

# Switzerland - country profile

**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>.

**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.

### **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 Universitätsbibliothek 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.