



# The Think The Unthinkable experience in Italy

## *Background to the Workshop 3* Sustainable development and fundraising

30<sup>th</sup> EBLIDA Conference - Athens (GR), June 15<sup>th</sup> 2022

**SDG projects in European libraries** not only as stories to be told to administrators and policy-makers for advocacy purposes, but also as a fully-fledged concept apt **to frame library work into the broader and far-reaching scope of the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development.

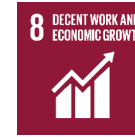
# The Italian context



## Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development Report 2021

2019 2020	}	<b>Improved</b> SDGs 7, 13, 16
		<b>Not changed</b> SDGs 2, 6, 9
		<b>Got worse</b> SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 17

e.g.



### INVOLUNTARY PART TIME

7,3% (2010) → 11,9% (2020)

### DROP IN GDP PER CAPITA

- 8,4% approx.

### NEET

22,2% (2019) → 23,3% (2020)



9% in 2030



Accompanying workers in professional retraining and updating of skills

## ***Culture DRIVES and ENABLES the CHANGE advocated by the 2030 Agenda***



### What about libraries?

Non-homogeneous picture: few libraries having reoriented operations to accommodate SDGs

#### ***Suggestions to Italian libraries***

- debates on SDGs with citizens
- projects in co-creation with partners/citizens
- green library objectives to be pursued within the library

# Our partnership

## *Tailoring the Italian libraries' strategic role within the European policy framework*



Advocates the importance of a culture for sustainability by developing appropriate tools for libraries [...] and by linking SDG-oriented projects in European libraries to European funding opportunities ([EBLIDA Strategic Plan 2019-2022](#), strand 4)



- \* Italian Library Association (founded in 1930)
- \* committed to IFLA global strategy as well as to the EBLIDA European one
- \* supports the projects carried out by the Italian libraries on sustainable development → [SURVEY 2022](#)



- \* association of public library networks located throughout Italy
- \* committed to
  - developing new solutions for libraries to improve services
  - filling the lack of national guidelines
  - providing libraries with the right tools to face up to the future

# EBLIDA Think The Unthinkable (TTU)

## *The Italian TTU strategy*

Part of a **post Covid-19 European library agenda** aimed at achieving the SDGs ...

### Main goals

Training, knowledge and dissemination  
Design culture and prototyping  
Raising awareness and political legitimization  
Disruptive effect  
Promoting change

... and **financed by the European funds**

### INDIRECT FUNDING (especially ESI Funds)

[European Cohesion Fund](#)

[European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#)

[European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#)



National Operative Programme (PON)  
Regional Operative Programme (POR)

### DIRECT FUNDING

[Creative Europe \(CREA\)](#)

[Horizon Europe \(HORIZON\)](#)

[Interreg Europe](#)

[Erasmus+ \(ERASMUS\)](#)

[Digital Europe \(DIGITAL\)](#)

### RECOVERY PLAN

[NextGenerationEU](#)

[European Support to mitigate Unemployment](#)

[Risks in an Emergency \(SURE\)](#)



[National Recovery and Resilience Plan \(NRRP\)](#)



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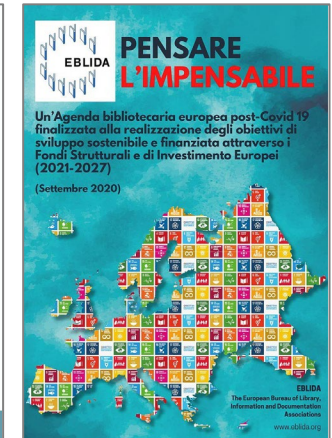
# Italian libraries for UN 2030 Agenda

## *The three steps planned by the partners*

## The starting point: two translations into Italian

EBLIDA, [\*The European Structural and Investment Funds \[ESIF\] 2021-2027: Funding Opportunities for Libraries, \[draft\] May 2020\*](#) (August 2020)

EBLIDA, [\*Think The Unthinkable \[TTU\]. A post Covid-19 European Library Agenda meeting Sustainable Development Goals and funded through the European Structural and Investment Funds \(2021-2027\), short version, September 2020\*](#)



## The format

1 - **Training** of librarians aimed at a better understanding of the ESIF 2021-2027 → TTU presentation webinar [\*Chiedete e vi sarà dato \[Ask and you shall receive\] \(April 28<sup>th</sup> 2021\)\*](#)

2 - **Cultural design, project management and prototyping** → 10 Virtual Labs (2021-2022)

3 - **Political-advocacy approach** to promote greater awareness among Italian **decision-makers** [in progress]

# The 10 Virtual Labs

## Why - What - Who - How

Why

To provide **tools** (project ideas, guidelines, checklists, etc.) for **library project design** based on **EU funding** opportunities

What




Green Libraries




Wikibased Repositories




Digital Preservation and Digitalisation



Social Inclusion and Territorial Cohesion



Digital Services and Skills



Economic Growth and Employment

Who

- ✓ 1-2 leader(s) + 1-2 facilitator(s)
  - ✓ 8-10 participants (different skills and experiences)
- ... and coordinators over all

} each Lab

How

- 👍 4-6 online meetings from November 2021 to May 2022
- 👍 no prescriptions on working methods

# Looking into the themes

## *One theme - more issues / 1*

1



### Green Libraries

- 1.1 Restructuring libraries and libraries and urban gardens, sustainable territorial and urban regeneration
- 1.2 Green literacy

2



### Digital Preservation and Digitalisation

- 2.1 Cooperative webarchiving of cultural heritage digital resources
- 2.2 New information ecosystem to deal with heterogeneity problems of management and access to silos containing digital images, improving response times and operations for users

3



### Digital Services and Skills

- 3.1 Digital literacy, inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning
- 3.2 Citizen Science (coding, digital fabbing, makers spaces)

# Looking into the themes

## *One theme - more issues / 2*

4



### Wikibased Repositories

Access to scientific databases and scientific information helping libraries to find appropriate policy-making related to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and legislative / policy measures designed to advance the cause of libraries

5



### Social Inclusion and Territorial Cohesion

Promoting reading and social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived and children, of marginalised communities

6



### Economic Growth and Employment

6.1 Improving access to employment of all jobseekers and of inactive people, promoting self-employment and the social economy

6.2 Developing the local economy and converting libraries in business incubators



# The Virtual Labs «WE ARE»

Lab 1.1: Spaces, environments, areas, places - Green library



Lab 1.2: Green literacy - Green library



Lab 2.1: Webarchiving of local history - Digital preservation



Lab 2.2: Sustainable digitisation - Digitisation of collections



Lab 3.1: Digital communities - Digital citizenship



Lab 3.2: Smart cities and citizen science - Digital citizenship



Lab 4: Smart metadata - Access  *[and crossing the whole 2030 Agenda]*

Lab 5: Social and territorial cohesion - Inclusivity



Lab 6.1: Job and occupational retraining - Work and economic growth



Lab 6.2: Productive activities and entrepreneurship - Work and economic growth



# How are the Labs doing?

## *Facts, figures and more*



### **EXPECTED OUTPUT: ready-to-use tools to help project management in libraries**

#### **People**

**11** leaders

**11** facilitators

~ **100** participants

#### **Work tools**

Online meetings (sometimes recorded)

Shared web drives

Online classrooms

Online tools for project design

Online tools for group work

**Altogether ~ 50 online meetings**

**Altogether ~ 130  
hours of idea sharing**

#### **Lab development methodologies**

Seminars held by leaders or facilitators

Seminars held by external experts

Contributions by participants

Brainstormings

Individual study

Retrieval of documents

Identification of case studies

Discussions

Writing of notes and reports

Development of concept maps

#### **Types of output (mostly in progress)**

Reports of the labs

Guidelines to project management

Concept maps, Outlines, Infographics, Videos

#### **Positive attitudes**

Enthusiasm in sharing skills and experiences

Desire to discuss with colleagues

Openness to learning

#### **Critical issues**

Initial defections of the participants

Poor attendance

Lack of time to work on outputs

# 'A taste of' the Labs

## The Lab 1.2 - Green Literacy



**Leader:** Academic librarian; member of the AIB study group on IL

**Facilitator:** Expert in the topic

**Participants:** 6 librarians [public (3), academic (2), school (1)] + 2 cultural managers

**Meetings:** 5 (November 2021 - February 2022)

**Tools:** [GoogleMeet](#); [WhatsApp Groups](#); [Google Classroom](#); [Padlet](#); [Mindomo](#).

**Goal:** raising **awareness** on the **strategic role of libraries** as essential partners to accompany the ecological transition and environmental education, by **promoting** the **change advocated by the SDGs** in the relationship people-environment.

**Targets:** raising awareness among librarians on Green Literacy issues; increasing design skills and new perspectives.

### Lab development

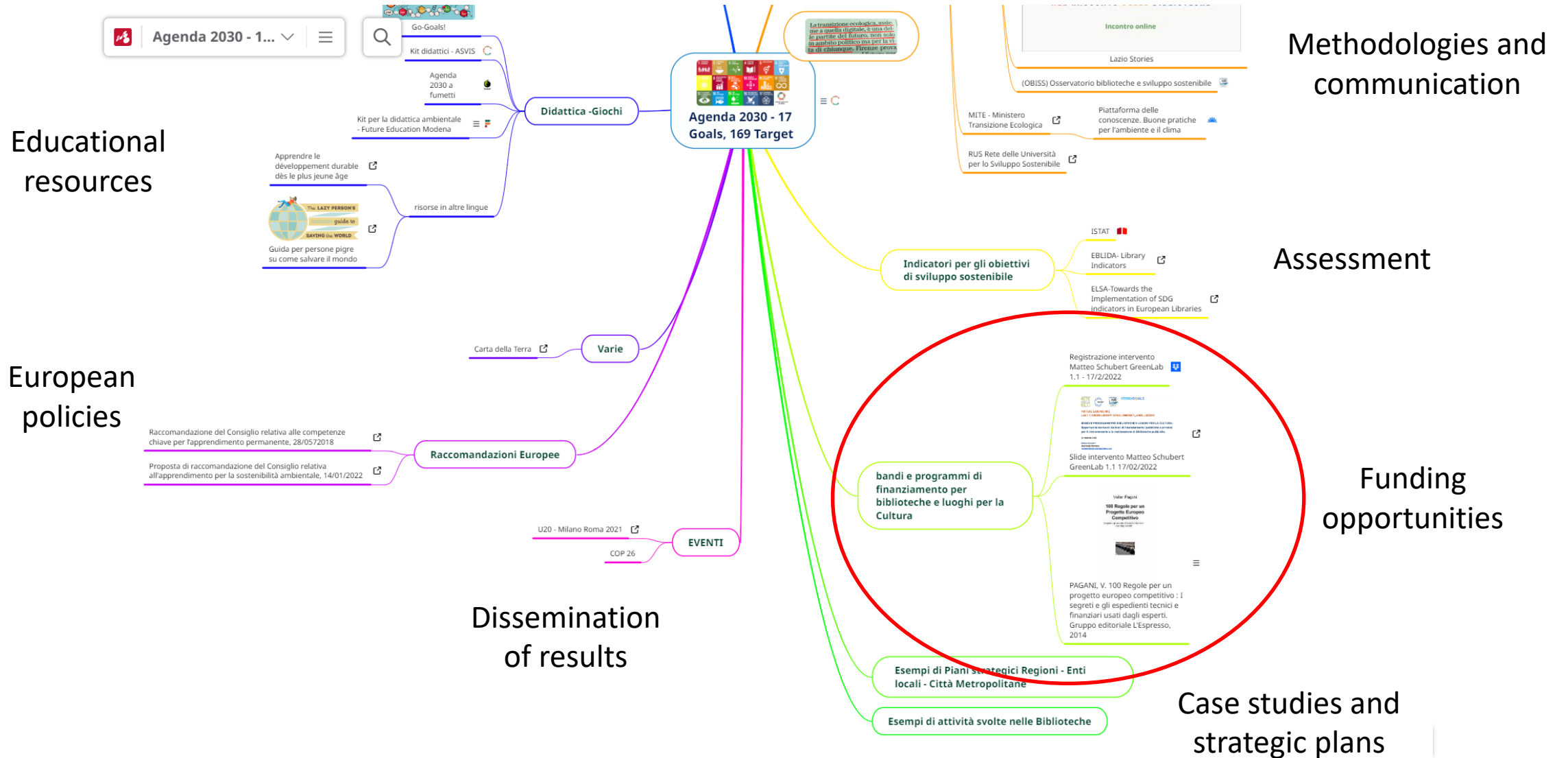
- Analysis of strategic documents and tools (2030 Agenda, IFLA, EBLIDA)
- Analysis of financing opportunities (recovery plan etc.)
- Analysis of strategic plans (cities, libraries)
- Project design on the subject
- Analysis of case-studies

### Outputs

- [Report of the Lab](#)
- [Concept map](#)
- [Infographic](#)

# Lab 1.2 - Green Literacy

## The concept map: detail





# Alignment with the UN SDGs ... and many libraries EU



Investments in the period 2021-2027 will be guided by **five main objectives**.

These are the **strategic objectives** of the European Parliament and the Commission.

They are illustrated by the 5 points on the next slide and **they permeate all European funds**.



# The workshop

## *Thinking and sharing ideas*



### STRENGTHS

Which are my Library's **features** matching with one or more SDGs within my local context?

How does my Library's output on SDGs **differentiate** from other institutions' one within my local context?

Which are my Library's **features** matching with one or more of the European main objectives?

### WEAKNESSES

Which are my Library's **features that put at risk** its commitment with one or more SDGs?

How much do I **know** about **how to apply** for European funds?

What **resources** are **lacking** in my Library to apply for European funds?

### OPPORTUNITIES

In which **aspects** of **European policies** for sustainable development is the **mission** of my Library most **identified**?

Does my Library have **partners** with whom it can further develop projects eligible for European funds?

How the **interaction** between **EBLIDA** and **my Library** may positively influence my Library's planning to apply for European funds?

### ASPIRATIONS

What **organizational changes**, including human resources, within my Library would be useful to apply for European funds ?

Which **strategic shift** is my Library supposed to undergo by cooperating in the EBLIDA's European TTU strategy?

What **differences** do I hope to be able to offer to the **users** of my Library? To its **partners**? To its **employees**?

*Many thanks for your attention!*

## **Contacts**



Giuseppe Vitiello (Director), [g.vitiello@eblida.org](mailto:g.vitiello@eblida.org)



Giovanni Bergamin (OBISS Coordinator), [giovanni.bergamin@aib.it](mailto:giovanni.bergamin@aib.it)



Valentina Bondesan (Strategic Planning Coordinator; Member of the EBLIDA Executive Committee),  
[valentina.bondesan@csbno.net](mailto:valentina.bondesan@csbno.net)

Eléonore Clavreul (BPI Centre Pompidou), [eleonore.clavreul@bpi.fr](mailto:eleonore.clavreul@bpi.fr)

Anna Bernabè (University of Ferrara; AIB Emilia-Romagna), [anna.bernabe@aib.it](mailto:anna.bernabe@aib.it)