The Europe Challenge

The Europe Challenge 2025/26: The Initiatives

Click here to explore the 60 initiatives on our interactive map!

DIGITAL Initiatives: Projects that enhance digital skills, access, and literacy, ensuring communities can thrive in an increasingly digital world.	Description	Name of Library	Name of Community	Place
[mis]information in progress!	The challenge this initiative aims to solve is Malmö's lack of dedicated safe, inclusive, open spaces to analyse, discuss and mitigate the crisis of foreign influence campaigns in Sweden.	The Dawit Isaak Library	PEN Skåne	Malmö, Sweden
Circular Technology: From Waste to Bridging Digital and Social Divides	This initiative tackles digital exclusion by taking donations of devices and refurbishing them for residents in need, supporting education and skills development.	North Kensington Library	Westway Trust	London, England, United Kingdom
Demystify AI for Libraries and Patrons	This is the first public library-led initiative in Georgia designed to make artificial intelligence understandable for everyone, offering free weekly online and monthly in-person sessions around using AI tools for new ideas.	The National Parliamentary Library of Georgia	Academy for Education and International Development	Tbilisi, Georgia
Digital Literacy for Everyone	Austevoll bibliotek will relaunch and expand its digital support services to combat digital exclusion among seniors and other vulnerable groups, through courses, drop-in help, and collaboration with local volunteers.	Austevoll folkebibliotek	Seniornett Austevoll	Austevoll, Norway
Dutch Graffiti Library On Tour - Co-Designing An Immersive Graffiti Heritage Experience That Can Be Shared With European Youth	Through multilingual, multimedia storytelling, this initiative aims to make the Dutch Graffiti Library narratives accessible and relatable to youth across Europe - especially those from underrepresented communities.	Dutch Graffiti Library	Inholland x OBA Next Lab Sluisbuurt	Amsterdam, the Netherlands

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Hacker Zone: Digital Justice Lab	Through game-based learning and participatory design, this digital justice lab empowers participants to critically navigate the digital world, co-create solutions, and share them in a final public festival.	Biblioteca Zona Nord - Mària Sánchez	Asociación Cultural Arsgames	Barcelona, Spain
TechTalk: an Inter-Generational Discussion and Book Group	Young people feel confident about their digital safety; adults in their lives do not. Tech Talk brings youth, families, and professionals to learn from one another, using books to spark cross-generational conversation and co-create resources for honest conversations about technology.	Musselburgh Library	Connected Communities Musselburgh	Musselburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

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GREEN Initiatives: Projects that promote environmental sustainability, climate awareness, and resilience within communities.	**Description**	**Name of Library**	**Name of Community**	**Place**
A Green Oasis of Knowledge	The initiative solves the problem of limited access to quality information about water and the environment. It includes a green corner, a public water laboratory, and an eco-fund, encouraging active participation in improving the environment.	Bobrynets Public Library	NGO "Flora"	Bobrynets, Ukraine
Care Collective	Care Collective aims to create a green library in Terra Franca, land reclaimed from the mafia, combining reading, permaculture and environmental education. An open-air community space for children and youth, managed collaboratively.	booq - bibliofficina di quartiere	H.R.Y.O. Human Rights Youth Organization	Palermo, Italy
Community Fruits - Gemeinschaftsfrüchte	This initiative aims to connect people who don't manage to harvest their fruits any more with citizens who would like to pick and process these fruits. The initiative culminates with a harvest festival in the library.	Ratsbücherei Lüneburg	Zukunftsrat Lüneburg	Lüneburg, Germany
From Books to Beds: A Library-Garden Collaboration for Sustainable Living	Faced with relocating a thriving community garden, this initiative aims to turn this challenge into an opportunity by co-creating a new, inclusive green space in collaboration with the EUI Library.	Library of the European University Institute	EUI ORTO Community Garden	Florence, Italy
Green Journey on the Danube	Through this initiative, a fun, informative board-game is developed, in which the players will travel along the Danube River in Romania and attempt to solve environmental challenges that come along.	Bucharest Metropolitan Library	Bookisit NGO	Bucharest, Romania

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Inside Out	This initiative will transform an unloved, noisy space into a green, accessible, autism-friendly sanctuary. It will offer storytelling, nature watching and rest - a peaceful corridor for residents and visitors, inspired by the community, for the community.	Bishopbriggs Library	BetterBriggs	Bishopbriggs, Scotland, United Kingdom
It Only Takes One Seed	This initiative reframes Barnsley as a green place by bringing people together to make small changes for a healthier planet. Through an artist led programme, green positive messages and a dedicated Seed Library, the initiative will sow the seeds of change.	Library @ the Lightbox	Creative Recovery	Barnsley, England, United Kingdom
Links of Books and Plants: Small Garden Library	This project creates an educational space in the library garden that integrates theoretical and practical learning about ecology, sustainability and biodiversity, engaging the community in active learning and environmental conservation.	Opća biblioteka "Muhamed Kantardžić" Breza	Udruženje Centar Pozitivne Prakse	Breza, Bosnia and Herzegovina
North Paddington Nature Pilgrimage	The North Paddington Nature Pilgrimage is a circular walking route inspired by popular European Caminos. It revitalises a neglected area of canalside, builds community spirit and helps children connect with their local environment.	Paddington Library	Paddington Development Trust	London, England, United Kingdom
PEARL of Prespa (Preserving Eco-Apples & Reviving the Lake of Prespa)	In Prespa, environmental degradation threatens the fragile ecosystem of the nearby lake and the community's future. The initiative transforms the local library into a hub for eco-workshops, clean-up actions and creative arts, tailored for youth.	Town Library at Cultural Center Dragi Tozija - Resen	ECTER	Prespa, North Macedonia

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Propagating the Potato Library	This initiative aims to sustain a free, permanent space in Warsaw for self-directed learning that supports and professionalises the artistic community. In times of crisis, artists help society make sense of the senseless.	The Potato Library	The Seed Library	Warsaw, Poland
Read for the Planet: Climate Literacy Hub	The initiative transforms an under-resourced rural library into a vibrant centre for climate education and action, by combining curated green literature, hands-on makerspace workshops, and youth-led eco-campaigns.	Tatev Library	Eco-Youth NGO	Tatev, Armenia
Seed Café	By engaging in monthly seed cafés, garden owners and future gardeners learn about (re)production of vegetables and/or flowers, co-create the seed library and find solutions for more biodiversity and access to green spaces.	Library of the Goethe-Institut Nancy	Racines Carrées	Nancy, France
Space to Breathe	This joint project raises awareness of clean air and climate issues in the local community through a series of social and learning events. It aims to strengthen social inclusion, wellbeing and active citizenship in Alloa.	Speirs Centre	Breathe Easy	Alloa, Scotland, United Kingdom
Together in Green - Spolu v zelenom	This initiative addresses the local lack of inclusive public spaces in Dolný Kubín, especially for people with individual needs. Through collaborative gardening and open-air events, it brings people together across generations and abilities.	Oravska knižnica Antona Habovštiaka v Dolnom Kubíne	Úsmev prosím!	Dolný Kubín, Slovakia

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The Stitch That Binds – How a Village is Reviving Through Embroidery and Care for Nature	The challenge is the loss of traditional skills, community cohesion, and meaningful local work opportunities. The project promotes sustainable craft, intergenerational learning, and circular use of local materials.	Mateești Local Public Library	Asociația Familia PRO-Natură (Pro-Nature Family Association)	Mateești, Romania
ZelenGrad - the City of Future	In Kovin, Serbia, children dream up ZelenGrad - a city of the future, full of gardens, art and big ideas. With help from the library and community group, they clean, plant, create and learn together to make their real town greener, kinder and more alive.	Biblioteka "Vuk Karadzic" Kovin	Udruženje građana Contra Margum (Citizens Association Contra Margum)	Kovin, Serbia

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SOCIAL Initiatives: Projects that strengthen social inclusion, equality, active citizenship, and community wellbeing.	**Description**	**Name of Library**	**Name of Community**	**Place**
‘Madaniya, Huriya wa Salama’ - Civil Rule, Freedom & Peace: Seeds of Democracy from the Sudanese Revolution	The initiative showcases experiences of the Sudanese Democratic Revolution, told by those who lived through it, and made availble in different languages and formats. The goal is to show how change be achieved through grassroots organising.	ECHO Mobile Library	Sudanese community in Athens	Athens, Greece
Activism Through Art: Creating Space for Queer Self-expression and Knowledge	This project aims to celebrate queer and feminist expression through zine-making, archiving, and a community-led festival, creating a space for resistance, care, and collective knowledge-building.	FemLibrary	Armenian queer community	Yerevan, Armenia
All of Us	This initiative affirms migration as a valuable part of social and cultural life via lectures, workshops, and literary gatherings - inclusive spaces that support integration and promote intercultural dialogue.	Zagreb City Libraries	Centre for Peace Studies	Zagreb, Croatia
Bylis Whispers: A Community Library	Housed in a repurposed stone building, this rural library will connect generations through books, oral history, and creative gatherings. A mobile story cart will reach nearby villages.	Bylis Whispers / Biblioteka komunitare e Hekalit	Byllones	Hekal, Albania
Camden Connects	This initiative pilots verbal and non-verbal storytelling methods for connecting refugee communities to libraries and resident populations in Swiss Cottage and Belsize Park.	Swiss Cottage Library	Families 4 Peace	London, England, United Kingdom

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Comix in the Library	This project creates a vibrant connection in Trapani between kids and the public library, through the world of comics. It creates a comics section inside the library, as well as meeting opportunities for kids and teachers in different places in the city.	Biblioteca Fardelliana	Nerd Attack	Trapani, Italy
Community Histories, Shared Stories	This is a community-led initiative bringing local families from diverse cultures together to create a co-designed zine, representing diverse traditions, cultures and fairy tales.	Paignton Library	Ubuntu Educational & Mentoring Services CIC	Paignton, England, United Kingdom
COMUM - Ler para Criar Mudança (Reading for Change)	A reading club where books feed ideas to improve Lisbon. Families and carers participate through a digital platform and in monthly workshops challenged to create civic proposals for a more inclusive city.	Biblioteca de Alcântara - José Dias Coelho	Associação CORDÃO	Lisbon, Portugal
Creation of a Resilience Center for Vulnerable People in the Trostyanets Public Library	This project will create a Resilience Center at the public library in Trostyanets — a safe space offering activities for war-related trauma recovery, adaptation, education, and community integration.	Trostyanets Public Library	“Organisation of People With Disabilities (TROI)” NGO	Trostyanets, Ukraine
Democratorium - Talk. Listen. Understand. (Demokratorium - Reden. Zuhören. Verstehen.)	The Democratorium is a place in the library where people from very different communities meet. They listen to each other, exchange opinions, recognise differences and similarities, and engage in discussions on current social and political issues.	Stadtbibliothek Bremen	State Center for Civic Education Bremen	Bremen, Germany

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Domestic Archives: Stories of Sala Baganza	This initiative wants to be the collective memory of its town. A digital archive for future generations, a space for active participation and meaningful exchange, a start for new connections between diverse social groups.	Biblioteca Comunale di Sala Baganza	a.p.s. Enigma	Sala Baganza, Italy
Empowering Women through Community and Library Engagement	The project tackles the social exclusion of vulnerable women, especially mothers who have been incarcerated or supported by social care, through creative workshops, bibliotherapy, parenting support.	Panevėžys Elena Mezginaitė Public Library	Women under the care of the Panevėžys Social Services Center and the Panevėžys Family Home	Panevezys, Lithuania
Feed the Future	This initiative aims to create a school library in a rural area, a vegetable garden with solidarity farming and a campaign to promote agriculture with real stories from the community.	Casa- Escola Agrícola Campo Verde	Horpozim – Associação Empresarial Hortícola	Rates, Portugal
Frames of Welcome	This project uses comics to co-create two illustrated guides with migrants and stakeholders: one for local service access, one against human trafficking, promoting inclusion and awareness.	Biblioteca delle Nuvole	Comitato territoriale ARCI di Perugia	Perugia, Italy
Freedom Tours Wageningen	Freedom Tours Wageningen explores how differently abled residents experience freedom in everyday life. Co-created and led by differently abled locals, this new civic initiative fosters awareness, empathy and dialogue.	De BBLTHK	Freedom Tours Wageningen	Wageningen, the Netherlands

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Future Builders Lab: Empowering Young Minds through Creative Career Exploration	Future Builders Lab enables children with disabilities and from vulnerable backgrounds in Ruse, using inclusive, interactive approaches and role-play to delve into real professions, become more confident, and combat social isolation.	Regional library Lyuben Karavelov - Ruse	Centre for Special Educational Support – Ruse	Ruse, Bulgaria
Getting Familiar With/An Approach to Afro-centered Literature	The Plantain Library promotes knowledge and exchange through books and activities from an Afro-centered perspective, highlighting Afro-descendant authors to challenge racism and empower the community.	Plantain Library	Afro Consciousness	Madrid, Spain
IRIS - Intreccia Ripara Incontra Scambia	The project addresses social conflict and polarisation through restorative justice and intercultural dialogue. It offers thematic weeks, training sessions, and dialogue circles, making the library a welcoming hub for community wellbeing.	Fileo - La biblioteca dell'intercultura - Fulvio Manara	InConTra ETS	San Paolo d'Argon, Italy
Library Littles Without Walls: Cultural Play for Connection	This project brings an inclusive, library-led early years initiative into a trusted community space. Led by a local practitioner, sessions use storytelling, music, and play shaped by families to support belonging, learning, and connection to libraries.	Gloucester Library	The Friendship Cafe	Gloucester, England, United Kingdom
Library meets Design Thinking - Creating our New Library Together	The city of Weißenfels plans to build a new library to make the city a center for culture, social life and encounters. To align it closely with the needs of the local community, the concept is to be developed using a participatory Design Thinking process.	Stadtbibliothek Weißenfels	Merse 54	Weißenfels, Germany

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nice here, with #...	nice here, with #... is a monthly event series, with each session bringing together residents, city-makers, and decision-makers for shared meals, inspiring talks, and workshops focused on pressing urban topics.	Bibliotheek Neude	nice here	Utrecht, the Netherlands
Nobody Will Believe You	Through a powerful exhibition, performance, workshops, and forum theatre, this initiative aims to raise awareness, empower survivors, and foster community dialogue to break the silence surrounding abuse.	Latgale Central Library / USA Information Center	New East	Daugavpils, Latvia
Peaks of Words: Inhabiting the Margin with a Gender Perspective	This initiative is put forward by a group of women who work with culture in the mountains: the aim is to create a community of readers who spread new visions to inhabit the margin with a transfeminist gaze.	Biblioteca Nuto Revelli	WECHO_The Echo of Mountain Women	Rittana, Italy
Queer Pages, Eastern Voices	This initiative preserves endangered queer literature from Eastern Europe by curating a dedicated collection in a community library. It engages the public through readings, discussions, and author talks, creating a living archive of resistance and memory.	Queer Community Cafe Library (Moldox Association)	Book Club ”Rainbow Shards”	Chișinău, Moldova
Reading4Ageing	Reading4Ageing gives older adults the chance to socialise and connect through books and group reading. It uses a cultural welfare approach to promote the health benefits of reading, supporting well-being from a bio-psycho-social perspective.	Biblioteca Civica "G. Tartarotti" Rovereto	A.P.S.P. Clementino Vannetti	Rovereto, Italy

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Resonance: Music Appreciation for the D/deaf and Hard of Hearing	The project addresses the exclusion of D/deaf individuals from music education and library services. Inclusive workshops and educational seminars will be co-designed, resulting in a replicable toolkit for cultural institutions.	The Music Library of Greece "Lilian Voudouri"	liminal	Athens, Greece
Roma Children's Library Network – Where Inclusion Begins With a Book	Roma children in many communities in Romania and Moldova grow up without access to books in their language, or about their culture. The initiative works to make libraries in these areas welcoming spaces where they feel included and participate actively.	Conțești Public Library	Asociația Comunitățile Viitorului (Communities of the Future Association)	Conțești, Romania
SCENES OF CHANGE. An Artistic Laboratory for the Library of the Prison to Reflect on Citizenship	An artistic laboratory for the prison library, where inmates transform literature into live art expression. Through performance, dance, music and theatre, they reclaim their stories, build self-esteem, and reconnect with society as active, engaged citizens.	Library of the Matilde Cantos Insertion Center	AIFED - Asociación de Innovación Formación y Empleo para el Desarrollo Sostenible	Albolote, Spain
Soft Spaces, Strong Bonds	The initiative addresses social isolation among new parents by creating a welcoming, community-driven space at Jūrmala Central Library. Through bi-monthly meetings and expert-led sessions, parents connect, share experiences, and receive support.	Jūrmala Central Library	Jurmala Woman (Jūrmalas Sieviete)	Jūrmala, Latvia
Stories and Soup - Satuja ja soppaa	Stories and Soup brings communities from diverse language backgrounds together through shared meals and folktales in easy language, starting with the Stone Soup European folktale.	Hyvinkää City Library	Selkokulttuuri ry	Hyvinkää, Finland

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Stories from our Patch	Food and stories have one thing in common – they're both better when shared, something we do so much these days; but does it make us any more connected? This initiative invites people to get immersed in nature, growing food and friendships.	Hexham Library	Grow Hexham	Hexham, England, United Kingdom
Telling our Lives - Connecting People from all over the World in Lyon	Migrants and non-migrants in Lyon can meet in co-created creative, informal workshops—language exchange, sewing, cooking, gardening, theatre, photography, music. The project ends with a festive gathering on June 20, 2026, World Refugee Day.	Goethe-Institut Lyon, Bibliothèque & Information	Singa Lyon	Lyon, France
The Culture Library	This initiative tackles social isolation among refugees, asylum seekers and migrants through English sessions, a co-created cultural activities in libraries, and inclusive library collection curation reflecting the residents' lives and languages.	Newcastle Library Service	West End Refugee Service	Newcastle, England, United Kingdom
The Silent History of Kaunas	Tours, training, routes, a board game, and videos about 30 cultural sites will help make the city's heritage more accessible to the deaf community and strengthen ties between the library and people with hearing impairments.	Kaunas County Public Oak Grove Library	Kaunas Deaf Centre	Kaunas, Lithuania
Under One Sky: Chronicles of Memory	This initiative transforms a village library into a hub for healing, intergenerational dialogue, and memory, through story collection and the creation of a symbolic Memory Garden, preserving lived experiences.	Yablunivka Village Library	U RENEW NGO	Yablunivka, Ukraine

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When the Mother Tongue Wakes	In a rural Greek area, this initiative addresses the loss of mother tongues among migrant children. Through a mobile multilingual corner, wordless books, and creative workshops, it fosters inclusion, empathy, and cultural pride.	Trifylia Library, branch of Public Central Library of Kalamata	Trifylia Amateur Theatre Group	Trifylia, Greece