

SDG 3 - oriented projects

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CZECH REPUBLIC

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,¹ which support the implementation of SDGs in libraries.
- "Start Life with a Book" - improving reading literacy² (SDGs 3, 4, 11, 12, 16 and 17).

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 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 the 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 is to be purchased for a modest fee. The packages are distributed to parents at various occasions, most commonly the

¹ <https://codokaze.knihovna.cz>

² <https://librarymap.ifla.org/stories/keywords/czechia>

occasion of welcoming newborn 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 the 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 spaces 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.

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).

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 (SDGs 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.

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DENMARK

Project Title: **2030 Certification of Svendborg Public Library (Certificering af Svendborg Bibliotek)** (<https://svendborgbibliotek.dk/fnsverdensmaal>) (SDG 17, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 12)

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 sustainability 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.

ESTONIA

Bürokratt / KrattAI (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 interoperable 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).

Massive digitalisation of Estonian cultural heritage, including printed material (books, newspapers etc) 16 (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 runs from 2019 to 2021. All relevant parties to the new lending service (libraries, users, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research, local municipalities) are included in the project through various advisory bodies. Books on the Move is funded by Enterprise Estonia and their Innovation Procurement Program in the amount of EUR 333,332.50.

FINLAND

Sustainable Library 2030 road map (SDGs 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.

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.³

Vihreä kirjasto (SDGs 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.

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

³ <https://www.ouka.fi/documents/78400/596635/Kest%C3%A4v%C3%A4+kirjasto+2030+-+tiekartan-tiivistelm%C3%A4.pdf/542f3a4b-737e-4147-b3ad-3865a96dd074>

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 subsidy 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.

FRANCE

Project one Migrants in libraries - Bibliothèque Sans Frontières (SDGs1, 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 Frontiers 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.⁴

LATVIA

Medical Information Literacy (SDG 3)

The project aims to develop an innovative, international professional development education program for librarians in the field of medical information literacy, based on the development of methodological materials (e-book) for lecturers and of teaching materials.

Expected project results: 1. Innovative, international, professional development program; 2. Methodological and teaching materials addressed to the lecturers. Project funded by Erasmus+. Project implementation period: 01.10.2019.–30.11.2021.

NETHERLANDS

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-

⁴ <https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2021/02/05/comment-mieux-accueillir-les-publics-migrants-dans-les-bibliotheques>

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.

ROMANIA

Together for a better life/Împreună pentru o viață mai bună⁵ (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.

SPAIN

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.

A room of one's own. A space for equality: a meeting and awareness-raising space (SDGs 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.

⁵ www.bibliotecaprahova.ro