



## The use of European Structural and Investment Funds in Estonian, Italian and Polish libraries. A Pilot Report

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Estonian, Italian and Polish libraries have intensively used the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) with an investment equal to €281 868 000 in 10 years. Allocated to the library sector and in only three countries, this sum is the equivalent of 25% and 11% of the total budget of, respectively, the CERV (€ 1.11 billion) and the Creative Europe programmes (€ 2.44 billion), valid for all cultural, educational and social organisations in 27 EU states (2021-2027). Moreover, the bulk of ESI Funds are allocated to more developed / transition regions, rather than less developed countries.

This TELL Report - the first of a series - confirms the conclusions of the OMC and European Parliament Reports, published respectively in 2012 and 2013, which calculated that for each Euro spent within the “official” European Commission cultural programmes much bigger investments in the cultural field are made through the European Regional Development Fund and other Structural Funds.

Introduced in 1973 under the pressure of the United Kingdom joining the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), one of the ESI Funds, has proved to be extraordinarily successful in the field of libraries. It is a flexible instrument and all 60,000+ libraries in Europe (including neighbourhood countries) can reap the benefits of these Funds.

“We are going now to explore the relevance of ESIF in all TELL countries”, says Ioana Crihana, Coordinator of the TELL project. “This Report is essential in the creation of a Roadmap enhancing the role of libraries in the next round of European Structural and Investment Funds 2028-2035” – Giuseppe Vitiello, TELL Scientific Coordinator, emphasises.

**About TELL:** *The TELL - TRANS-EUROPEAN LEARNING LIBRARIES project brings together eight partners from seven countries to develop a successful educational model in promoting the Council of Europe Recommendation throughout Europe and library financing through the European Structural and Investment Funds. The initiative includes a Guide to the Council of Europe Recommendation, the creation of an innovative curriculum, the organization of 2 Winter schools and the implementation of a Road Map leading to the inclusion of libraries in the European Structural and Investment Funds 2028-2035 - all these activities addressing the needs of both librarians and their communities.*

### **For more information:**

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