in demand from refugees and migrants, 25 groups especially for beginners had been added in 2016 and 2017. To support language acquisition, the library also expanded its media collection to include books for children and young adult in Arabic, boxes of games, dictionaries, board books, and other materials for learning German. In addition, the library introduced a scheme using donations to allow refugees to gain access to varied library e-media services and WiFi. This provides a key means of keeping in contact with family and friends, especially given that many accommodation facilities do not have WiFi access.

Meanwhile, 600 professionally trained and supervised volunteers work in the Bücherhallen and play a key role in integrating refugees in other areas.[41]

41 https://librarymap.ifla.org/stories/Germany/DIALOGUES-FOR-INTEGRATION:
   -HAMBURG-LIBRARIES-HELP-REFUGEES-FIND-THEIR-WAY/131

5. **Stadtbibliothek Bremen provides Future Training Opportunities for refugees and other newcomers (SDG 4, 8, 10, 17).** In 2010, the Bremen City Library (Stadtbibliothek Bremen) anchored a diversity strategy in its mission statement. The Library expanded its intercultural offerings to patrons, carried out an extensive series of training courses for intercultural openness for all employees and implemented a staff position for diversity management. For these endeavours, in 2015, the Library was awarded the Bremen Diversity Prize.

Even though the library excelled in serving its population, the community's cultural diversity was not represented in the library team. In 2015, 28% of the Bremen population held a migrant background, the Bremen public service rate was around 13% of employees, and the library's rate was only at 2.5%.

It can be challenging for people with a migrant background to enter skilled professions, such as librarianship, especially if they speak little German. Applicants must speak and read German at a B1-level before institutions will offer a job on contract, and applicants must have qualified vocational training to secure a position that is paid an appropriate, living wage. Labour and residence laws pose additional challenges for refugees in Germany, as many young people are not offered trainings without a determined residence status.

In 2014, the city of Bremen developed a project called "Future Training Opportunities" (Zukunftschance Ausbildung), targeted to help those with refugee status gain entry-level qualification (EQ, Einstiegsqualifizierung) with accompanying language lessons and socio-educational support. In addition to acquiring language skills, the vocational qualification is essential for successful and sustainable integration into the labour market in Germany. The EQ prepares refugees and asylum seekers for an apprenticeship and a dual training programme in Bremen public service and in private companies. The library joined this city-wide project as an apprenticeship site in 2015.

For those who choose to apprentice in the Library, it means training to become qualified specialists in media and information services. During their dual-study programme, apprentices work three days per week in the library, and spend two days at the vocational school to learn necessary theoretical knowledge and to study the German language. After completing the programme, newly-qualified media and information specialists can begin working on contract at the library.

Since the beginning of the project, six people have selected the library for their apprenticeship — a woman from Syria and a woman from Turkey, and four men who came to Germany from Guinea, Syria, Afghanistan, China — all six trainees have completed their entry qualification. Three of them have already completed their dual training programme and are now working as members of the Bremen Library team."[42]

6. **German Library Associations' initiatives.** Two programmes that are implemented through the DBV provide funding projects that can be seen in relation to the SDGs (they were not however originally conceived with SDGs in mind).
 —The emergency aid programme "Vor Ort für Alle" (On Site for All), GLA promotes contemporary library concepts in municipalities with up to 20,000 inhabitants nationwide. The aim is to strengthen libraries as "third places" also in rural areas and thus contribute to equal living conditions.[43] (SDG 11)

42 IFLA Library Map of the World, https://librarymap.ifla.org/stories/Germany/STADTBIBLIOTHEK-BREMEN PROVIDES-FUTURE-TRAINING-OPPORTUNITIES-FOR-REFUGEES-AND-OTHER-NEWCOMERS/167
43 https://www.bibliotheksverband.de/dbv/projekte/vor-ort-fuer-alle.html

— "Total Digital!" provides funding opportunities for the creation of digital scavenger hunts, the discovery of picture books using multimedia, programme robots or the elaboration of original stories to be filmed.[44] (SDG 4, 10, 11)

The German Library Association and the regional Library Associations of the Bundesländer play a coordinating role in the implementation of SDGs in libraries. As a result, SDGs are implemented in a convincing and active way; more and more libraries are interested in the topic. Nevertheless, the German library picture is quite heterogeneous and therefore this statement does not apply to all libraries. There is no overall data on libraries' activities in the field of the SDGs. The only institution where a great amount of data is available is the German Digital Library (DDB) in relation to the preservation of cultural heritage.

7.4 Funding sources and evaluation. Financial sources for SDG-oriented projects are normally are provided by educational and cultural departments of the Bundeslaender. Additional funding often comes from national programmes for Libraries, such as "Vor Ort für alle" and "Total Digital". Evaluation is performed according to standard library procedures.

44 https://www.bibliotheksverband.de/dbv/projekte/totaldigital.html

8. Greece

8.1 General background and who's who. AGLIS (Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists) has taken a coordinating role in the implementation of SDGs in Greece. AGLIS considers that The Agenda 2030 for sustainable development still has a long way ahead before libraries can play a role; nevertheless, they are optimistic about future developments.

8.2 SDG priorities and policies in Greek libraries. AGLIS considers that SD Goals in Greek libraries should prioritise:
— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— library collections, Library exhibitions,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— pursuing green library objectives.

AGLIS also sees that the bulk of SDG-oriented projects will address the following Goals:

SDG 1. No Poverty: Access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation,

SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy,

SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,

SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities: Reducing income and other inequalities, within and between countries,

SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable,

SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice,

SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Revitalise strong global partnerships for sustainable development.

8.3 Funding sources and evaluation. At the moment, international organisations and some national and local agencies are providing additional funds to libraries, which can also benefit from collaboration with commercial enterprises. Since these funds normally are provided by the Ministry of Economy, evaluation is carried out only for special projects funded by external organisations according to the criteria set up by the funding agency/institution.

9. Italy

9.1 General background and who's who. Library organisations active in the implementation of SDGs in Italian libraries are Rete delle Reti and the Italian Library Association (AIB, through its Observatory on sustainable development OBISS). Also active and in a position to file applications for awards and project management is the Fitzcarraldo Foundation — https://www.fitzcarraldo.it/homepage.html. AIB is a member of ASvIS, the Italian Organisation promoting SDGs in Italy.

Italy offers a non-homogeneous picture with a few libraries having reoriented operations to accommodate SDGs, thus acknowledging sustainable development as their core concept, and others that are still lagging behind and ignore latest developments.

Rete delle Reti-AIB managed to establish good links with Open Cohesion, the agency dealing with European Structural Funds in Italy.

9.2 SDG priorities and policies in Italian libraries. Rete delle Reti-AIB consider that SDGs should be implemented through:
— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— green library objectives to be pursued within the library (such as energy saving infra-structure, waste management, SDG policy with staff).
— a strong training plan with case studies and step-by-step application, with emphasis on the evaluation processes because we are still weak in reporting outputs and outcomes of our projects.

In their action, Rete delle Reti-AIB have put emphasis on the following SDGs:

SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy,

SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,

SDG 5. Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, fairer representation of women,

SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all,

SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Generating employment and income through innovation,

SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities: Reducing income and other inequalities, within and between countries,

SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable,

SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Reversing current consumption trends and promoting a more sustainable future,

SDG 13. Climate Action: Regulating and reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy,

SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss,

SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice.

In 2023, efforts will be oriented towards using every public opportunity to increase awareness of the 2030 Agenda SDGs and the Esif 21-27 and to train librarians. The main objective is to create the best conditions for librarians to take advantage of calls and programmes. We have to show them how to manage a European project without fear.

9.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **NEWCOMER Project.** Funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ Programme, the NEWCOMER Project aims to establish a global network of libraries that identify with community librarianship. Through the exchange of good practices at international level and by fostering the acquisition of knowledge and skills by librarians, the project intends to increase the quality and dissemination of adult education in libraries and to support the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups more broadly.

The objectives of the NEWCOMER project are:
— to offer an opportunity for international exchange and co-operation between librarians working in the field of adult education;
— to develop the competences of librarians working in adult education through exchange with project partners, who share experience and practices;
— to encourage librarians to offer more effective support to adults in their training, thereby promoting social inclusion and enabling adults to take advantage of the training opportunities offered by libraries within their community.

Public Libraries 2030 has brought together a consortium of diverse and highly motivated libraries in NEWCOMER:
— Public Libraries 2030, Belgium - project manager
— Royal Library of the Netherlands - coordinator
— Cubiss, Netherlands
— Library of Cologne, Germany
— Library of Kranj, Slovenia
— National Library of the Czech Republic
— CSBNO Culture Sociality Libraries Network, Italy
— Aarhus/DOKK1 Libraries, Denmark

The main activity of the project consists of a series of international meetings, during which each partner will share good practices in the field of adult education and solutions adopted at local level with regard to the issue of social exclusion.

These resources will be collected in a Good Practice Manual, which will be made available online in an open format.

PL2030 Scientific Committee member David Lankes will also lead a process to assess the participants' competences and is leading the transformation of the NEWCOMER Consortium into a sustainable global library network.

In Italy, CSBNO's participation in the project has the scientific guidance of Professor Anna Maria Tammaro and is carried out in cooperation with Augusta Giovannoli of the Biblioteca Civica Multimediale Archimede di Settimo Torinese (SBAM - Sistema Bibliotecario Area Metropolitana Torinese).

2. **Energy upgrading of the Geisser public library under PON METRO TORINO[45] (SDG 7, 10, 11).** The main objective of this initiative is to reduce the energy consumption of municipal buildings, among others the Geisser library, in order to reduce the CO_2 emissions through an energy upgrading of the building. Apart from energy upgrading the goal is also to improve the comfort of the final users and to promote as much as possible the acquisition of innovative solutions. At the end of the intervention:

— energy saving will be in the order of 20% less than current thermal and electrical consumption);

— innovative solutions will be implemented to adapt to different situations and conditions of use of the library.

3. **PON METRO BOLOGNA[46] (SDG 4, 5, 10, 11).** Within the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 several initiatives have been set in motion.

a) City area school, which provide tailored courses where there are no teachers, but educating communities, no desks, but neighbourhoods, no pupils, but girls and boys. These schools are based on real community needs and aim at improving the well-being of citizens and combating social exclusion and educational poverty.

b) Hamelin, a cultural association, has set up a course to train reading experts in a two-year course. The training is structured in two phases and foresees for the participants a compensation for the months in which they will be involved.

c) Enhancement of the Salaborsa (Bologna City Library) with laboratories and multidisciplinary courses on research and experimentation in the field of reading, coding, robotics, fablab, digital literacy and information literacy courses, as well as orientation courses addressing STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Workshops are organised which offer a creative approach to digital and technology, thus encouraging original and critical paths of thought and imagination through coding and robotics.

d) Equipping each library in the sector with RFID technology development of augmented reality software for immersive visit paths to historical buildings (Archiginnasio, Salaborsa, Casa Carducci); application of machine learning (ML) techniques for collection review and management; creation of a platform to support Customer Relationship Management (CRM), useful to improve strategies for listening and responding to users' requests and needs.

e) Full implementation of the Faro Convention, where knowledge and use of cultural heritage are a human right and encourage the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.

4. **DigEDUCATI[47] (SDG 4, 5, 10, 11).** A commitment to combating educational poverty by developing actions aimed at the problem of the digital divide in the 6-13 age group, through the "DigEducati" project, selected and financed by Impresa Sociale Con i Bambini as part of the Fund for combating educational poverty among minors with a contribution of € 1,250,000 and by Fondazione Cariplo with a further contribution of € 1,250,000.

The DigEducati project for the three-year period 2021-2024 promotes activities to increase the digital skills of children and young people between 6 and 13 years of age and their reference adults.

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45 http://www.comune.torino.it/ponmetro/pon-metro-torinopresentazione

46 http://www.comune.bologna.it/ponmetro/pon-metrobologna

47 https://www.fondazionebergamo.it/news/parte-ilprogetto-digeducati

The lead organisation is the Fondazione della Comunità Bergamasca, with a wide network of partners capable of reaching all the municipalities in the Bergamo area: 14 territorial areas, the Bergamo Library Network, over 21 Social Cooperatives and the University of Bergamo. In the three-year period these collaborations will be extended to include Comprehensive Institutes, Third Sector organisations and other stakeholders. This joint effort will make it possible to identify and address all situations of need other than the initial estimate of 25,000 minors and 1,000 teachers.

It is important to emphasise that the actions promoted by the Foundation are elaborated in a perspective that is not limited to the three years of the project's official activation, but intends to use it as a springboard to create a solid network to which minors in fragile situations can always rely to receive the education they are entitled to. 400 devices with annual connectivity are made available to families of children in economic, relational, educational or personal poverty. The devices are the result of a regeneration action of donated and newly configured laptops, to support a circular economy system.

The concrete component of the project is realised in the creation of concrete spaces where children and young people and their reference adults, parents and teachers, can find support in accessing and using digital content. To date, there are 40 community points spread throughout the Bergamo area. These operational nodes are located in public libraries, cooperatives, oratories or other places made available by the numerous project partners. They are important community cultural meeting spaces where children, parents and teachers can receive assistance from local educators and operators specially trained in digital skills and education.

5. **Sapere digitale (Digital knowledge)**[48] **(SDG 4,5,10,11).** The project, supported by the Piedmont Region — Libraries Sector and by the Compagnia di San Paolo, I luoghi della Cultura 2019, aims to stimulate the crucial role that libraries can play in supporting digital civic education and the spread of an increasing awareness in the proper use of digital technology, first of all for teachers in local schools and as a spin-off for the entire citizenry.

It is a training course that is intended to be both an activation method and a research opportunity to take stock of the technological equipment and digital skills in the libraries (and schools) willing to be promoting an active role of libraries in digital civic education.

The libraries that apply for it adhere to the training pact and will be able to participate in the courses, which are free of charge, host a course, propose a topic or a project and start digital civic education initiatives, with the support of the project.

The project is open to all libraries in Piedmont, especially civic libraries, but school and university libraries and archives can join, too. Themes are: the stimulation of information skills in readers, Internet and the ongoing change, information education, media education, data and artificial intelligence and digital culture and creativity.

The results of the project can be found here.

6. **Smart-In — Community Library**[49] **(SDG 4, 5, 7, 10, 11).** Through the regional Smart-In strategy, the Apulia Region promotes the revival of Apulia's cultural heritage, enhancing it and improving its use. With this in mind, the Community Library issued a public bid aimed at supporting libraries of local authorities, schools and universities, projecting a positive impact on the community and expanding access to cultural resources available in Puglia. Projects for the qualification of libraries include the provision of suitable spaces and the acquisition of advanced equipment and technologies, with sustainable and innovative management models.

7. **SKYLibrary, the largest Digital Corporate Library in Italy!**[50] **(SDG 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11).** CSBNO, has created for Sky Italia the SKYLibrary, a digital library dedicated to its employees and collaborators. It is based on the MLOL platform, the first and most important public digital library. The agreement enables the company to offer a vast catalogue of e-books, over 37,000 titles, continuously updated with the latest publications, from fiction to non-fiction, to fairy tales.; a true and complete library at the click of a button; A project that has been met with widespread approval and is destined to become increasingly popular... SKYLibrary is Cultural Welfare!

   The pandemic crisis has not stopped the project, indeed it has been able to continue with great satisfaction thanks to the digital services, and especially thanks to the MLOL digital library, which has generated growing attention and interest from the business world. The digital corporate libraries managed in collaboration with the CSBNO in 2020 recorded over 1,400 e-book loans and 5,300 consultations, made by 1,733 users!

8. **Things to do (CosedaFare)**[51] **(SDG 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11).** 7 different library systems located in Lombardy, which operate on a catchment area of about 3 mln inhabitants, and the Fondazione Cariplo, have committed themselves to realize the digital platform "Cosedafare", which allows to manage the educational opportunities and the cultural and leisure offers in a participatory way. xxxxxxxxx

   CoseDaFare is above all a digital tool that helps the library as an information hub for the cultural policies of the entire community, facilitating opportunities for knowledge sharing and interpersonal relationships.

   The information on the platform is available free of charge, accessible and organised in a website characterised by common elements for the partners, but customised locally.

   Users can:
   — consult a database of what is available in the reference territory concerning courses, events, museums, routes, tourist attractions;
   — search for profiled and filtered information on the basis of personal interests;
   — autonomously make bookings and payments;
   — check the actual availability of spaces where leisure activities are carried out.

49   https://por.regione.puglia.it/-/smart-in-community-library

50   https://webopac.csbno.net/home/csbno-per-l-impresa/ilprogetto-csbno-per-l-impresa

51   https://csbno.cosedafare.net

9. **Shake'n**[52] **(SDG 4, 5, 10).** People come together to exchange knowledge, in a neighbourly and supportive way. This is Shake'n, a project based on networks, relationships and community. The 'Shakers' are people eager to share their passions, skills and abilities and make them available to anyone looking for new stimuli to satisfy their curiosity, learn, discover and grow with others. The meetings take place online and are free of charge. Each meeting is facilitated by a librarian or librarian, who helps the dialogue and opens the door to all possible connections to the information resources of the CSBNO libraries. What is a Shaker doing? They share knowledge, skills and abilities, making them freely available to the community in one or more online meetings.

10. **NewsGuard and the Italian Digital Media Observatory (SDG 16, target 16.10).** PeopleNewsGuard is the Italian Digital Media Observatory, the consortium selected by the European Commission to combat disinformation in Italy. In the consortium, besides NewsGuard, there are Luiss University, the University of Rome Tor Vergata, RAI, the fact-checking organisation Pagella Politica, the research and consultancy company T6 Ecosystems and two leading organisations in the media and telecommunications sectors GEDI and TELECOM.

NewsGuard will contribute to the projects of the consortium, led by Luiss University, by providing data and analysis of the sites that publish news and information in Italy, with the aim of detecting, analysing and tackling the disinformation campaigns that spread across the national and European territory.

NewsGuard provides reliability ratings and fact sheets for thousands of news and information sites. NewsGuard analyses all news sites that account for 95 per cent of online engagement in the US, UK, Germany, France and Italy. The browser extension is available free of charge on Microsoft's Edge thanks to a partnership with Microsoft. Hundreds of public libraries around the world have free access to the NewsGuard browser extension, giving their users more context to the news they encounter online. Several libraries in Italy (e.g. Public Library Of Milano) are using NewsGuard devices.

9.4 Funding sources and evaluation. Normally support for SDG-related projects is generated from international organisations (European Commission, Structural Funds, etc), Ministries, City/Provincial/Regional Councils, National or international Foundations. Financial opportunities are normally offered by the Social Affairs departments of these organisations. Evaluation is carried out only in case of additional funding provided by external organisations, in relation to the criteria set up by the funding agency/institution.

You can find information on PNRR (the National Recovery and Resilience Plan) resources here: https://lab24.ilsole24ore.com/pnrr/pnrr-progetti-2022.php
The report of the survey carried out by the ERC AIB Emilia-Romagna in the years 2020-2021, on "Agenda 2030 related initiatives implemented and planned in Emilia-Romagna libraries" has been published in open access, and can be downloaded here: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5589609

The survey was based on a questionnaire drawn up by the ERC AIB Emilia-Romagna with the collaboration of the AIB Libraries and Sustainable Development (OBISS) and the Doctorate Course in Literary Cultures and Philology of the University of Bologna, then administered to the libraries of Emilia-Romagna, in order to find out how many and which initiatives they had undertaken to contribute to the dissemination of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

An initial reflection on the results of the survey was shared on 31 March 2021 and the video of the seminar is available at:
https://www.aib.it/struttura/sezioni/emilia-romagna/2021/89979-biblioteche-dellemilia-romagna-e-agenda-2030-lindagine-aib/

The results of AIB-Rete delle Reti action can be found here: https://retedellereti.org/virtual-labs-we-are. Each lab has developed a specific topic and collected webinar, documents and tools.

10. Latvia

10.1 General background and who's who. The National Library of Latvia and the Library Association of Latvia are coordinating the work linked with the implementation of SDGs in Latvia. Moreover, the Library Development Centre of the National Library of Latvia Association produces an annual library report. A section of the report is dedicated to SDG-related library work and sets up the policy in this field.[53] For this reason, SDGs are being implemented in Latvian libraries in a convincing and active way, although the level of activity varies in different regions and in some libraries activities are still lagging behind.

Libraries are mentioned in the official SDG document "Latvija 2030"[54] — Latvia's Sustainable Development Strategy until 2030 (Latvia 2030).

Latvia's sustainable development strategy is hierarchically the highest long-term development planning document in Latvia. The development of Latvia's sustainable development strategy is ensured by the Cabinet of Ministers and approved by the Saeima. Latvia's sustainable development strategy determines the country's long-term development priorities and spatial development perspective.

With a strategy focused on "the preservation, interaction and enrichment of cultural space" Latvian libraries are invited to "preserve and develop the cultural capital of Latvia and to promote a sense of belonging to the Latvian cultural space by developing a national identity based on social creativity and on a quality cultural environment in Latvia". The National Development Plan of Latvia for 2021-2027 emphasises the "Contribution of culture and sport to a sustainable society", and is a declared goal within the national strategy: "Culture and sport promote the economic growth and social development of Latvia and contribute to a creative and sustainable society".

The role of libraries in the implementation of sustainable development goals is also presented in the second Voluntary National Review "Latvia Implementation of the Sustainable Development" (2022). The report states that the role of Latvian museums and libraries as an inclusive, safe space for visitors to learn about and understand sustainable development has grown significantly over the last three years thanks to the professional training of museum workers and librarians on the SDGs as well as due to regional cooperation. Actions taken include: creating and documenting library activities; the sharing of best practices through international networks and expert groups; participating in and taking responsibility for the preparation of international reports etc.

10.2 SDG priorities and policies in Latvian libraries. The Library Association of Latvia and the National Library of Latvia consider that SDGs should be implemented through:
— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— library collections,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship).

53 https://dom.lndb.lv/data/obj/file/27487005.pdf; https://dom.lndb.lv/data/obj/file/29179722.pdf
54 See, for instance, https://www.pkc.gov.lv/lv/LV-zinojums-ANO; https://www.pkc.gov.lv/sites/default/files/inlinefiles/Latvia%20Implementation%20of%20the%20SDGs_4.pdf; https://www.pkc.gov.lv/lv/valsts-attistibas-planosana/anoilgtspejigas-attistibas-merki/iam-kartejums; https://www.pkc.gov.lv/sites/default/files/inlinefiles/NDP2020 English Final_1.pdf

They focus their activities on the following SDGs:

> SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,
>
> SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable,
>
> SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice,
>
> SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Revitalize strong global partnerships for sustainable development.

10.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **Strengthening families by means of libraries' cooperation as contribution to socio-economic growth in Ludza municipality, Rokiškis district and Jēkabpils City (HOME)** [55] **(SDG 8, 10, 17).** The objective of the project is to facilitate socio-economic activity of residents of Ludza (Latvia), Rokiškis (Lithuania) and Jēkabpils (Latvia) municipalities thus contributing to the improvement of living conditions in the border region of Latvia and Lithuania – in 3 deprived municipalities, which are remote from large development centres, with low birth and high death rates and low level of income. It will be achieved by cooperation between Ludza, Rokiškis and Jēkabpils libraries. Libraries offering comfortable and pleasant conditions for families will be a place for socialisation and communication and where people can feel equal.

   Project activities:
   — entertaining and educational activities "Family Time";
   — opportunity for parents and grandparents to participate in GAME hours in library premises;
   — two joint festivals in Ludza and Rokiški with the participation of the most active families with children;
   — joint seminars of the librarians involved in the project in Jēkabpils, Ludza and Rokiški, as well as a study trip to the libraries of Helsinki (Finland);
   — purchase of interactive equipment, books, games in libraries for organizing project activities;
   — creation of game platform "HOME" with information about partner municipalities, their institutions, natural and tourist objects - freely available in partner libraries.

   Project duration: 01.07.2020 - 31.10.2022.
   The project is financed by Interreg Latvia – Lithuania Programme 2014-2020.

2. **Rural and Regional Libraries as Local Family Entrepreneurship centres**[56] **(SDG 4, 8).** The Erasmus+ project Family Business Library is an adult education project funded by the European Commission. It promotes entrepreneurship education in non-urban and rural regions. The main idea of the project is to address people in rural regions through local and regional libraries. A particular focus of the activities is the promotion of family businesses and local entrepreneurship. A key aspect of the approach is to use regional and rural libraries as a platform to reach the local population. The six project partners come from Latvia, Germany, Croatia, Italy and Greece. The project started on the 1st of September 2020.

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55 https://ludzasnovads.lv/projekti/gimenes-stiprinasana-ar-bibliotekas-sadarbibas-palidzibu-ka-ieguldijums-sociali-ekonomiskaja-attistiba-ludzas-novada-rokisku-rajona-un-jekabpils-pilseta-home/

56 https://family-business-library.eduproject.eu/

The objectives of the Family Business Library project:
— the development and implementation of innovative practices of teaching Entrepreneur-ship to people living in regional and rural areas,
— an increased sense of initiative and entrepreneurship among people living in regional and rural areas,
— the setting up of a system where libraries serve as a centres for rural entrepreneurship development.

Main results of the project:
— e-learning module on Entrepreneurship for use in libraries,
— mentoring methodology and e-learning course module for librarians,
— policy paper to better exploit the results of the project.

3. **My Green Identity[57] (SDG 13, 17)** The ultimate aim of the "My Green Identity" thematic network project is to fight against climate change and support sustainable development. The aim will be reached by developing a multi-professional transnational network with closely involved partner organisations and participants. This network ensures that part-ners create, produce and implement collaborative cross border measures encouraging active citizenship in people by sharing information and making it possible to combat climate change.

Besides producing a thematic international network, the project aims to increase the com-petence and knowledge of the staff in partner organisations on international cooperation, climate change and UN's Agenda 2030 SDG. In addition, the purpose of the project is to expand and emphasise the role of libraries as active initiators in the field of sustainable development and make that role visible to decision makers and library customers.

4. **Cultural Capital as a Resource for Sustainable Development of Latvia/CARD[58] (SDG 4,9, 11)** The project "Cultural Capital as a Resource for Sustainable Development of Latvia"/CARD is funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia in the framework of the National Research Programme "Latvian Culture — a Resource for National Development" (2020-2022). The National Research Programme is administered by the Latvian Council of Science. Project implementation period: 01.10.2020.—30.09.2022.

The project CARD explores the arts and cultural values that are key for Latvia's sustainable development and national identity; gauges their contributions to cultural capital.

The goal of the project: Create an interdisciplinary human capital and knowledge stock on the processes creating diversity and value of cultural capital, and on a supportive cultural sector ecosystem as a resource for sustainable development in Latvia.

Objectives:
— analyse selected phenomena in the history of artistic production (in architecture, film, audiovisual, art, music, performing arts, visual arts and design) and its role in cultural capital creation,

57 https://mygreenidentity.net
58 https://lka.edu.lv/en/research/research-projects/state-research-programmes/cultural-capital-resource-sustainable-development-latviacard/

— examine current cultural processes through the mapping and analysis of how cultural ecosystem actor groups interact, as well in of manifestations of cultural participation;
— analyse the roles and transformations of specific kinds of cultural heritage in the cultural ecosystem, and the resources of memory institutions as a driver of diversity and value creation,
— study the diversity of heritage communities and other active societal groups (especially young people) and the range of novel practices and roles in heritage management and communication,
— explore and systematise methodological approaches to artistic and digital research in arts and cultural heritage studies and tertiary education,
— develop methodologies and methods of measuring social and economic impact of cultural and creative sector activities and propose monitoring indicators workable in the Latvian context,
— develop research capacity of thematic researcher groups, increase integration of the work done in the five partner institutions,
— transfer the relevant knowledge to policy-makers, practitioners and other stakeholder groups.

The consolidated assessment of the final stage, prepared by the Latvian Council of Science, is available here.

The results of the projects can be found here.

5. **Alojas novada uzņēmējdarbības atbalsta centrsbibliotēka/Aloja district business sup- port center-library (SDG 8, 9, 13)**. With the openin gof the Aloja County Business Support Center-Library SALA on October 28, 2016, a business support infrastructure was created in the county, which will be used for the development of existing and new companies, activation of the local community and organisation of public events. The building houses a modern library, seminar rooms, remote workplaces and a spacious conference hall with a great view of the lake. Aloja municipality is one of the first in Latvia to implement the construction of low energy buildings and use wood as a basic construction material in the construction of public buildings.

In 2018, the building won the 1st place in the competition "The most sustainable building in 2018", in the category "Public buildings". The project is implemented within the framework of the European Economic Area Financial Instrument 2009-2014 program "Nation- al Climate Policy" project application open tender "Development of sustainable buildings, renewable energy technologies and innovative emission reduction technologies".

6. **Tech.Library[59] (SDG 9, 10, 17).** Tech.Library is with the support of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. The project idea was built on a shared necessity among public libraries' staff: how to deal with the visually impaired people in libraries? Public libraries from six countries - Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia and Latvia - participate in the project.

TECH.LIBRARY focuses on 3 main objectives:
— Favour the exchange of best practices among staff of different libraries on services and ICT tools for the involvement of visually impaired users.
— Expand library staffs' digital competencies through tailored training activities on ICT tools.
— Establish a network of libraries for cooperation in responding to visually impaired users' needs.

The main results of the project:

1. TECH.LIBRARY PLATFORM, to support the libraries' staff in the exchange of best practices and training activities/material in the field of ICT for the involvement of visually impaired.

2. TRAINING VIDEOS, collecting the sessions of the joint staff training event to be shared on the TECH.LIBRARY platform. It is a key tool addressed specifically to public librarians, to provide them with background information on visual-impairment and the state of the art regarding the development of libraries for the visually-impaired in ICT environments.

3. PRACTICAL HANDBOOK, to learn and understand how other countries and other libraries make use of ICTs for the involvement of visually impaired users.

Project duration: 01.09.2020.- 31.08.2022.

7. **Zenit stāsti**[60] **(SDG 10, 11).** The project ran from August 2020 to January 2021. The main aim of the project "Zenit stories" was to encourage the sense of belonging of the minorities living in Latvia, especially those, who live in Daugavpils, Jelgava and Liepāja, through encouraging a dialogue and deepening an understanding between generations in minority families and in-between Latvian speaking and Russian speaking people. In practice — students from minority schools asked for photographs of the time between 1960s and 1980s with objects, events or places from their parents, grandparents or other well-known persons and interview the owner about the photography. The photos was digitised, and the students analysed the stories — what has changed and how the story makes them feel? — and share their stories during storytelling evenings in each city and encourage their parents and other elder people to attend the storytelling evenings and participate as well. A more socially cohesive society has been encouraged through the connection between students, their parents or different people that they interviewed and local librarians by working together to analyse and digitise the photos and information.

8. **Debate Your Issue (DYI)**[61] **(SDG 4, 16).** Every democracy needs citizens who ask critical questions, who are not afraid to express their views, but who also know how to listen to the opinions of others and how to respond to them in a matter-of-fact and fair way.

The aim of the project Debate Your Issue (DYI) is to strengthen the awareness of young Europeans (18-25 years old) on the topics of politics, democracy, tolerance and their threats: disinformation, intolerance, polarisation and hate speech. Debate can teach young people how to stand up for their opinions and views in a well-founded and convincing manner. Furthermore, by dealing with relevant socio-political questions in a critical manner, it contributes to political education in the targeted region.

The project activities include debate training programs and competitions, adaptations of a methodological approach, joint publications, providing open and effective tools for counterbalancing the rising polarisation and disengagement of young people in six European countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia). During the project the young people will access knowledge of relevant socio-political issues, and acquire skills of the art of debate. In the second part of the project they will take part in a debate competition, in order to compete with their peers from other countries.

60 https://www.lnb.lv/lv/projekti/projekts-zenit-stasti
61 https://www.lnb.lv/en/projects/debate-your-issue

Young people in all six project countries are invited to apply for debate training and active participation in the project activities. The training will take place both in person and online, the project is developing recommendations for debate trainers, webinars for online observation, as well as infographics that will help many other young people to learn aspects of media literacy.

Project partners are Mediawijs (Belgium), Goethe-Institut Czech Republic (Czech Republic), National Library of Latvia (Latvia), International Youth Debate Alumni Association Lithuania (Lithuania), Kolegium Europy Wschodniej (Poland), Novo kulturno naselje (Serbia). Project implementation period will be from 03.02.2020. to 02.08.2021. The project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.

9. **Digitisation of the Cultural Heritage content (1st stage); Digitisation of the Cultural Heritage content (2nd stage)**[62] **(SDG 4, 11).** The National Library of Latvia implements a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and nationally co-funded projects in the field of Latvia's digital cultural heritage, together with project partners — the National Archives of Latvia, the State Inspection for Heritage Protection of Latvia, and the Cultural Information System Centre.

The main objective of the projects is to ensure the wide availability of Latvian cultural heritage to society in the digital environment, which serves as a basis for strengthening national identity, developing the cultural, scientific, knowledge society and creative industries, ensuring the long-term preservation of national cultural heritage in digital form, and creating opportunities for its repeated use in new products and services, as well as its integration into a unified European and global cultural digital space.

10.4 **Funding sources and evaluation.** A feasibility study was carried out on the reasons why European resources are not well exploited. It produced the following evidences:
— library projects usually have a local scope, at the best national, very seldom European,
— there is still a language barrier, which undermines the circulation of, and access to, resources.

Evaluation is performed according to standard library procedures. However, an assessment of projects in 2014-2020 show the following statistics:
— 28% of all projects were socially responsible events (events for elderly people, social integration of children coming from dysfunctional families, promotion of volunteer work and public health etc.),
— 24% of all projects focused on practical results — improvements to libraries as social infrastructure (construction of new library buildings and/or purchase of equipment),
— the same percentage (24%) involved educational activities in libraries and skill development (informal education programmes, professional development, skills acquisition and in particular digital skills),
— 18% of projects implemented innovative services (interactive formats for events, digital activity centres, etc.),
— 8% of libraries were involved in the improvement of local public space (environmental and natural tourism, creation of public spaces near libraries etc.).[63]

62 https://www.lnb.lv/en/projects/project-digitisation-cultural-heritage-content-1st-stage;
    https://www.lnb.lv/en/projects/project-digitisation-cultural-heritage-content-2nd-stage
63 EBLIDA Newsletter, Issue No. 7, July 2021.

11. Lithuania

11.1 General background and who's who. In Lithuania there is no organisation responsible for the coordination of SDG-related activities; this does not mean, however, that there is lack of them. In general, it can be said that SDGs are well known by librarians at national level, but activities are lagging behind.

11.2 SDG priorities and policies in Lithuanian libraries. According to the Lithuanian Library Association, SDG-related library activities should focus on:
— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— library collections,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— pursuing green library objectives (such as energy saving infrastructure, waste management, SDG policy with staff).

Looking at the initiatives taking place in Lithuanian libraries, there is evidence that library priorities concern the following SDGs:

> SDG 1. No Poverty: Access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation,
> SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,
> SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth,
> SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Generating employment and income through innovation,
> SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

11.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **Development of Elderly's Digital Skills Through Family Learning (No 2020-1-LT01-KA204-077965)[64] (SDG 4).** This project is carried out by the A. and M. Miškinių Public Library of Utena as a European Commission's Erasmus+ (Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership Project) initiative. The project will last almost two years and benefits from a EU grant equal to EUR 82 230.

Lack of digital competences is a growing problem for older people: they do not trust technology and are afraid that they cannot adapt. As they think that technology is for the young, they do not see the potential of the virtual world and do not seek to use it. Teachers in adult school are unable to motivate older layers of population and modern methods of teaching and learning are neglected. A study made by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has shown that in Lithuania, as in many other countries, the majority of the older population struggles to adapt to the digital environment and lacks the skills which would enable them to solve problems by using technologies.

The aim of this project is to strengthen the potential of the participating institutions to develop the digital skills of older people, to promote the idea of family learning and to make it a reality for older people. This socially inclusive project has the following objectives:
— organise international exchange and mutual learning events in the partner countries,
— describe success stories, collect examples of good practice, publish in an online journal format and make them public,
— organise pilot trainings in partner countries to apply new models of family learning.

The Utena A. and M. Miškiniai Public Library is project leader and partners include the Pärnu Central Library (Estonia); Tsennosti, Dobrodeteli, Integritet Foundation (Bulgaria), the Association "EDUVITA" (Italy), the Association "Nazilli Hayat Boyu Ogrenme Dernegi" (Turkey), University of La Mancha (Spain).

2. **Integrate Yourself[65] (SDG 4, 11).** An educational academy "Integrate yourself" was created in 2020. The academy is for teens and young persons (12-20 years old) who want to understand and comprehend the possibilities offered by the modern cultural and socio-cultural environment. There were 4 groups and 64 sessions organised in 2020 and 2021 in cooperation with institutions working with socially vulnerable groups. During the classes, lecturers are acquainted with design aesthetics, perspectives, programs and their management tools. Individual projects were created with the aim to present each participant, highlighting leisure interests, abilities, experiences with the help of graphic design.

The library is near the city park, so that the project "Integrate yourself" is accessible not only to a closed target audience, but also to all social groups of teenagers. During the summer, open seminars and open-air meetings were organised in cooperation with representatives of the creative industries. The interviews and seminars were devoted to discussions about the career opportunities of the contemporary artist, about how art changes the perception of socio-cultural space, emphasising subcultures, the problems of globalisation and the benefits for contemporary life. The established educational academy "Integrate yourself" revealed several essential aspects of the project's impact: the created socio-cultural space and touch with different artistic fields help to form the adolescent's perception of modern art created with modern technologies.

3. **Turn off the smart — reveal your talent[66] (SDG 4, 11).** Today's young people are spending more and more time on smart screens and virtual communication; this takes up a significant portion of their time, depriving them of the time to communicate and stay together in the here and now. The goal of the project "Turn off the smart — reveal your talent" implemented by Šilutė Fridrich Bajoraitis Public Library is to "recover" young people from the virtual space for direct communication with each other. In addition to the youth of Šilutė, representatives of youth organisations from Šilutė district and Pagėgiai municipality participate in it. They integrate into cultural and educational activities, discover the joy of real (not virtual) communication with peers, and can reveal their abilities and creativity. There were 5 different intellectual events organised during the project for young people.

— The musical event "African Drums". The musicians performed African melodies, accompanied by songs, introduced them to sixty different African drums, their sound, the main playing technique, and taught the participants to play African rhythm. The audience heard djembe, dunun drums, balafon, kalimba and kamelen ngoni, which created a wonderful atmosphere and helped to survive their personal Africa. The event took place in the Summer Courtyard of the Library. The audience eagerly listened to the invitation of the performers and happily became participants in their performance.

— The poetry performance "Dive from the fur". It is a unique, form-breaking stage spectacle for young people, combining various arts, club music and classical poetry, provoking and raising the issue of human identity in today's populist culture. Bold and unexpected interpretations of well-known poems invited young people to rediscover classical poetry and its relevance today.

65 http://www.marvb.lt/apie-mus/veikla/projektai/integruoksave
66 https://www.silutevb.lt/silute/2020/09/18/bibliotekojestartavo-projektas-jaunimui-isjunk-ismanuji-atskleisksavo-talenta

— The poetry and music program "Secrets of Romance". On the occasion of the World Music Day, the piano works of F. Chopin were played in a non-standard format, accompanied by poetry of Ch. Bodler and A. Mickiewicz.

— The literary performance "Catch a Thought" involved everyone in an energetic game. During the performance, participants were introduced with various genres of literature: poetry, prose, fairy tale, fiction, slam. Everyone had the opportunity to become an actor for a short time.

— The presentation of the book "Black Waters. Created in a mystical evening environment with special light effects, the book came alive, its characters were reborn, they were embodied by the viewers themselves.

4. **Responsible Reader**[67] **(SDG 11).** "Responsible Reader" is a national competition for libraries aimed to educate the population to sort electronic and battery waste properly. The organiser of the competition is the non-profit Electronic Distributors' Association (EPA), whose aim is, among others, to educate the public about the safe and proper sorting of electronic devices and batteries that have become waste. The competition is jointly run by the Lithuanian Association of Municipal Public Libraries and the Lithuanian Library Association. Small electronic waste is collected in libraries and delivered by appointment with EPA collectors and large electronics are stored in the homes of residents registered at the library waiting for collection.

A prize is awarded to the library collecting more waste, whether within its premises or at users' home through the service performed by the library. At the end of each phase, the two libraries with the highest collection of waste electronics and batteries will receive a donation of books worth EUR 500.

5. **Modernisation of the Cultural Education System**[68] **(SDG 4, 9).** A common system of cultural education will be developed, which would combine formal and non-formal education and cover the entire territory of Lithuania. The National Library, together with representatives of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, has developed a common concept "Creating a Cultural Education Administration Platform and a Network of Cultural Educators to Ensure High-Quality and Diverse Cultural Education and Coordinated Coordination". According to the authors of the concept, the synergy of the fields of culture and education will allow to improve the process of formal education, integrate with cultural activities, and increase its attractiveness to students. This project is an investment in the youth and future. Numerous international studies make it clear that innovation and readiness to tackle complex programs are directly related to the ability to think critically and creatively. Such competencies necessary for the future are formed by cultural and creative skills, and in order to have consistent and systematic conditions of cultural education, they need adapted measures that meet the needs of modern society and the education system.

6. **Development of a virtual cultural space for the needs of society**[69] **(SDG 4, 9).** The project aims to modernise the Virtual Cultural Heritage Information System and to create services that facilitate the search, accumulation, management and use of digitised cultural content for educational, research and other purposes of the portal epaveldas.lt.

67 https://www.anyksciuvb.lt/lt/naujienos/4860-kvieciamedalyvauti-projekte-atsakingas-skaitytojas

68 https://www.lnb.lt/en/about-library/maininformation/program-and-projects?view=article&id=6451:modernisation-of-the-culturaleducation-system&catid=26:lnb-en

69 https://www.epaveldas.lt/en/home

11.4 Funding sources and evaluation. Normally, SDG-related projects are funded through ad hoc programmes set in place by international organisations (European Commission, Structural Funds, etc), Ministries, City/Provincial/Regional Councils and national or international Foundations. Almost always the grant is generated from cultural departments and agencies. SDG indicators are managed by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics. All the Ministries are responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 at the national level. The main coordinating institutions are the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in the aspect of development cooperation.

12. The Netherlands

12.1 General background and who's who. The implementation of SDGs in the Netherlands is clearly pictured in a Questionnaire sent out by The Royal Library in the period August-October 2021, distributed to all 140 public libraries with a response rate of 41%.

The results of this study show that the theme has not yet been widely embraced and that only 20% of libraries have structurally incorporated SDGs into their programmes, with other libraries (28%) having set SDGs in their vision or annual plan and 15% being linked to a theme or linking their action to a theme in the near future. In spite of the fact that almost all libraries (90%) acknowledge its importance, the majority of them (46%) is not currently implementing the Agenda 2030.

The Royal Library has no coordinating role for SDG implementation but it contributes through careful monitoring, to awareness-raising and research. An agency which is fully committed to SDGs is Expedition Public Libraries.

In general, it can be said that in spite of no overall SDG-related strategy, organisations getting provincial support and individual libraries are starting to make their choices in the SDG field.

12.2 SDG priorities and policies in Dutch libraries. Within the sustainability theme, several domains can be distinguished. In the past year, respondents paid attention to green lifestyle and consumption (40%), climate and energy (40%) and a sustainable city, safety and mobility (31%). There is also a relatively high level of attention for social inequality, discrimination and gender inequality (25%), particularly in large libraries. This also applies to the domain of the sustainable city. In reality, libraries are consciously or unconsciously working on separating waste (94%) and printing less (89%); saving energy and water is also regularly mentioned (85% and 76% respectively). Respondents are less busy with sustainable purchasing (18% consciously, 44% unconsciously) and creating awareness of sustainability among library visitors library visitors (15% conscious, 32% unconscious).

Within Expedition — Public libraries priorities are to be found in:
— debates on SDGs with citizens,
— library collections, Library exhibitions,
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— pursuing green library objectives (such as energy saving infrastructure, waste management, SDG policy with staff).

When looking at the seventeen SDGs, the following are pursued in Dutch public libraries:
SDG 1: No poverty, in particular for Expeditie — Public libraries,
SDG 3: Good health and well-being,
SDG 4: Quality education,
SDG 10: Reducing inequalities.

12.3 SDG-oriented projects
1. **Ouderen in de wijk (Elderly in the neighbourhood) — by the libraries of Utrecht, Den Haag, Rotterdam, Amsterdam (ESF)[70] (SDG 1, 4, 10).** The project is supported by the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and carried out by the public libraries in Utrecht, The Hague, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, in cooperation with Mira Media.

70   https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=1.+Ouderen+in+de+wijk

The overarching goal of the OP is "to reduce the social exclusion of older people in the Netherlands with low disposable income." Material assistance needs to go hand in hand with social inclusion measures, such as guidance and support to lift people out of poverty and to improve the integration of the most deprived people into Dutch society.

Three specific objectives have been set up: a) to make the target group aware of local support; b) to strengthen the social network of the target group; and to c) strengthen the competences of the target group. The target value is associated with the following indicators:
— 65% of the elderly should still be in the picture with aid organisations and/or municipalities after their participation organisation and/or municipality after participation,
— 40% of the elderly should indicate having a strengthened social network after participating,
— 40% of the elderly must indicate having a strengthened social network at their disposal;
— 60% of the older people must indicate that they have strengthened competences at their disposal.

2. **ProActive — by FlevoMeer Bibliotheek (AMIF-project) (SDG 3, 4, 10).** The FlevoMeer Library project ProActive has focused on 5 municipalities in the Dutch province Flevoland. Municipalities where libraries take an active role in the integration of people from non-western countries and their relatives in the Dutch society. Despite corona measures, good results have been achieved and new follow-up routes have been developed. From practice, it is demonstrated that participation quality and integration can be achieved through non-formal education. The activities were organised in close cooperation with volunteers and the library as a central meeting point. The project has resulted in the empowerment of more than 400 migrants and the development of interesting methods and instruments. Some examples are online training tools to learn basic skills (language-, social- & digital- competencies, see www.flevowijzer.info), impact monitoring and summer schools with the combination of theatre and learning Dutch.

12.4 Funding sources and evaluation. For most respondents, municipalities are the most important cooperation partner in the field of sustainability (62%). They are followed by local non-profit organisations and social entrepreneurs (44%). A fairly large group also indicated that they are working together with citizens' initiatives (36%) and cultural institutions (26%). Far fewer collaborations were entered into with organisations such as education, social entrepreneurs and commercial parties. Some 13% of respondents indicated that they had no cooperation partners at all and another 8% do not know whether these partners exist. Larger libraries often cooperate with both local and national non-profit organisations. Citizens' initiatives are mentioned by both the smallest and the very largest libraries.

13. Portugal

13.1 General background and who's who. In Portugal, the General Directorate for Book, Archives and Libraries of the Ministry of Culture together with the Association of Archivists, Librarians and Information and Documentation Professionals (B.A.D.) work together to implement SDGs in libraries. In general the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is well known by librarians, but activities are still lagging behind although in recent years we have seen a greater awareness of the importance of adapting projects and and relate to the SDG's.

Both entities have made efforts since 2017 to make the 2030 Agenda known to all library professionals.

A website "Libraries for Development and Agenda 2030" was developed that allowed sharing information about the SDG's, sharing resources and documentation, as well as collecting projects identified in the pursuit of the SDG's. In this sense, a prize was also instituted for Portuguese public libraries that developed projects closely related to the SGD's.

Launched at the 2019 Bologna Children's Book Fair the «United Nations ODS Reading Club (SDG Book Club) aims to promote books and reading as tools for reflection and awareness among children aged 6 to 12 years old, to the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Brazil and Portugal, joined forces in the commitment to promote the «ODS Reading Club» in Portuguese, similar to the «SGD Book Club» implemented by the United Nations and sensitize public libraries to promote clubs in this area.

Facilitating access to awareness sessions as well as news and update for all professionals about the 2030 Agenda, has also been a commitment of the Directorate-General for Books, Archives and Libraries, so that they can autonomously develop new actions and define new strategies for action.

13.2 SDG priorities and policies in Portuguese libraries. The General Directorate for Book, Archives and Libraries of the Ministry of Culture together with the Association of Archivists, Librarians and Information and Documentation Professionals (B.A.D.) consider that SDG-oriented projects should be focused on key factors for the fulfillment of the national objectives defined also by the Portuguese government: **Portugal + Competitivo**; **Pessoas 2030** and **Sustentável 2030**.

Thus, Portuguese libraries should take into account the following axes of action:
— encourage citizen participation and involvement for compliance of 2030 Agenda.
— index library collections according to SDG's promoting a selective diffusion of information.
— projects in co-creation with partners/citizens - digital inclusion and digital citizenship in order to empower people for entrepreneurship and employment, as well as increase the levels of personal fulfillment.
— pursuing green library objectives, sensitizing libraries as entities of social responsibility through the adoption of a policy for sustainability in their ecological footprint.

The following SDGs are considered a priority for Portuguese libraries:
SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy,
SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,
SDG 5. Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality

laws, fairer representation of women,

SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth,

SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Generating employment and income through innovation,

SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities: Reducing income and other inequalities, within and between countries,

SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable,

SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Reversing current consumption trends and promoting a more sustainable future,

SDG 13. Climate Action: Regulating and reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy,

SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Revitalise strong global partnerships for sustainable development.

13.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **The project, ODS: Together We Change the World[71] (SDG 4)** is promoted by the Camilo Castelo Branco Municipal Library, in Vila Nova de Famalicão, and aims to make the community aware of and raise awareness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Following the Creative Writing Contest "All for a better world", an initiative of this project, a collection of interactive books is being created, the "Virtual Shelf" which will consist of 17 interactive stories representing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. To date, four short stories are already available on the "Virtual Bookcase", hosted on the library's website: "Mariana's concerns", on SDG 1 (Eradicate poverty); "The fairy with a good heart" referring to SDG 2 (Eradicate Hunger); "Candy Island", dedicated to SDG 3 (Quality Health); "Alice's example" regarding SDG 4 (Quality Education).

   This project received the *Maria José Moura Good Practices Prize* awarded by the Directorate-General for Books, Archives and Libraries in 2021.

   This project is part of the project registration platform "Libraries for Development and Agenda 2030" where we find already projects of the Portuguese public libraries.

2. **Bibliomóvel de Proença-a-Nova (SDG 3, 10, 16).** An itinerant Library that goes, takes and provides useful services, close and access to information, knowledge, readings to people who are displaced from urban centres and have no way to get to the library.

3. **"DIGITAL PTIS@LITERACIA" (SDG 4, 5, 10)** is an ICT project of the Public Library of Silves, promoted by the Municipal Library, which brings together a set of initiatives, based on the training aspect. With a duration of 9 weeks, it aims to provide the trainees with basic knowledge in word processor, email and internet.

   Objectives of the project – to integrate ICT into the daily lives of the elderly, to combat isolation and digital exclusion.

4. **"Exchange for exchange" (SDG 10, 11, 12).** Famalicão Public Library project that consists of the free and disinterested transfer of books that will later be available for exchange for other books, not involving, this initiative, any type of costs, terms or loans. This municipal reading project allows to enhance the interest in the book, consolidate reading habits, as well as provide access to new readings and the renewal of private collections.

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5. **Green library objectives — Partnerships with other institutions (SDG 17).** The main purpose of creating a green library is to use sustainable efficient resources. Managing a green library is very much necessary for the development of town, country, institutions, etc. The saving generated by an efficient management on using water, paper, electricity and air conditioning as a huge impact on the library budget. The partnerships inside organisation between the library and other institution facilities and with external partners, like providers, other institution and specially the users, allows to implement more efficiently the 3 R policy's: re-use, recycle and reduce.

13.4 Funding sources and evaluation. In general resources for SDG-oriented library projects are generated from ordinary budget. If additional funding is provided it is by national or international organisations as specific support considering a specific project.

14. Romania

14.1 General background and who's who. In Romania SDGs were not implemented at all in libraries; under the pressure of national governments and the European Commission libraries are starting to be aware of their importance and relevance for library work.

14.2 SDG priorities and policies in Romanian libraries. It is the opinion of the respondent that SDG-oriented projects should be focused on:
— Debates on SDGs with citizens,
— Library collections, Library exhibitions,
— Projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship),
— Pursuing green library objectives (such as energy saving infrastructure, waste management, SDG policy with staff).

Presumably, these SDGs should be of major concern for Romanian libraries:

SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy,

SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,

SDG 5. Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, fairer representation of women,

SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities: Reducing income and other inequalities, within and between countries,

SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable,

SDG 13. Climate Action: Regulating and reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy,

SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Revitalise strong global partnerships for sustainable development.

14.3 SDG-oriented projects. Rather than SDG-oriented library projects, the respondent suggests national initiatives which can be successfully pursued by libraries [Compilator's note].

1. **Sustainable Romania[72] (SDG 4, 10).** The aim of the project is to implement the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Romania 2030 (SNDDR 2030) by ensuring the appropriate implementation framework, increasing the institutional capacity of central authorities, streamlining inter-institutional communication and collaboration, ensuring consistency of implementation by monitoring progress and presenting Romania's development trends, allowing evidence-based public decisions in a projective manner, anticipating systematic developments and risks.

   The strategy mainly addresses the following areas: access for all children to early education, fair and quality primary and secondary education, leading to relevant and effective outcomes, substantial increase in the number of young people and adults with relevant professional skills, which facilitates employment to decent jobs and entrepreneurship. It ensures that all students acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

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2. **People and Planet: A Common Destiny[73] (SDG 13).** Pan-European campaign to mobilise young citizens and local authorities in the fight against climate change. The project aims to make a positive contribution to policy sustainability development at global level (global + local) and promote participation young citizens as factors for change. The project is divided into two lines of action: the first includes several activities aimed at young citizens, perceived as future factors change; the second focuses on qualification and improving local decision-making capacities, so that the authorities strengthen their role in disseminating good practice and styles sustainable living conditions between their communities.

3. **Walk the Global Walk: Young people — leaders on the road to sustainability[74] (SDG 11, 13).** Through Global Citizenship Education, Walk the Global Walk mobilises young people as accelerators of change, bringing SDGs to the local level. It also produces innovative educational models, able to integrate a new understanding of global issues related to migration, climate change and gender equality in formal high school curriculum. Promoted by Regione Toscana and Oxfam Italia Intercultura and co-funded by the European Union, the Walk the Global Walk project connects local and regional authorities with local communities (school communities and civil society organisations) in 11 European countries: Italy, France, Croatia, Cyprus, United Kingdom (Wales and Scotland), Portugal, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania. It supports Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Climate Action (SDG 13), Peace, Justice and Effective Institutions (SDG 16).

4. **Get up and goals! — Time for global education: an international learning network and active schools for the SDGs[75] (SDG 4, 10, 17).** Coordinated by NGO C.I.S.P. (based in Rome, Italy), partnerships include 13 other NGOs from 12 different European countries, whose Ministries of Education have joined the project. In Romania, project implementor is the Association "European Academy". The overall objective of the project is to enhance curricula in relation to SDGs in order to encourage global citizenship education and sustainable development.

Being implemented in a selected group of schools at national level (wide dissemination in all regions of Romania) in 12 EU countries, beneficiaries are main actors in the local school: teachers, pupils aged 11-16, school principals, education institutions and address some of the key objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
— International inequalities (see SDG 10),
— Climate change (see SDG 7, 11, 12 and 13),
— Migration (see SDG 1, 2, 10 and 13),
— Gender equality (a topic addressed in the SDGs).

Activities include training of teachers, at national level, on Agenda 2030 and Global Citizenship Education; training and exchange of best practices among teachers (participation in European seminars with teachers from partner countries); experimentation with Learning Units on issues related to the SDGs; production and experimentation of a global geo-historical textbook; creating awareness on SDGs targeted at local communities and implemented by students; measuring the impact of global citizenship and sustainable development education initiatives. The website resulting from the project will act as a tool for the implementation of a dedicated campaign, involving more teachers all over Europe.

73 https://www.facebook.com/APDDagenda21/posts/-amdat-startul-oficial-al-proiectului-peopleandplanet-acommon-destiny-oamenii-/1807453069423748

74 https://walktheglobalwalk.eu/ro

75 https://www.getupandgoals.ro/proiect.html

5. **Education up the sky/Educație la înălțime**[76] **(SDG 4).** The national innovative education program for sustainable development through live drone lessons. The aim of the project is to familiarise students and teachers with the objectives of sustainable development, in a way that highlights Romania's resources and the 21st century skills of students; to create student-centred interactive lessons, using the latest technologies; to offer materials related to the school curriculum, accessible to all teachers, even after the end of live broadcasts. The lessons will also include non-formal activities in class or at home, games and interesting tasks. The activities follow a scenario that involves training both before and during and after the end of the live broadcast.

6. **Together for a better life/Împreună pentru o viață mai bună**[77] **(SDG 3).** The general objective of the project is to support for 2 years a number of 15 librarians from rural and urban areas to acquire knowledge, skills and competences at the level of European standards, necessary in working with the adult public. Analysing local communities, national and local reports on the health and involvement of citizens in the active life of the community, Prahova librarians formed a consortium of 11 rural libraries and the County Library "Nicolae Iorga", in order to meet the needs adults and seniors, offering them activities that will discuss issues related to health, nutrition, or the influences of stressors on the body.

7. **Green library for a Sustainable Community-Lib4Green"/Biblioteca verde pentru o comunitate durabilă**[78] **Șirna Communal Library: green library for a sustainable community (SDG 6, 11).** Since December 2020, the Șirna Communal Library in Prahova County has started implementing the European project "Green Library for a Sustainable Community — Lib4Green", an Erasmus+ mobility project in the field of adult education, submitted and won last year. With a duration of 2 years (31 December 2020 — 30 December 2022), this project is funded under the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union with project number: 2020-1-RO01-KA104-078765, receiving a grant of 20,735 Euro. Șirna Communal Library, member of the Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (ENSULIB) of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is awarded and internationally recognised as a "green library" for its examples of good practice in the field of environmental education of the younger generation and also wants to get involved in the education of rural adults in the field of sustainable development, supporting the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.

Through the project "Green Library for a Sustainable Community — Lib4Green" a job shadowing mobility activity is carried out in partnership with a large European green library in Zagreb — Croatia, as a result of which 11 participants will develop knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviours that will contribute to the project's goal and will have key competences to achieve its objectives. Within the project, with the help of volunteers, a library support body called "Green Council" will be established, which will help to create a new library service called "Green Library" and to draft a sustainable library policy document.

76 https://www.aspireteachers.ro/educatie-la-inaltime

77 www.bibliotecaprahova.ro

78 https://ambasadasustenabilitatii.ro/biblioteca-comunalasirna-biblioteca-verde-pentru-o-comunitate-durabila/?fbclid=IwAR36UjzidDOXen3WuMIIAh_MMNMUkK_qNI3Xo3WCJ8ycWdCghgpPg34WE4

The new service will run three specific training actions for 40 adults in the community using innovative methods. The results of the project can easily be transferred to other areas by volunteers from other professional backgrounds, can be adapted to other community needs and can be used to influence green practices and policies both locally in the rural community and at county, regional, national, European and international level. The project implementation strategy will stimulate sustainable community development, social cohesion and participation in the mobility action will lead to increased local, county, national and transnational sustainable cooperation, strengthening collaboration and cooperation with a large European library with the same concerns for sustainable development.

14.4   Funding sources and evaluation. During the last two-three years European/international funding for library projects was consistent, up to 10% of the library budget. Normally, economic departments within Ministries, Non-Governmental Organisations, and Commercial enterprises provide additional funding for libraries. Evaluation is not carried out, also because SDG official indicators (UN, UNESCO, Eurostat) are difficult to apply, since they are not connected with library activities.

15. Spain

15.1 General background and who's who. In Spain the Consejo de Cooperación Bibliotecaria (CCB), including representatives from the Regions (Comunidades autónomas), the Ministry of Culture and FESABID, the Spanish Library Association, is the organisation in charge of elaborating an SDG-oriented library policy. A working group, Bibliotecas y Agenda 2030, is coordinating library activities. It can be said that Spanish libraries are implementing SDGs in a convincing and active way.[79]

15.2 SDG priorities and policies in Spanish libraries.
According to CCB, SDG-oriented policies should focus on:
— Library collections, and
— Projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion; digital citizenship).

In addition to that, CCB is developing a special plan for rural areas where there is a lack of library services.[80]

The following SDGs are considered a priority for SDG-oriented library projects:
SDG 4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty,
SDG 5. Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, fairer representation of women,
SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth,
SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities: Reducing income and other inequalities, within and between countries,
SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Inclusive societies, strong institutions and equal access to justice.

15.3 SDG-oriented projects. Since 2017, CCB assigns a seal to libraries having carried activities or projects of particular impact on Spanish society — innovative library projects which have already been implemented and can serve as models of good practice.[81]
In particular, the seal is assigned on the basis of the following criteria:
— Experiences of social dynamisation of libraries;
— Presence of library collections and services in the digital universe;
— Dissemination of the socio-economic impact of libraries;
— Cooperation between libraries from different sectors;
— Innovative experiences with minimal additional resources;
— Projects that contribute to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030.

What follows is the list of projects having received a CCB "seal" whose orientation is explicitly linked with the attainment of SDGs in Spain.

1. **#readytoreadyfor (SDG 4).** The project intends to promote a general development plan intending to distribute knowledge, competences, skills and transversal values which are imparted at the Polytechnic University of Madrid through social networks. The selection, organisation and distribution on social networks the university community will be made by the University Library.

79 https://www.ccbiblio.es/estructura-del-consejo/grupos-detrabajo/estrategicos-grupos-trabajo-ccb/bibliotecas-agenda2030
80 https://www.ccbiblio.es/estructura-del-consejo/grupos-detrabajo/estrategicos-grupos-trabajo-ccb/plan-atencionmundo-rural
81 https://www.ccbiblio.es/mapa-sello-ccb

2. **Biblioteca de Acogida (SDG 4, 5, 10).** "Biblioteca de Acogida" (First Prize Social Library 2017) is a project that turns the Public Library of Purchena into a space of peace and exchange between young immigrants/young people at risk of social exclusion and local young people. The project is promoted by the Biblioteca Pública Municipal de Purchena.

3. **Innovative services in university libraries: the Seed Library of the Escuela Politécnica Superior (University of Zaragoza) (SDG 2, 15).** The Seed Library of the Escuela Politécnica Superior (EPS) was born in May 2017 as a new service of the Library that aims to lend seeds of horticultural plants from Aragon to the university community, University of Zaragoza Library.

4. **Healthy walks. Social and community inclusion project from the Library of the Severo Ochoa University Hospital and the Municipal Archive of Leganés (SDG 3, 4).** Libraries are open spaces where people's access to knowledge and information is welcomed. It is a place where inequalities are balanced. Library's scope transcend physical space and cover a wide spectrum of uses and users through the enhancement of resources. The Municipal Archive-Technical Library of the Leganés Town Council had similar concerns. A cooperation was triggered, involving librarians and archivists into the social texture of the population that circulates in the city hospital and the municipal environment. A set of activities carried out in real spaces of everyday life that relate health, social, cultural and historical aspects in Leganés, relying on the knowledge, technical resources and human capital available, at no additional financial cost to the Severo Ochoa University Hospital Library and the Municipal Archives of Leganés.

5. **Bibliographic exhibition 'Women and the trades of the book' (SDG 5, 8).** Books being displayed in the exhibition contain the work of women who have carried out tasks and trades traditionally performed by men. The craft of writing, across all genres, is the most recognised, from Sappho to Rosalía de Castro in poetry, the captivating work of Saint Teresa of Jesus, the narrative written under the pseudonym of Cecilia Böhl de Faber, or in the travel literature of Marie Catherine D'Aulnoy in the 17th century. There are other equally interesting examples, such as the case of great illustrators like Luisa Morales or Ana Heylan. The exhibition highlights the work of translators into other languages carried out by women, first in their family environment and, from the end of the 19th century onwards, in a professional manner, such as Joaquina García Balmaseda. So-called master printers in the art of typography are also important, as Manuela Contera, widow of Joaquín Ibarra, and the birth of the first feminist movements.

6. **A room of one's own. A space for equality: a meeting and awareness-raising space (SDG 3, 4, 5, 10).** "A room of one's own" is an open and free space for meeting and awareness-raising for all audiences having a specialised background in equality and gender violence. Its proximity to the community makes the room a fundamental piece in the fight against inequality and a challenge for a more democratic and egalitarian society, Municipal Library 'Rafael Azcona' Location (Province): Logroño.

15.4 Funding sources and evaluation. SDG-oriented projects are normally funded through libraries' ordinary budget. If additional funding is provided, support is provided by the cultural department of various Ministries. CCB is also making an attempt to review data provided by libraries, to process and evaluate them within the category "special services" as described by ISO 2789 terms.[82]

82 https://www.ccbiblio.es/estructura-del-consejo/grupos-detrabajo/estables/grupo-de-trabajo-sibe

16. Sweden

16.1 General background and who's who. The association for regional library services[83] has stepped up as an important actor on the Swedish scene for sustainable development in libraries. Their 2022 annual conference focused solely on the 2030 Agenda and reached most regional librarians in the country, thus creating a trickle-down effect for local library services. Many regional library services have organised workshops and trainings on the SDGs for public library staff.

The Swedish Library Association support the 2030 Agenda work mainly through their engagement with international library organisations such as EBLIDA and IFLA. Additionally, the association's national initiatives tend to indirectly supports the SDGs though the global goals aren't used as an advocacy framework for these endeavours.

16.2 SDG priorities and policies in Swedish libraries

While the national coordination office for the 2030 Agenda has suffered budget cuts under the government, the sustainable development work in libraries is accelerating. Several regional library services have hosted 2030 Agenda workshops for the public librarians in their region to create awareness and promote new and existing activities related to sustainable development.

Green library objectives continue to be an important part of the library agenda towards the attainment of SDGs; but there is now also significant advancement on social and economic sustainability, in particular relating to SDGs 9, 11, 12 and 17.

16.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. Library's Digital Centre closes the digital gap for elderly citizens[64] (SDG 4, 9, 10, 11, 17). Digitisation is no longer a new phenomenon in Sweden and the pace of social transformation is increasing with each passing year. Since 2017, through their Digitalisation Strategy, the Swedish Government has been working to become the world's leader at creating opportunities through digitisation. One of the five main pillars of the Strategy is to ensure everyone is offered the opportunity to improve digital competencies.

An annual survey of the internet habits of Swedish people reveals that as many as 95% of Swedes use the Internet, 9 out of 10 own a smartphone, and more than 90% have a computer at home. Digital exclusion is diminishing but is still significant, with about a million Swedes living with limited access. Exclusion is particularly clear when analysing the use of public digital services, such as e-services in health care or tax authorities. The elderly are one of the main vulnerable groups who are at risk of digital exclusion.

Within Helsingborg, a city in the south west of Sweden, the Helsingborg Public Library is working intensively to bridge the digital divide among its 150,000 inhabitants. The library provides access to digital information and technology on site, as well as supervision and training by the library staff.

83   https://regionbiblioteken.se/
84   https://librarymap.ifla.org/stories/sdg/0/Country/Sweden

In 2018, as the result of collaboration with the Helsingborg Digitalisation Department, the library opened its Digital Centre, equipped with trained staff and technology such as computers, scanners, printers, and tablets. Serving approximately 200 visitors per day, the Centre is located on the library's premises and keeps the same service hours. In collaboration with the Helsingborg Healthcare Department, the Centre's staff also works off-site to reach the elderly at senior citizens' meeting points, such as recreational facilities, pop-up events and the library's bus, among others.

The Library's staff explained what drove the Centre's creation: "Simply providing access to ICT and broadband is not sufficient to close the digital gap. Instead, citizens need access to a place where tools are located as well as hands-on training, such as using a computer and other tools, surfing the internet, and accessing online public services. Access to the Digital Centre helps increase digital literacy of this and other target groups and creates stronger civic engagement by involving citizens in the co-creation of new services. As part of the collaboration with HBG Works Innovation Hub, our Centre also functions as a test site for new digital services developed by the municipality. While our primary target groups are senior citizens, those with a migrant background, children, and young adults, we are open to all groups."

Programme evaluation results show that a major portion of the Centre's users are becoming increasingly self-sufficient when it comes to the use of technology and digital services. The value of the Digital Centre's services is especially high among seniors. A 70-year-old user shared her experience: "As a senior citizen it is harder to be updated when it comes to all things digital. The Digital Centre at the Library is perfect for me and I can easily get the help I need."

While the Library's Digital Centre did not close during the pandemic, in addition to regular services it began offering digital courses like Talk Digital, covering content on a variety of topics and skill levels. In 2020, a national survey revealed that during the COVID-19 pandemic older people in particular started using digital services more frequently than before, or tried them for the first time. Elderly people have also used digital healthcare services more during the pandemic with 7 out of 10 accessing a digital health care service.

The library's Digital Centre has contributed to an increased use of digital tools and expanded the possibilities of the internet and technical upskilling among elderly people in Helsingborg.

2. Toolkits for sustainable development events in local libraries (SDG 2, 4, 11, 12)

In the *BibBl.a* project the library development services of Region Jämtland Härjedalen have developed thematic toolkits (one handicraft toolkit, one digital toolkit, one book talk tool kit) which serve as content for local library workshops focused on citizens sharing knowledge, trying out new things, and talking about sustainability from their various points of view.

The sharing of intangible knowledge through showing and teaching handicraft is a way to preserve and promote historical practices which is an important part of local cultural heritage as well as useful skills for a more sustainable lifestyle (e.g. through fixing and creating items). These practices are connected to the makerspace movement in libraries which stems from a curiosity about digital creativity. The value of tactile knowledge put in the spotlight in addition to the textual knowledge libraries traditionally represent.

BibBl.a workshops have also focused on horticulture as complement to traditional agriculture, thus increasing knowledge about ecosystems, food production, and biodiversity.

BibBl.a develops the internal and external sustainability, provides readiness for and practice in change, builds trust between people in the common library space (or outside it) and cultivates the democratic model. The project is clearly linked to the Swedish library legislation and the social mission of libraries.

3. Strategic 2030 Agenda focus in local governance (SDG 9, 11, 16, 17)

In Region Skåne, the regional library services have included the 2030 Agenda in their library strategy document, referring the SDGs to their strategic goals. The strategy states that libraries are important contributors in sustainability work, in the municipal organisation and in the local community, and the regional library services aim to accentuate public libraries' relevance and potential in society's endeavour to reach the SDGs. They also aim to aid collaboration between libraries in favour of a better use of common resources.

By using this formal approach to implement the SDGs the work that is already being done is highlighted for citizens, politicians, and potential partnerships. It creates transparency, inclusion, empowerment, and educates about the SDGs.

4. Wikimedian in Residence and Wikipedia LGBTQI project (SDG 9, 10, 11, 17)

Region Sörmland has worked with Wikipedia as a tool for creating and sharing knowledge to support the SDGs. Together with the museum of Sörmland the regional library services hired a Wikimedian in Residence.

The purpose of this project was to develop how the library services and the regional museum could work together to share their collections and knowledge to free and open repositories such as Wikipedia. The project aligns with both organisations' goals to make knowledge available, create new knowledge, and create opportunities for co-creation. It also promotes and provides an outlet for local knowledge and local cultural heritage, making it accessible to a global audience.

In the same vein, Region Sörmland has run a project to improve Swedish language Wikipedia from an LGBTQI perspective by increasing the amount of articles, data, and media resources relating to the topic. Research has shown that even though translation of articles about LGBTQI people and events are prevalent, the Wikipedia content might not be representative of the (e.g lingusitic) community that is reading the encyclopædia, which can create a sense of invisibility for the marginalised group. This project serves to create local representation for local readers.

In addition to Region Sörmland's Wikipedia initiatives, they have organised activities related to media and information literacy, climate fiction, and open data as accelerators for sustainable development.

16.4 Funding sources and evaluation. Many SDG-oriented activities are part of ordinary library services and may not be officially connected to the 2030 Agenda despite supporting the SDGs. Some projects have been funded by the national library's Digitalt först programme and the cultural council's Stärkta bibliotek programme. National funding schemes for libraries are more likely to fund specific projects than international funding schemes.

17. Switzerland

17.1 General background and who's who. In Switzerland the situation is uneven: there are libraries that have started playing an active role in the implementation of the Agenda 2030; for many libraries, however, in particular public libraries, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is not at the centre of their concerns. Much awareness still has to be raised in relation to an appropriate understanding and knowledge about SDGs and how to implement them in libraries. Since 2017, the Swiss Library Association, Bibliosuisse, has created a working group, "Kommission Biblio2030", which is successfully tackling the subject of sustainability in libraries. "Kommission Biblio2030"'s objective is to raise awareness among Swiss libraries. Online tools have been set up as a source of inspiration and engagement for a future which is more sustainable, both ecologically and socially. The Biblio2030 padlet is available in French, German and Italian: https://padlet.com/biblio2030/Werkzeugkasten.

17.2 SDG priorities and policies in Swiss libraries. At the initiative of Biblio2030, Roadshows are organised, to be booked for on-site or online events. A Roadshow is a learning tool for librarians, with basic notions of sustainability and what the UN agenda has to do with libraries. A more advanced Roadshow simulates a sustainability project for specific libraries. The Roadshows toured throughout all regions in Switzerland and reached out to librarians in small communities often lacking professional training. The Roadshow were about inspiring and learning — but it always turned out to be a dialogue because many ideas and projects were already on their way.

17.3 SDG-oriented projects

1. **Cultural mediation at the Municipal Library of Vevey (SDG 5).** At the library, hot political topics and unusual people are brought together to speak up in the library. The program is a huge success, bringing a wide audience to the library; controversies have raised attention and sometimes also created security problems, in terms of broad attendance and audience impact. This gained a lot of respect for the library and great visibility.

2. **Interdisciplinary working group at the University of Bern (SDG 17).** The Universitätbibliothek Bern set up an interdisciplinary working group that deals with sustainability issues and brings up the Agenda 2030 on the realm of the Bern University. In spite of its narrow scope, this engagement has been successful in raising awareness and draw people's attention.