



**GDL Făgăraș Lab 2020-2022**  
**Global Leadership and the SDGs: What Role for Local Communities?**  
**Făgăraș-Sibiu Area, Southern Transylvania, Romania**

**Overall concept**

In a world where the population lives in local communities, we only rarely reflect on the role of these communities in global affairs. When we do, we most often focus on a few large cities, not on small towns and rural areas, although most of the world's population lives in such places. Given the increasing democratisation of international relations, the overarching aim of the Făgăraș Lab was to explore the role of local communities in global leadership, partnership for the SDGs, addressing security and global challenges, and innovation in diplomacy.

In terms of impact, we saw the [Global Diplomacy Lab \(GDL\)](#) in Făgăraș contribute to a local region becoming more engaged globally and assuming more responsibilities towards achieving the SDGs, while being aware of the challenges that can negatively impact its own development and security. Based on the Făgăraș experience, the participants at the Lab reflected on how small urban and rural communities, including communities with high diasporas, can play a constructive role in leadership on global challenges, be they SDG-related, political, or security challenges.

The Lab brought together around 20 participants – GDL members and partners alongside representatives of the challenge holders and [The Făgăraș Research Institute \(FRI\)](#) hosting team. The activities of the Lab took place in the Făgăraș – Sibiu area and online.

The Lab was comprised of three tracks, as follows:

- a. The Făgăraș Municipality and the SDGs (with the [Făgăraș Municipality](#) as challenge holder),
- b. Community Foundations and the SDGs (with the [Țara Făgărașului Community Foundation](#) as challenge holder),
- c. Social entrepreneurship and the SDGs (with [Ashoka Romania](#) as challenge holder).

**Dates:**

The GDL Făgăraș Lab project ran from **December 2020 to May 2022**. The first part has consisted of preparatory online formats (incubator phase). The second part was constituted by a hybrid meeting (Impact Lab) held from **15 to 19 May 2022 in Făgăraș and Sibiu, Romania**.

**Any questions and suggestions can be addressed to:**

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