

# Librarians for implementing the UN 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals

## Response of MKE to the IFLA initiative

A selection of good practices submitted by the participants of the conference held in Budapest on November 22, 2017



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## Together. Contribution of Hungarian librarians to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations

IFLA (the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) has always played an important role in forming international cultural policy and in professional policy-related initiatives, as well as in adapting them to the library field. Co-operation with and links to the programmes of international organizations, such as the UN and UNESCO, has been an obvious field of representing libraries, which was naturally followed by national associations as well. IFLA's International Advocacy Programme (IAP) elaborated a number of tools and initiated an international action in this field in 2016.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (the so-called SDGs), it is inevitable that governments, NGOs and the players of research and economy should co-operate – as was formulated by Csaba Kőrösi, former Ambassador to the UN, Director (Office of the President, Directorate of Environmental Sustainability), speaker of our conference in November 2017.

The Association of Hungarian Librarians (MKE) wishes to make its members aware of themes which reflect world trends, IFLA initiatives and the future of librarianship. MKE started really early to take part in IAP events. The relevant information materials were presented at MKE's annual conference in Veszprém as early as 2016. Librarians had an opportunity to get acquainted with the UN 2030 Agenda and SDGs in detail, and to identify the possible advocacy activities of libraries at a conference in November 2017. This conference was an incentive for them to undertake further work both as individuals and on behalf of their institutions. Participants were asked to submit good practices and stories on supporting various SDGs. The materials received are soon going to be published in a collection of case studies on MKE's webpage. The current printed publication offers a selection of these good practices. We wish to thank the participants for their contribution and commitment. The event and the related publication was supported by the National Cultural Fund.

This publication worthily reflects the truth of our motto: *Strong libraries and trained librarians are the guarantees of an equitable and innovative society.*

Budapest, February 28, 2018

**Ágnes Hajdu Barát**  
**President, Association of Hungarian Librarians (MKE)**



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# Goal 1

SDG

## End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries, by providing access to information and skills, help provide opportunities for people to improve their own lives and support informed decision-making by governments, communities and others to provide services and support that reduce poverty and improve the prosperity of people everywhere.

### Grannynet

The *Verseghy Ferenc Library, Szolnok* organizes **Grannynet courses** for elderly people where they get an opportunity to acquire digital knowledge, which is essential in the 21st century, in a friendly, supporting environment, free of charge. As they learn the basics of internet-based communication, they can keep in touch with their relatives and friends living in distant places, thus their solitude ceases. They can manage their life individually, can extend their knowledge, and can keep pace with younger and more educated members of society. In addition, the participants of courses form a community, which may later on meet at the library, and may use its services more extensively.



# Goal 2

SDG

## End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries, including specialist agricultural libraries and extension services provide access to research and data on crops, market information and farming methods that supports resilient, productive agriculture.



### Green oasis

In its reading room on the first floor the *Halis István Library, Nagykanizsa* created a **Green oasis** in which books on economy and sustainable agriculture, selected from the holdings are recommended to readers. These books on the subjects of health, meals, household, gardening, self-sufficiency, environmental-friendly buildings, assist citizens in learning the environment-conscious approach, as well as conscious shopping and consumption. The initiative was efficient: the turnover of publications on these subjects has grown fourfold!



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### Balcony gardening

The *Petőfi Memorial Library of the Méliusz Juhász Péter Library, Debrecen* organized a series of lectures and practical presentations under the title **Gardening and growing vegetables on the balcony**, involving an expert so that those interested can learn how to produce (select, plant, care for) vegetables at one's balcony, and how to process them in a healthy way. Within the project, the participants received, in addition to theoretical and practical help, some tools (boxes, soil, plants) to try balcony gardening. As a result of the project, the participants could make their homes more green. They could experience that one can produce vegetables even in small places, say, in a flat. They could eat food without chemicals, and even reduced air pollution thanks to green plants and to buying vegetables produced near to their place.

## Goal 3

SDG

### Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Medical libraries, hospital libraries and other libraries are essential providers of access to medical research that supports improved public health outcomes. Public access to health information in all libraries helps people to be better informed about their own health and to stay healthy.

### Breakfast for cyclists

The *City Library, Barcs* joined a nationwide even of the Hungarian Cyclists' Club entitled **Breakfast for cyclists**. In front of the library building, participants were awaited with refreshments, and children were attracted by a lecture on the healthy way of life and joyful programmes. The breakfast packs included a bookmark and a brochure popularizing the library, intended to increase the number of library users.





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### Pampering club

The *Hamvas Béla City Library, Tiszaújváros* started **programmes on bibliotherapy** under the title “Be fit during pregnancy and with your baby” within the so-called Pampering Club. Participants meet each month to discuss life situations, emotional relationships and problems related to their decision to have children, to raising children and to family life. Young participants are open to contemporary literary styles. These works are the best at capturing today's problems and difficulties. Mothers participate at the events together with their kids. While the kids are playing, the parents take an active part at the discussions. Thus they can develop not only intellectually, but – while being involved in an enriching experience – they can enhance their self-knowledge and personality.

## Goal 4

SDG

### Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries are at the heart of schools, universities and colleges in every country around the world. Libraries support literacy programmes, provide a safe space for learning, and support researchers to reuse research and data to create new knowledge.

### Wonder cottage club

The *Balázs József City Library, Vásárosnamény* organized a programme during which a **child book series was processed jointly**. Positive experience was an incentive for children to love books, develop their reading skills and understanding, increase their orientation skills in books and on the internet, make this useful and pleasant pastime fashionable. During the programme children learned how to speak about their reading experience, how to focus on essential content, how to argue and acquire real routine in solving tests. They move around in the library as at home, behave self-confidently, and, as a result, become the library's regular visitors.





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### Paper theatre

The children's library of the *Eötvös Károly County Library, Veszprém* is developing the perception of speech, listening skills, memory, abstract thinking and concentration abilities of children with special education needs by revitalizing the ancient **kamishibai (paper play)**. Large-size illustrations correspond to the special visual perception of children, and improve their vision of forms and space. Children who take part at these regular activities are granted positive experience, outside the school environment and rigid classroom frameworks. Most of them would not have gone to the library, and would not have even heard about its attractive opportunities.

## Goal 5

SDG

### Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries support gender equality by providing safe meeting spaces, programmes for women and girls on rights and health, and ICT and literacy programmes support women to build their entrepreneurial skills.

### Teens' corner

The *Bródy Sándor County and City Library, Eger* created a **corner for teenagers** where this age group of adolescents, between children and adults, may get literature and services that correspond to their peculiarities and interests. The library space arranged specially for them gives an opportunity to conduct chats, group activities, as well as to read in a quiet environment. Both the composition of the reading materials offered and the programmes organized for adolescents give an opportunity to meet the differing needs of boys and girls, and to promote the positive development of their community.



# Goal 6

SDG

## Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries provide public access to information on water, energy usage and sanitation.

### Wetland habitats in the Debrecen University Archives

The **Debrecen University Archives (DEA)** maintained by the *University and National Library of the Debrecen University* is collecting in its digital storage the papers of students, PhD dissertations and research papers on wetland habitats. This archive makes relevant data and – if possible – full texts available online, thus making the achievements of the University accessible for the wider public. The papers published on wetland habitats represent the work going on at the University in this field, and the service indicates how far the subject is represented in research in this region, while the student papers provide an image about the educational achievement of the next generation, about their interest in and obligation toward dealing with this subject.



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### World wetlands day

The *Community House and City Library, Komádi* organizes each year commemorations, contests and film shows on the occasion of the **World wetlands day**. The series of programmes assists the education of the next generation in environmental protection, within that framework recognizing the importance of initiatives to preserve waterlands and their biodiversity. The programme is closely connected to investments currently going on in the town to improve drinking water supply, by demonstrating another aspect of the water issue. It takes longer for pupils to prepare for annual contests and to develop an environment-oriented thinking.



## Goal 7

SDG

### Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Many public and community libraries around the world are the only place where people can get reliable access to light and electricity to read, study and apply for a job.

#### Library day on water

The *Hungarian Agricultural Museum and Library, Budapest* organized a **Library day on water** where participants overviewed the exciting meeting points of librarianship and various issues of water management. They listened to lectures about water quality, sustainable water economy, the right and sustainable use of water energy. The programme was followed by a visit to the bridgehead and anchor chamber of the Chain Bridge.



## Goal 8

SDG

### Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Public access to ICT and training at libraries enables people to apply for jobs. Skilled library staff can help people with online applications, writing support materials and finding the right job.



#### Training in information technology

The *Somogyi Károly City and County Library* organizes regular **courses on information technology** for the large public, adjusting the themes always to the current needs of the population. As a user-friendly library, it considers it important to care for social groups in a disadvantaged situation. These courses provide special support to job seekers and mothers of small children, so that they can get back to the world of labour soon.

## Goal 9

SDG

### Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries are at the heart of research and academic life. They provide access to high speed Internet, research infrastructure and skilled professionals. In many countries, public and educational libraries are the major or only providers of public internet access at low or no cost, a critical means of increasing connectivity.



### DIY workshop and family craftsman club

The *Deák Ferenc County and City Library, Zalaegerszeg* has been operating a **DIY workshop and family artisan club** for six years now. The aim is to provide an opportunity for children and adults for spending their leisure time at a good-quality place, to develop their innovative and creative thinking, to get acquainted with new, environmentally friendly materials and techniques, as well as recycling possibilities. Another important aim is to revitalize folk traditions, to transfer earlier knowledge to the next generations.

## Goal 10

SDG

### Reduce inequality within and among countries

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Equitable access to information, freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly, and privacy are central to an individual's independence. Libraries help to reduce inequality by providing safe, civic spaces open to all located in urban and rural areas across the world.

### Cinema at the library: Roma tales

The *Balassi Bálint County Library, Salgótarján* organized a programme for librarians in Nógrád county under the title **Roma tales** to get them be initiators and developers the field of revitalizing, spreading and preserving Roma traditions. The participants got acquainted with the Roma identity and its roots, the role of tales and folklore in developing it. They took part at a play created from a Roma tale, and through this, they received suggestions and were informed about good practices for using the knowledge acquired.





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## Remote granny

The Szabó Lőrinc Foreign Language Library of the Rákóczi Ferenc II. County and City Library, Miskolc provides a programme for extending the foreign language competencies and information technology knowledge of elderly readers. The programme is named **Remote granny**. Club members learn English expressions that can be well used in everyday situations (such as travel, shopping, orientation etc.). It is important, that the activities involve the use of the internet, as the club members are getting acquainted with internet-based communication. The programme includes co-operation with the local kindergarten – an opportunity which enriches and deepens the experience of the learners of English.

# Goal 11

SDG

## Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries have an essential role in safeguarding and preserving invaluable documentary heritage, in any form, for future generations. Culture strengthens local communities and supports inclusive and sustainable development of cities.

## Calligraphy workshop

The *National Széchényi Library* organizes **calligraphy workshops** on a regular basis, wishing to call attention to a profession and tradition that is related to an ancient way of recording information, which has been accompanying the entire human history. The participants get acquainted with the history of writing, with various forms of recording information, with sets of letters, that reflect various cultures and their peculiarities, and belong to the cultural treasures of mankind.



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### Book adoption programme

The collection of the *University Library at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest* is one of the greatest treasure houses of European culture. For this organization it is a rather expensive obligation to preserve and restore rare and old books that are many times some centuries old. The **book adoption programme** organized by this Library supports preservation efforts, and involves supporters who consider it important to preserve cultural goods, and feel responsible for their survival. Supporters at the same time form a community around the Library.



# Goal 12

SDG

## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries are sustainable institutions; they share resources in the community and internationally and ensure everyone access to information.



### Ecoweek

The *József Attila County and City Library, Tatabánya* organized an **ecoweek** in the children's library to provide knowledge for the kindergarten and elementary school age group while playing, to sensitize them towards the environment and natural resources. The most popular event of this ecoweek is the group play named **Let us save Globy** in which players pick the interesting features of each continent and save Mother Earth at the end. This popular play is aimed at the generation growing up now, and assists their new approach to the environment as a prerequisite of global change.



## Goal 13

SDG

### Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): All libraries play a significant role in providing access to data, research and knowledge that supports informed research and public access to information about climate change.



### Reading garden

The Libakert Branch of the *Méliusz Juhász Péter Library, Debrecen* has created a **Reading garden** in its area, together with a real garden of spices and medical plants, as an incentive to community economy. The programme includes an ecoclub and an action group strengthening environmentally conscious thinking. It is planned that schools and kindergartens in the attraction area of the Library will be involved, their groups will possess their own plots. In this green area used for recreation reading pavilions will be set up. In addition, composting opportunities and mini glasshouses will be constructed to demonstrate the complexity of environmental education, as well as to reuse garbage from the area in question. The reading garden provides an opportunity to experience reading in a new way. At the same time, this area offers an open, green space for readings and other cultural events.

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SDG

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### Environmental culture

The *Katona József Library, Kecskemét* organized a series of lectures on **Environmental culture**, i.e. the global environmental change, climate change, and their impact on economy and society in the short and long term, on the alternatives of protection. There was an opportunity for dialogue: participants received an answer to their questions about how to handle this problem, and how to prepare for future impact. Librarians prepared a bibliography recommending further reading, and this material was sent to secondary schools as well, while its electronic version is available for all on the Library's webpage.





# Goal 14

SDG

## Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries manage historical records about coastal change and land use. They provide access to research information needed for the sustainable use of these resources.

### Ecoguide

The *Hamvas Béla City Library, Tiszaújváros* started a series of programmes under the title **Ecoguide** to disseminate scientific knowledge about, as well as to teach and develop environmentally conscious behavior. In our days interest in cosmology and global ecology is increasing. The most recent films on relevant subjects are accompanied by lectures of invited experts. Participants are invited to join discussions about the lectures.



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### Rivers, lakes, seas – the theme of water in music

The *Justh Zsigmond City Library, Orosháza* arranged a lecture accompanied by a chamber concert under the title **Rivers, lakes, seas – the theme of water in music** to celebrate National Library Days and the International Music Day.



## Goal 15

SDG

**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries play a key role in the preservation of indigenous knowledge – which includes local decision-making about fundamental aspects of life including hunting, fishing, land use, and water management.

### **Birds and trees day**

A *Children's Library of the Kisfaludy Sándor Cultural Centre, Library and Memorial House, Sümeg* organized a special programme on the occasion of the **Birds and trees day**. Children listened to a lecture in the open air about the physiology of trees, and about the environmentally conscious attitude. After the lecture they planted two new trees (a Japanese pagoda tree and a platan) into the local Népker park, thus assisting the creation and maintenance of a greener and healthier environment.



## Goal 16

SDG

**Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): To realise access to information fully, everyone needs both access and skills to use information effectively as outlined in the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development. Libraries have the skills and resources to help governments, institutions and individuals communicate, organize, structure and use information effectively for development.



### **Coworking office**

The *Metropolitan Szabó Ervin Library, Budapest* is developing a **coworking office** supplied with adequate modern infrastructure, where online services are available that users may need for everyday social and economic life. The package of services includes e-government and e-administration, tax declaration software, guide for entrepreneurs, an aid for job seeking, remote management of accounts, e-commerce, internet banking. They provide user education courses or individual assistance to use these services efficiently, or to upload them safely even to their computers at home.

# Goal 17

SDG

## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Libraries' contribution (IFLA): Libraries provide a global network of community-based institutions ready to support national development plans locally and nationally, and a resource for improved decision-making.



## Week of communities

The *City Library, Barcs* organized a series of events named **Week of communities** where local civil organizations could present themselves to a wide circle of interested individuals. Participants got acquainted with the values and goals of associations active in various fields (protecting nature, popularizing healthy food, water sports and excursions, as well as for Christian youth), which got incentives for co-operation. These lectures attracted adults and children who otherwise would not have been involved in library activities.



