Romania - country profile

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.

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.

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

1. Sustainable Romania1 (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.

1 https://www.romaniadurabila.ro
2. **People and Planet: A Common Destiny** (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** (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** (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.

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3 [https://walktheglobalwalk.eu/ro](https://walktheglobalwalk.eu/ro)

4 [https://www.getupandgoals.ro/proiect.html](https://www.getupandgoals.ro/proiect.html)
5. **Education up the sky/Educație la înălțime (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 (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 (SDG 6, 11).** Since December 2020, the Şirna 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. Şirna 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.

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5. [https://www.aspireteachers.ro/educatie-la-inaltime](https://www.aspireteachers.ro/educatie-la-inaltime)
6. [www.bibliotecaprahova.ro](http://www.bibliotecaprahova.ro)
7. [https://ambasadasustenabilitatii.ro/biblioteca-comunalasirna-biblioteca-verde-pentru-o-comunitate-durabila/?fbclid=IwAR36UjzidDOXen3WuMIIAh_MMNMUKK_qNI3Xo3WCJ8ycWdCghgpPg34WE4](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.

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.