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*Sense and sustainability: From goals to action in Week 17*

*Libraries as partners for a sustainable future*



# Turning Sustainability Goals into Local Actions: **Libraries Driving Resilient Communities**



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# Project Vision & Purpose

- An Erasmus+ KA220-ADU initiative focused on strengthening adult education
- Coordinated by ANBPR Romania, in partnership with other 6 organizations from 6 European countries
- Mission: supporting libraries in aligning with the CoE Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)3
- Advancing democracy, social inclusion, sustainability & responsible use of AI in libraries
- Fostering national and European expert networks to inform and shape library policy





# Context & Rationale



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- Libraries function as key infrastructures for democracy and social cohesion
- Persistent structural underfunding constrains innovation and institutional resilience
- TELL addresses East–West gaps in institutional capacity across Europe
- Positions libraries as active civic stakeholders, beyond their traditional informational role
- Supports the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda through concrete actions
- Reinforces Europe's commitment to sustainable development



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# Governance Framework

- Grounded in the CoE Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)3 Inspired by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Connected to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Advances libraries as core infrastructures for democracy and lifelong learning
- Fosters coherent policy alignment across EU, national, and local levels
- Embeds principles of pluralism, inclusion, and participatory governance





# TELL's Approach

- Turning normative frameworks into concrete, actionable pathways for libraries
- Emphasizing collaborative learning and co-creation in policy development
- Prioritizing freedom of expression, equitable access to information, and digital inclusion
- Strengthening links between research, professional practice, and public decision-making
- Delivering practical tools: a guidance manual, a training curriculum & a resilience-oriented roadmap for libraries



# Research Questions



- How do European libraries contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in line with the 2023 Council of Europe vision?
- To what extent are libraries institutionally and professionally prepared to deliver on the 2030 Agenda?
- How are libraries integrating digital transformation and AI to advance inclusive and sustainable development goals?





# From Theory to Practice

- Conceptualizing libraries as civic infrastructures that foster inclusion and sustainability
- Framed by the 4 CoE pillars (2023): democratic participation, SDG integration, crisis resilience, & digital inclusion
- Emphasizes institutional advocacy and collaborative governance models
- Aligned with principles of democratic citizenship education





# Research Design

- A mixed-methods research design, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Data collection through TELL questionnaires conducted in May–June 2025
- Analytical focus on key dimensions: freedom, inclusion, sustainability, and digitalization
- Use of statistical and thematic analysis to enable cross-country comparison





# Project Progress Overview



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- National expert networks have been established and are fully operational
- Questionnaire phase completed, with data collection closed on 31 May 2025
- The TELL Guide is currently in the feedback collecting stage
- The training curriculum is ready and it was delivered during the TELL Winter Schools in Greece & Croatia
- Pilot actions and validation activities are scheduled to take place in Portugal
- Preparations are underway for multilingual dissemination and wider adoption





# TELL Local Pilots



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- Piloting educational modules and advocacy tools in real-life settings
- Engaging representative public libraries from all partner countries
- Applying participatory evaluation methods to ensure strong local relevance
- Assessing institutional change and readiness for diversified funding
- Gathering impact stories and qualitative evidence from librarians and communities
- Contributing to a robust evidence base to inform policy development and investment decisions
- Validation of TELL results through the implementation of a use case in a small community in the Médio Tejo region, Portugal





# Policy Roadmap for Libraries



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- A long-term strategic framework on ESIF funding instruments for libraries
- Ensures alignment with EU policy cycles, priorities, and investment logics
- Co-developed with experts, library practitioners, and advocacy stakeholders
- Highlights key leverage points for the systemic integration of libraries into public policies
- Outlines strategic trajectories for sustainable and resilient library development



# Results & Added Value



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- Recognition of libraries as eligible actors within ESIF funding frameworks
- Strengthened professional skills and advocacy capacity among library stakeholders
- Increased integration of libraries into national and regional development strategies
- A more robust evidence base to support targeted and informed public investment
- Reinforced transnational cooperation networks and shared knowledge ecosystems





# Strategic Relevance & Impact

- Addressing structural funding disparities affecting public libraries
- Fostering an evidence-based culture of advocacy and reform
- Redefining the mission of libraries as catalysts for social innovation
- Advancing a multi-level governance model for sustainability
- Strengthening libraries' contribution to the UN 2030 Agenda
- Enabling their full participation in European cohesion and recovery mechanisms





# Conclusions & Call to Action

- Libraries as democratic infrastructures for Europe's future
- TELL as a model of convergence between policy, practice, and knowledge
- TELL Consortium partners – catalysts for transformation and European collaboration
- Integrating the TELL Guide into national and local strategies
- Continuous training and active expert networks as success factors



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