SDG 8 - oriented projects

- BULGARIA
- ESTONIA
- FRANCE
- GERMANY
- ITALY
- LATVIA
- SPAIN

BULGARIA

Global Libraries - Bulgaria Foundation (FSBB) is also a partner in:

- “Get Your Facts Straight! Media Literacy for All” - a program co-funded by the European Commission which provides media literacy training to students and young people from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as to their parents and / or grandparents; (SDG 8),
- “E-skills for E-inclusion” project, whose main purpose it is to develop a computer literacy training program for vulnerable groups and facilitate their access to the labour market. This project is being implemented in partnership with 5 other organisations from Northern Ireland, Spain, Italy and Romania and is funded by the European Erasmus + program (SDG 8).

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).

FRANCE

1. 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.¹

Many projects of libraries in prison (SDGs 4, 8)

For people in custody, the library is a right and an asset for rehabilitation. It is the duty of the public authorities to make this service available to them in viable conditions of use. Citizens, even when detained, continue to be human beings deserving of respect. They have the right to read, a right that is not limited by a court decision or the internal rules of an institution, including in the case of solitary confinement, disciplinary sanction or psychiatric internment. It is necessary and legitimate that the public authorities really ensure the satisfaction of this right. The media library must be able to promote a taste for leisure and entertainment among this population and give them the opportunity to carry out an important recreational activity.²

One example of inclusive library open to disabled people (SDGs 8, 10)

The Marguerite Duras and Marguerite Yourcenar media libraries in Paris, just as no few other libraries in France, offer a "Lire autrement" (Reading differently) space for the visually impaired. The librarians offer you a personalised welcome: they are available to guide you and advise you on what to find in library stacks. On request, they can accompany you from the metro station or bus stop to the library.³

¹ https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2021/02/05/comment-mieux-accueillir-les-publics-migrants-dans-les-bibliotheques
GERMANY

Dialogues for Integration: Hamburg Libraries Help Refugees Find their Way (SDGs 4,8,9,10,11,17)

Since 2015, Europe has seen the arrival of an almost unprecedented number of people fleeing war and poverty. A particularly large number of them have come to Germany, with over a million registrations for asylum, and almost half a million more applications in 2015 alone. Between 2015 and 2017, the city-state of Hamburg in particular, with a population of around 1.83 million, received around 66,000 refugees. This number adds to an already diverse population, with over a third – and almost a half according to some estimates – coming from migrant backgrounds.

For these newcomers, a key priority after shelter, food and medical care is language acquisition. Yet many have no way of attending language classes as they are often expensive and not open to all refugees and migrants. This is where libraries can make the difference.

As a key part of the city's ‘Refugee Help Forum’, the Hamburg Public Library System, Bücherhallen Hamburg, joined forces with the as the Volkshochschule adult education centre to support refugee language acquisition. Bücherhallen Hamburg do this through their ‘Dialog in Deutsch’ volunteer project, which is the largest volunteer language acquisition project in Hamburg. Through 109 conversation groups across 33 libraries, refugees and migrants are able to apply and practice their German speaking skills.

The groups are open and free of charge and are currently run by around 270 volunteers; no enrolment or registration is required. The ‘Dialog in Deutsch’ volunteers do not give language lessons, do not hold tests but rather gives topics to discuss during a ‘Dialog in Deutsch’ session to enhance oral skills.

Every year around 40,000 participants, from all migrant backgrounds benefit from the ‘Dialog in Deutsch’ conversation groups. In order to meet the dramatic increase in demand from refugees and migrants, 25 groups especially for beginners had been added in 2016 and 2017. To support language acquisition, the library also expanded its media collection to include books for children and young adult in Arabic, boxes of games, dictionaries, board books, and other materials for learning German. In addition, the library introduced a scheme using donations to allow refugees to gain access to varied library e-media services and WiFi. This provides a key means of keeping in contact with family and friends, especially given that many accommodation facilities do not have WiFi access.

Meanwhile, 600 professionally trained and supervised volunteers work in the Bücherhallen and play a key role in integrating refugees in other areas.¹

Stadtbibliothek Bremen provides Future Training Opportunities for refugees and other newcomers (SDGs 4,8,10,17)

In 2010, the Bremen City Library (Stadtbibliothek Bremen) anchored a diversity strategy in its mission statement. The Library expanded its intercultural offerings to patrons, carried out an extensive series of training courses for intercultural openness for all employees and implemented a staff position for diversity management. For these endeavours, in 2015, the Library was awarded the Bremen Diversity Prize.

Even though the library excelled in serving its population, the community’s cultural diversity was not represented in the library team. In 2015, 28% of the Bremen population held a migrant background, the Bremen public service rate was around 13% of employees, and the library’s rate was only at 2.5%.

It can be challenging for people with a migrant background to enter skilled professions, such as librarianship, especially if they speak little German. Applicants must speak and read German at a B1-level before institutions will offer a job on contract, and applicants must have qualified vocational training to secure a position that is paid an appropriate, living wage. Labour and residence laws pose additional challenges for refugees in Germany, as many young people are not offered trainings without a determined residence status.

In 2014, the city of Bremen developed a project called “Future Training Opportunities” (Zukunftschance Ausbildung), targeted to help those with refugee status gain entry-level qualification (EQ, Einstiegsqualifizierung) with accompanying language lessons and socio-educational support. In addition to acquiring language skills, the vocational qualification is essential for successful and sustainable integration into the labour market in Germany. The EQ prepares refugees and asylum seekers for an apprenticeship and a dual training programme in Bremen public service and in private companies. The library joined this city-wide project as an apprenticeship site in 2015.

For those who choose to apprentice in the Library, it means training to become qualified specialists in media and information services. During their dual-study programme, apprentices work three days per week in the library, and spend two days at the vocational school to learn necessary theoretical knowledge and to study the German language. After completing the programme, newly-qualified media and information specialists can begin working on contract at the library.

Since the beginning of the project, six people have selected the library for their apprenticeship – a woman from Syria and a woman from Turkey, and four men who came to Germany from Guinea, Syria, Afghanistan, China – all six trainees have completed their entry qualification. Three of them have already completed their dual training programme and are now working as members of the Bremen Library team.”

ITALY

SKYLibrary, the largest Digital Corporate Library in Italy! (SDGs 4,5,8,9,10,11)

CSBNO, has created for Sky Italia the SKYLibrary, a digital library dedicated to its employees and collaborators. It is based on the MLOL platform, the first and most important public digital library. The agreement enables the company to offer a vast catalogue of e-books, over 37,000 titles, continuously updated with the latest publications, from fiction to non-fiction, to fairy tales; a true and complete library at the click of a button; A project that has been met with widespread approval and is destined to become increasingly popular... SKYLibrary is Cultural Welfare!

The pandemic crisis has not stopped the project, indeed it has been able to continue with great satisfaction thanks to the digital services, and especially thanks to the MLOL digital library, which has generated growing attention and interest from the business world. The digital corporate libraries managed in collaboration with the CSBNO in 2020 recorded over 1,400 e-book loans and 5,300 consultations, made by 1,733 users!

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6 https://webopac.csbno.net/home/csbno-per-l-impresa/ilprogetto-csbno-per-l-impresa
**Things to do (CosedaFare)** *(SDGs 4,5,8,9,10,11)*

The Panizzi Library System in partnership with Fondazione Cariplo, Consorzio Sistema Bibliotecario Nord Ovest (MI), Sistema Bibliotecario del Vimercatese (MB), Sistema Bibliotecario della Valle Seriana (BG) and Comunità Montana di Valle Trompia (BS) have committed themselves to realize the digital platform "Cose da fare" that allows to manage in a participatory way the educational opportunities and the cultural and leisure offers, both temporary and permanent, available in their respective territories.

The information on the platform is available free of charge, accessible and organised in a website characterised by common elements for the partners, but customised locally.

Users can:
- consult a database of what is available in the reference territory concerning courses, events, museums, routes, tourist attractions;
- search for profiled and filtered information on the basis of personal interests;
- autonomously make bookings and payments;
- check the actual availability of spaces where leisure activities are carried out.

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**LATVIA**

**Rural and Regional Libraries as Local Family Entrepreneurship centres** *(SDGs 4 and 8)*

The ERASMUS+ project Family Business Library is an adult education project funded by the European Commission. It promotes entrepreneurship education in non-urban and rural regions. The main idea of the project is to address people in rural regions through local and regional libraries. A particular focus of the activities is the promotion of family businesses and local entrepreneurship. A key aspect of the approach is to use regional and rural libraries as a platform to reach the local population. The six project partners come from Latvia, Germany, Croatia, Italy and Greece. The project started on the 1st of September 2020.

The objectives of the Family Business Library project:
- The development and implementation of innovative practices of teaching Entrepreneurship to people living in regional and rural areas,
- An increased sense of initiative and entrepreneurship among people living in regional and rural areas,
- The setting up of a system where libraries serve as a centres for rural entrepreneurship development.

Main results of the project:
- E-learning module on Entrepreneurship for use in libraries,
- Mentoring methodology and e-learning course module for librarians,
- Policy paper to better exploit the results of the project.

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7 [https://csbno.cosedafare.net](https://csbno.cosedafare.net)
8 [https://family-business-library.eduproject.eu](https://family-business-library.eduproject.eu)
Alojas novada uzņēmējdarbības atbalsta centrsbibliotēka / Aloja district business support center-library (SDGs 8, 9, 13)

With the opening of the Aloja County Business Support Center-Library SALA on October 28, 2016, a business support infrastructure was created in the county, which will be used for the development of existing and new companies, activation of the local community and organisation of public events. The building houses a modern library, seminar rooms, remote workplaces and a spacious conference hall with a great view of the lake. Aloja municipality is one of the first in Latvia to implement the construction of low energy buildings and use wood as a basic construction material in the construction of public buildings.

In 2018, the building won the 1st place in the competition "The most sustainable building in 2018", in the category "Public buildings". The project is implemented within the framework of the European Economic Area Financial Instrument 2009-2014 program "National Climate Policy" project application open tender “Development of sustainable buildings, renewable energy technologies and innovative emission reduction technologies”.

SPAIN

Bibliographic exhibition 'Women and the trades of the book' (SDGs 5, 8)

Books being displayed in the exhibition contain the work of women who have carried out tasks and trades traditionally performed by men. The craft of writing, across all genres, is the most recognised, from Sappho to Rosalía de Castro in poetry, the captivating work of Saint Teresa of Jesus, the narrative written under the pseudonym of Cecilia Böhl de Faber, or in the travel literature of Marie Catherine D’Aulnoy in the 17th century. There are other equally interesting examples, such as the case of great illustrators like Luisa Morales or Ana Heylan. The exhibition highlights the work of translators into other languages carried out by women, first in their family environment and, from the end of the 19th century onwards, in a professional manner, such as Joaquina García Balmaseda. So-called master printers in the art of typography are also important, as Manuela Contera, widow of Joaquín Ibarra, and the birth of the first feminist movements.