Second European Report on Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries

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

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SDG-oriented policies for public libraries based on the 2nd EBLIDA European report on sustainable development and libraries

Workshop 1: Sustainable development and public libraries

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Methodology

Survey: 19 countries (library associations and other representative institutions)

Second European Report on Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries:
  – Synthesis report
  – Country profiles

*Incorporation of library work into a much broader and more far-reaching scope, based on a full-fledged concept*
Synthesis five parts

SDGs: National perception and coordinating entities
Visibility at national level and library advocacy
Funding SDG-oriented projects
International partnership
Evaluation of SDG-oriented projects
European libraries are not only about projects, but also about how library personnel and users perceive and apply them in their everyday work.

Have library associations and/or library agencies in your country identified policies with a view to pursuing SD policies in libraries?
Visibility at national level and library advocacy

The EBLIDA community is divided in half: libraries implement SDG projects as a result of well-coordinated policy / they act in the wake of a spontaneous determination to support the SDG cause.

Is there any mention of library activities in the official SDG documents?
National perception and coordinating entities

Danmark

The Danish Library Association works together with Danish libraries to promote a 2030-focus at local level

Project DB2030 Network – a national 2030 Network of cross-disciplinary character including libraries, NGOs etc to stimulate 2030 activities in the library environment in Danish municipalities

France

Four organisations – ENSSIB, CFIBD, BPI, ABF – have set up a Working Group in charge of monitoring the follow up to the UN 2030 Agenda in French libraries
Focus of SDG oriented projects

SDG-oriented projects should be focused on:

1. Projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion etc.)
2. Debates on SDGs with citizens
3. Green library objectives
4. Library collection
5. Library exhibitions
Funding SDG-oriented projects

Support for SDG-oriented library projects is part of the ordinary library budget in 53% of the cases.

One third reports that SDGs are implemented by the means of additional library funding.

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.
Evaluation of SDG-oriented projects

Lack of evaluation or evaluation carried out in a traditional way suggests the need for innovative assessing schemes.

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)
Not all of SDGs enjoy the same priority and aren’t implemented with equal effort.

SDG-oriented policies
Wie kommt das W in den Baum?
SLB im Bildungsforum
Potsdam

Treffpunkt Deutsch / Wie kommt das W in den Baum? / Dialogues for Integration: Hamburg Libraries Help Refugees Find their Way

https://www.biblio2030.de/beispielsammlung/
International partnership

Walk the Global Walk: Young people - leaders on the road to sustainability:
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

https://walktheglobalwalk.eu/en/
Projects in co-creation with partners/citizens (digital inclusion)

Italy: DigEDUCATI / Sapere digitale

https://www.saperedigitale.org/

www.fondazionebergamo.it/digeducati/
Erasmus+ project Family Business Library. It promotes entrepreneurship education in non-urban and rural regions. The main idea of the project - address people in rural regions through local and regional libraries.

Latvia, Germany, Croatia, Italy and Greece.
General conclusions from the Report

1. Overall, the progress of SDG implementation in European libraries is quite heterogeneous.

2. Libraries link their projects and activities to the majority of SDGs.

3. 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.

4. An investigation on the impact of EU programs in libraries is therefore strongly needed.

5. 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.

6. More active project management skills should be provided to libraries.

7. The crucial point for the successful implementation of SDGs is librarians' awareness.
1. SDGs provide opportunities for libraries on various levels – locally, nationally and internationally. As librarians we need to actively engage in the debate and implementation of same. Please, discuss potential opportunities!

2. Please, share Your experience in SDGs implementation via library activities in Your library/country.

3. Is there a greater role for EBLIDA in the promotion of SDGs?

After 15 minutes, please, come back with conclusions to whole workshop members.