

Call for Applications: Library Residency for Sustainability

Ten Goethe-Institutes across Europe invite libraries to participate in a regional project focused on sustainable and green libraries.

We are looking for ten committed libraries in ten countries that, together with experts, journalists, and activists in the fields of environment and sustainability, want to develop and implement innovative new formats for their libraries during a one-week residency.

Become part of a network of dedicated actors – and turn your library into a vibrant place of sustainability, dialogue, and transformation!

Goal of the Residency: What We Aim to Achieve Together

The library residency creates space for creative ideas, promotes sustainable action, and strengthens libraries as vibrant places of change. The goal is to foster ecological responsibility and establish libraries as centers of competence for sustainability.

Shaping the Future: Libraries as Sustainable Knowledge Spaces

- **Strengthening libraries as centers of competence for sustainability:** Developing and implementing educational formats on topics such as recycling, environmental education, and circular economy.
- **Libraries as networking hubs:** Promoting exchange between librarians, experts, journalists, and activists in the fields of environment and sustainability.
- **Libraries as drivers of social change:** Embedding sustainability as a core component of library work.

Residency Concept

Each library will host a fellow from the field of environment and sustainability for a one-week residency. Together, they will develop new educational formats and implement events for library visitors. A librarian will mentor the fellow and work closely with them during the residency week.

The residency is based on a partnership approach.

As the Goethe-Institut, we expect libraries to be actively committed to sustainable education. We value creative approaches and innovative event formats.

Eligibility Criteria for Libraries

- Active engagement and interest in sustainable education
- Willingness to collaborate closely with the fellows before and during the one-week residency
- Willingness to network with other libraries and fellows during online workshops and the final event in Warsaw

Timeline & Process

- **Call for Applications for Libraries:** until July 10, 2025
- **Call for Applications for Fellows:** until July 25, 2025
- **Online Kick-off & Matchmaking:** September 2025
- **3 Online Workshops for Fellows and Libraries** (input and exchange): September – December 2025
- **Residency Period (one-week stays):** October / November 2025
- **Final Event in Warsaw for Fellows and Librarians:** January 2026

Costs

Participation is free of charge for libraries.

All travel and accommodation costs for the fellows will be covered by the Goethe-Institut.

Travel and accommodation costs for the final event in Warsaw will be covered for the fellows and one librarian per library.

Working Language

The working language in the regional context is English. Therefore, the library's contact person should have a good command of English.

Apply Now!

Libraries are invited to submit a short application in English by **July 15, 2025**, including the following:

- What measures and goals related to sustainability and the environment are already being pursued and implemented in your library?
- Ideas for cooperation formats (events, educational formats, etc.) and for shaping the one-week residency