



ANNUAL REPORT

1 MAY 2020 -30 APRIL 2021

**THE EUROPEAN BUREAU OF LIBRARY,
INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION
ASSOCIATIONS
(EBLIDA)**

www.eblida.org

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report 2020 – 2021 covers the period from 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021.

This Annual Report is produced by the President, the Executive Committee and the Director with the support of the Secretariat, input from the Expert Group(s), and subject to approval in its final form at the 29th Council Meeting.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- EBLIDA is a non-profit organisation representing national library associations and individual libraries in the European Union and other European countries.
- Founded in June 13, 1992 to represent library associations at European level.
- Represents library associations in all European Union countries.
- Represents through its members approximately 70,000+ individual libraries across Europe (of which 65,000 are considered public libraries) and about 100 million users.
- Council meets once a year.
- Staff are 1 Director full time, 1 Administrative Officer part time and 1 Communications Officer, part time.
- Annual budget of 101.157 Euro (2020 expenditure).
- Executive Committee comprises 8 representatives from full member organisations.
- EBLIDA President, elected in May 2018 in Strasbourg, is Ton Van Vlimmeren. The policy areas are led by the Expert Group of Information Law (EGIL), the Expert Group European Libraries and Sustainable Development Implementation and Assessment (ELSIA) and the Working Group on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe (LIBLEG).
- EBLIDA is a member of IFLA, Copyright for Creativity, ASviS, and is allied with NewsGuard.

Contact details:

Office location

Koninklijke Bibliotheek / Dutch Royal Library

Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5
2595 BE Den Haag, The Netherlands.

Telephone: +31 70 31 40 137

Email: eblida@eblida.org

Web: www.eblida.org

- European Union, Interest Representative Register ID: 32997432484-79

PEOPLE

PRESIDENT

Ton Van Vlimmeren

Utrecht Public Library, Netherlands

VICE PRESIDENT

Stefano Parise

AIB - Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (Association of Italian Libraries), Italy

Substitute: Emma Catiri, AIB

TREASURER

Jean-Marie Reding

ALBAD - Associatioun vun de Lëtzebuerger Bibliothekären, Archivisten an Dokumentalisten (Luxembourgish Librarian, Archivist and Documentalist Association), Luxembourg

Substitute: Estelle Beck, ALBAD

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Steen Bording Andersen

Danmarks Biblioteksforening (Danish Library Association), Denmark

Substitute: Dan Skjerning, Danmarks Biblioteksforening.

Julie Calmus

ABF - Association des Bibliothécaires Français (French Association of Librarians), France

Substitute: Eléonore Clavreul, ABF

Marina Encheva

BLIA - Bulgarian Library and Information Association, Bulgaria

Alicia Sellés Carot

FESABID - Federación Española de Sociedades de Archivística, Biblioteconomía, Documentación y Museística (Spanish Federation of Archives, Libraries, Documentation and Museum Associations), Spain

Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson

Swedish Library Association

Hella Klauser

BID - Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (Federal Union of German Library and Information Associations) Germany

Substitute: Barbara Schleihagen

EXPERT GROUPS

CHAIR OF EXPERT GROUP ON INFORMATION LAW (EGIL):

Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

EGIL - Expert Group on Information Law

Aims and goals

- Create awareness on legal issues (with related implications) that affect the provision and circulation of information when libraries and archives are concerned;
- Advise and assist the [EBLIDA EC](#), national library associations and [EBLIDA Members](#) in addressing European institutions by making suggestions and drafting reports regarding laws and changes to laws or policies that would improve the legal position of libraries and archives;
- Cooperate and work with other organizations and institutions for these purposes.

Chaired by Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson, Members of EGIL are: **Spaska Tarandova** (Bulgaria), **Valérie Buissou** (France), **Armin Talke** (Germany), **Maria Botti** (Greece), **Jurgis Īvāns** (Latvia), **Harald Bøhn** (Norway), **Olimpia Bratu** (Romania), **Ciro Lluca** (Spain), **Eva Häusner** (Sweden).

CHAIR OF EXPERT GROUP EUROPEAN LIBRARIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT (ELSIA)

Alicia Sellés Carot

Federación Española de Sociedades de Archivística, Biblioteconomía, Documentación y Museística - FESABID, Spain

Aims and goals:

- To advise the EBLIDA Executive Committee in devising a European policy on SDGs through the implementation of projects, policies and indicators;
- To find the appropriate links between the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 and SDGs in national contexts, thus promoting further funding opportunities in the library field;
- To encourage the setting up and the establishment of proper methodologies for the assessment of SDG projects in libraries, in addition to current collection-oriented quantitative library measurement;
- To disseminate ELSIA-EG results through awareness, evaluation and training activities.

Chaired by Alicia Sellés Carot, ELSIA includes the following experts: **Nadezhda Grueva** (BULGARIA), **Eliška Bartošová** (CZECH REPUBLIC), **Steffen Nissen** (DENMARK), **Christophe Evans** (FRANCE), **Raphaëlle Bats** (FRANCE), **Ulla Wimmer** (GERMANY), **Antonios Mourikis** (GREECE), **Iro Tzorbatzaki** (GREECE), **Rossana Morriello** (ITALY), **Chiara Faggiolani** (ITALY), **Kristine Deksnė** (LATVIA), **Marjolein Oomes** (NETHERLANDS), **Agnes Erich** (ROMANIA), **Karoline Andersdotter** (SWEDEN).

WORKING GROUP

WORKING GROUP ON LIBRARY LEGISLATION AND POLICY IN EUROPE (LIBLEG)

Giuseppe Vitiello

Director, EBLIDA

Aims and goals

- Investigating into the current situation and developments in library legislation and policy in Europe and identifying most innovative aspects / features;
- Revising the Council of Europe-EBLIDA Guidelines for library legislation and policy in Europe;
- Drafting the Final Report on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe.

Chaired by Giuseppe Vitiello, LIBLEG includes the following members: **Vanya Graskina** (BULGARIA), **Lenka Maixnerová** (CZECH REPUBLIC), **Dominique Lahary** (FRANCE), **Emilie Terrier** (FRANCE), **Barbara Schleihagen** (GERMANY), **Anthi Katsirikou** (GREECE), **Stavroula Kouri** (GREECE), **Andris Vilks** (LATVIA), **Dragos-Adrian Neagu** (ROMANIA), **Óscar Arroyo** (SPAIN), **Zélia Parreira** (PORTUGAL).

SECRETARIAT

EBLIDA Head Office

Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5
2595 BE Den Haag
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 70 31 40 137
Email: eblida@eblida.org

Director:

Mr. Giuseppe Vitiello
Telephone (Mobile): +39 333 739 2630
Email: g.vitiello@eblida.org

Administrative Officer:

Ms Majella Cunnane
Telephone: +31 70 31 40 137
Email: majella.cunnane@eblida.org

Communications Officer:

Ms Sophie Felföldi
Email: sophie.felfoldi@eblida.org

MISSION

The mission of EBLIDA is:

- to promote freedom of information and free access to information, education and culture for all citizens in Europe;
- to engage libraries in taking care of people and their rights by encouraging democratic participation of citizens in society;
- to advocate for the interests of the library and information sectors and professionals in Europe.

OBJECTIVES

Taking stock of EBLIDA's past achievements and Members' expectations, these are the objectives of the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan:

- To identify key areas for EBLIDA's short and medium-term development;
- To provide visibility for EBLIDA activities through tools and services that can easily be used by EBLIDA members;
- To increase EBLIDA's membership and influence on European library policy and society.

MEMBERS

EBLIDA MEMBERS

EBLIDA is a membership-based organisation, focusing on library organisations and associations from both the EU and non-EU member states.

Over the past year, there has been an increase in membership numbers from 114 at the end of April 2020 to 122 by end of May 2021.

While it looks as though EBLIDA has acquired 8 new members, in fact, year on year, from 2020 to 2021 alone, 12 new members have joined.

The total increase from 114 to 122 incorporates the loss of members from previous years which had not year been accounted for, due to EBLIDA constitution rules.

EBLIDA's membership currently consists of 40 Full Members and 82 Associate Members distributed over the European Continent.

By 30th April 2021, EBLIDA had 4 sponsors, of which 2 bronze sponsors, 1 silver and 1 gold.

NEW MEMBERS 2021

EBLIDA had acquired 12 new Associate Members by May 2021.

These are:

France

- Service du Livre et de la lecture

Belgium

- Vlaamse overheid – Departement Cultuur, Jeugd en Media

The Netherlands, via The Alignment House

- Bibliotheek AanZet
- Bibliotheek Bollenstreek
- Bibliotheek Gelderland Zuid
- Bibliotheek Kampen
- Bibliotheek Mar en Fean
- FlevoMeer Bibliotheken
- De Nieuwe Kolk
- DOK Delft

Italy

- SBAM Sistema Bibliotecario Area Metropolitana Torinese
- Comune di Bologna - Settore Biblioteche Comunali

CANCELLATIONS 2020 – 2021

There have been no cancellations in 2021.

Membership fees 2021

NON-DUTCH MEMBERS

Full Members BAND	ANP Turnover €	Total due 2021 in €
A	0-25.000	696
B	25.001-100.000	1.698
C	100.001-250.000	3.064
D	250.001-350.000	4.356
E	350.001-500.000	5.576
F	500.001 or more	6.628

Associate Members	Total due 2021 in €
	579

DUTCH MEMBERS

Full Members BAND	ANP Turnover €	Total due 2021 in €
A	0-25.000	709,95
B	25.001-100.000	1.711,95
C	100.001-250.000	3.077,95
D	250.001-350.000	4.369,95
E	350.001-500.000	5.589,95
F	500.001 or more	6.641,95

Associate Members	Total due 2020 in €
	592,95

ACTIVITIES 2020

EBLIDA's tasks are defined in the Constitution, articles 2 and 3.

In 2020 the EBLIDA Secretariat fully implemented the awareness phase of the “Think The Unthinkable strategy. A post-Covid Library Agenda meeting Sustainable Development Goals to be funded through European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027”.

Moreover, one expert group was continued and two groups of experts were created ex novo: ELSIA and LIBLEG. These groups are going to have a long-term impact on EBLIDA strategies. The ELSIA group met on 16 January – 9 April; the LIBLEG Group met on 16-17 January and 9 April and EGIL on 15th March and 18th May.

An EBLIDA Task Force was created and met on 27 November, 11 December, 18 January.

In spite of the spread of the Covid and lack of travel opportunities, EBLIDA activities were many, productive and had decisive economic effects on EBLIDA's long-term sustainability.

Cooperation with PL 2030 and NAPLE increased and there have been reciprocal invitations to institutional meetings.

THREE “THINK THE UNTHINKABLE” WORKSHOPS WERE ORGANISED (OCTOBER 2020), WHICH TRIGGERED A SEQUENCE OF NATIONAL TTU WORKSHOPS, AS FOLLOWS:

2020

24 November: TTU conference – France, organised by ABF and Bpi;

2021

25 January 2021: TTU conference – Netherlands, organised by VOB and TAH;

8 February 2021: TTU Expert meeting in Greece, organised by AGLIS;

22 February 2021: TTU conference Latvia, organised by LLA;

17 March 2021: TTU Bulgaria, organised by BLIA;

28 April 2021: TTU Italy, organised by RDR and AIB.

As a result of this EBLIDA flagship programme, no organisation announced its intention to leave EBLIDA and, in the first half of 2021, the number of EBLIDA associate members increased.

Online EC meetings were regularly organised during the Covid crisis, more often than the usual three annual meetings in presence: They took place on 21 September, 7 December, 5 March, 26 April and 4th June.

These are the Directors' contribution given at congresses, conferences and other online meetings:

2020

30 October: Speech at the IFLA Conference on Fake News

4 November: Joint FEP-EBLIDA meeting

5, 10 November - 1, 15, 22 December - 5 January : preparatory meeting to TUT Conference - Greece

6, 20 November : preparatory meeting to TUT Conference – Latvia

9 November: preparatory meeting to TUT Conference – France

24 November: TUT conference – France

2021

18 January: Contribution to the ENSSIB Conference

20 January: Lesson given at ENSSIB
25 January: TUT conference – Netherlands
26 January : Interview given for Bpi, Paris.
27 January: Book Interview “Living libraries”
8 February: TUT Expert meeting in Greece
22 February: TUT conference – Latvia
17 March: TUT Bulgaria
7 April: Meeting with ASVIS
14 April: Intervention on OCLC – Sustainable development
14 April : keynote speech at the Latvian Library Association
16: Interviews with Geneva School of LIS
28 April : TTU in Italy
4 May: Lesson held for the University of Venice
5 May: Joint PL 2030, Naple, EBLIDA meeting
6 May: Intervention at ENSULIB IFLA: After the Covid pandemic, libraries and the socio-economic pandemic
20 May: Contribution to the NAPLE Conference
25 May: Contribution to the Conference organised by the Spanish Ministry of Culture on libraries and sustainable development.
27 May: Co-organisation of the Urban - Berlin Senate / PL 2030 / German Library Association Conference (Ton)

Planned meetings

11 June: EBLIDA Conference “Libraries and European Structural Funds: the win-win approach.”
2 July: ELSIA meeting
5 July: LIBLEG meeting
21 September: Joint EBLIDA-OCLC Conference
23-24 September 2021: Riga Conference Libraries and Museums

PRESIDENT’S CONTRIBUTION

19 May 2021: Intervention at the Russian Library Conference
27 May: Contribution to the EBLIDA / Berlin Senate / PL 2030 / German Library Association Conference.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE COUNCIL

The monthly EBLIDA newsletter regularly informed all members. In 2020, EBLIDA Newsletters were released on a monthly basis (except August) and through social media. The Annual Council is resumed as usual in the Spring season (11 June 2021). As for the EBLIDA Constitution, the Council is informed two months prior to its meeting of the date, location and agenda so that members have time to prepare it. Documents in relation to the Council are posted online on a dedicated website that contains all necessary information.

COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

NEWSLETTER



1,409 Subscribers

The monthly EBLIDA newsletter regularly informed members about EBLIDA activities, new publications and online Workshops organized. Our subscription base grew from 1,295 subscribers in 2020 to 1,409.

All newsletters are archived on the EBLIDA Website.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

- a) Annual Conference;
- b) EBLIDA EC Meetings;
- c) Emails;
- d) Seven permanent mailing lists (EBLIDA-List, EC, Full Members, Associate Members, EGIL, ELSIA and LIBLEG);
- e) Ad hoc mailing lists (like EBLIDA Conference).

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION - SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter

3,253 Followers



To be part of the conversation in the digital space we continued to reach to our audiences through Twitter. We utilize these platforms to raise visibility of the association, to communicate, to connect and to build tighter relationships with partner organisations.

Facebook



1,944 Followers

Facebook is part of the multi-channel communication strategy of our Association as well, to cross-promote our web content and to share resources, events that might be interesting to our audiences. To date, we have reached 1,769 followers.

Flickr



To increase our visibility online and to reach a much wider audience, we store, show & share our events photos on Flickr, however due to Covid-19 we had no life events to share photos of. We hope to utilize this platform again soon. The platform currently has 30 Albums and 2,820 photos

Tumblr



664 Followers

EBLIDA blog is an online public platform where anybody can post articles. It is used to improve EBLIDA's organic search visibility and to interact, share and exchange ideas to build & foster relationships with members and potential members and anyone who might have an affinity for the Association.

Pinterest



1,500 Monthly views

Pinterest - an interactive bulletin board - is another broadcasting extension of our organization. The goal is to connect with people who share the same interests as EBLIDA and encourage them to engage & support our Activities

RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE

The 29th Annual EBLIDA Council meeting will be held on 11 June online. On the same day the EBLIDA Conference will take place with the theme: *“Funds and Libraries: The win-win approach. European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 – A Guide for Library Applicant*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The EBLIDA Executive Board members are listed at the beginning of this document. 4 of the current 8 members have served their second mandate by May 2021 and one will not be able to continue, due to other commitments. Therefore, there will be 5 vacancies. By close of business on Friday 7th May 2021, the EBLIDA Secretariat had received 11 nominations for EBLIDA President and 11 nominations for the 10 available seats on the EBLIDA Executive Board. Therefore, voting took place to elect **10** Executive Board members from the **11** nominated candidates.

The results of the voting will be announced during the Council Meeting on June 11.

SECRETARIAT

The EBLIDA team comprises of:

- Giuseppe Vitiello, EBLIDA Director is chief representative of EBLIDA externally in hearings, conferences and meetings in Europe.
- Majella Cunnane, EBLIDA Administrative Officer (permanent position) is working on a part time basis of 20 hours per week. The main tasks are membership, communication and office management.
- Sophie Felföldi, EBLIDA Communication Officer, is a contracted consultant working on a part time basis in managing EBLIDA communication, maintenance of the website, mailing lists, social media and other communication tools.

RISKS

EBLIDA is continuing its long-term recovery. The drastic reduction of travel because of Covid 19 has resulted in profit for the second year running in EBLIDA's contemporary history. Loss of Members (some 10 percent in the last two-three years) has stopped and compensated with an equal increase by 10% of new Associate members. With the "Think The Unthinkable" initiative EBLIDA was able to show its members that EBLIDA's services offer value for money.

In 2019 staff expenses were reduced by 40% (€ 60,000 instead of envisaged € 98,475). In 2020 staff expenses remain stable although pressure has been put on EBLIDA staff. Staff expenses account now for 51 per cent of the global financial turnover (67% if website services offered by a consultant are also included).

This state of affairs is successful but may not be considered perennial since it is originated by the current EBLIDA's salary structure with one part time employed staff and two consultants: the EBLIDA Director - through the special EBLIDA/AIB/Director agreement - as well as the website consultant. With three full-time employed staff, EBLIDA might run into financial risks. Again, the Director requests the Executive Committee to tackle this problem.

RISKS DUE TO THE COVID CRISIS

EBLIDA managed to go through the Covid 19 crisis without encountering major risks for its survival. The EBLIDA Annual Council, the EBLIDA Conference and EBLIDA EC meetings were held regularly with the involvement of EC members and Council Members as expected.

2021 has been the acid test for EBLIDA's resilience, taking into account the impact of Covid crisis on EBLIDA operations and budget.

FINANCE 2021 AND EXPECTATIONS 2022

The 2020 positive trends continued in 2020 with a profit of EUR 14.919. It is expected that the TTU action will bring more income for EBLIDA.

The EBLIDA's communication officer's salary was brought back to the level of 2016 and this compensates her increased work burden, but only to a certain extent. The contract of the EBLIDA Director was renewed for one more year. EC decision to implement "homeworking" in 2018 has been crucial: the EBLIDA Director is located in Rome, the Administrative Officer in The Hague and the Communication officer in Cyprus. This choice proved to be successful during the Covid crisis.

As in 2020, the first half of 2021 will imply less in-presence meetings and travels. Hybrid meetings and travel aiming to provide more impetus to EBLIDA activities will resume in the second half of 2021 and will continue in 2022, although there will be more balance between in-presence and online meetings.

BUDGET 2021

With a positive year and a relatively substantial profit in 2021, EBLIDA will remain mindful about how to invest human resources in 2021.

Giuseppe Vitiello
Director, EBLIDA

The Hague, 31 May 2021