

#AYMAYL

#AskYourMuseumAskYourLibrary

Conference:

**Localising
the Sustainable
Development
Goals through
Baltic museums
and libraries**

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museum!

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library!

MESSAGES FROM THE CONFERENCE

An online conference - Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Baltic museums and libraries - was held on 23-24 September 2021 with the aim of strengthening museums and libraries in all the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) as key local actors in promoting sustainable development through cultural heritage. The conference was organised by the Latvian Museum Association, the National Library of Latvia and the Latvian Librarians' Association in cooperation with the Estonian and Lithuanian Museum and Librarians' Associations and the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO. The conference included lectures by both local and international sector experts, as well as practical workshops, to help participants develop their skills and confidence in using a range of tools for planning, assessing and communicating work with the SDGs.

The conference participants have agreed to continue bringing culture into the SDGs spotlight by following agreed action directions:

1 Participants recognize that certain activities enhance the cultural dimension within the SDGs framework, however these actions are rather fragmented and efforts should be taken to streamline them. Museum, library and archive professionals should enhance their skills and confidence in using the SDG framework through the provision of training, the establishment of networks, and the sharing of best practice. Such activities will increase local expertise, develop a common language, and ensure the further development of initiatives and projects to address Agenda 2030 in line with UNESCO priorities in the fields of education and culture, recognizing also the importance of issues related with media and information literacy.

2 Conference participants unanimously supported the call for further incentives from decision makers at all levels to integrate sustainability principles in strategic and policy planning initiatives. In addition, the need for further guidance and planning, monitoring, evaluation and communication tools (such as handbooks, guidelines, frameworks and methodologies) was strongly expressed during discussions.

3 Conference participants acknowledge the need for inter-institutional, cross-sectoral and sub-regional, regional and international cooperation in order to fully support the implementation of Agenda 2030 at all levels.

4 Participants expressed their appreciation of the work done by the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian museum and librarians' associations in organizing the timely and relevant discussions at the conference and suggested that follow-up activities should be developed further and increased in scale by inviting other actors from the Baltic Sea region and beyond to join the efforts to accelerate and enhance the cultural sector's contribution to sustainable development.

Organizers



Partners

