



**EBLIDA** European Bureau of Library, Information  
and Documentation Associations

# Annual Report

European Bureau of Library,  
Information and  
Documentation Associations  
(EBLIDA)

*1 May 2013 - 30 April 2014*

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## Annual Report 2013 – 2014: Introduction

The Annual Report 2013 – 2014 covers the period from 1 May 2013 to 30 April 2014. It is produced by the President, the Executive Committee and Director with input from the Expert Groups and Task Force and approved in its final form by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Council in May 2014.

The content of the Annual Report refers to activities taking place in the previous year in relation to the Work Programme 2013 - 2014<sup>1</sup>. The structure of the report broadly corresponds to the areas defined in the Strategy and the Work Programme.

In May 2013 in Milan, Council members approved the strategy 2013-2016<sup>2</sup> drafted by the Executive Committee.

The EBLIDA strategy 2013-2016 stated that “by 2016, EBLIDA aims at being identified as the European voice of libraries and information by:

- bridging libraries together;
- pooling resources with other organisations;
- ensuring free access to information through an updated copyright framework and a wealthy information society;
- pursuing the building of a robust, inclusive and sustainable library and information organisation network across Europe”.

The Mission Statement of the EBLIDA Strategy is to serve its members and the broader European library and information community by lobbying for libraries.

EBLIDA lobbies to:

- defend and promote the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals in Europe;
- promote free access to information, education and culture for all citizens in Europe.

EBLIDA takes a pro-active role in following the policy agenda of the European Commission as well as raising issues of interest regarding free access to information with members of the European Parliament.

EBLIDA's lobbying efforts operate in two ways:

- Influencing European and international institutions and organisations;
- Providing support to national member organisations.

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<sup>1</sup> EBLIDA Work Programme 2013-2014 is presented during the Annual Council 2014 and accessible under the Council member area after log in.

<sup>2</sup> EBLIDA Strategy 2013 – 2016 is accessible at [http://www.eblida.org/EBLIDA-Strategy\\_2013-2016\\_approved.pdf](http://www.eblida.org/EBLIDA-Strategy_2013-2016_approved.pdf)

Along with its lobbying activities EBLIDA has the following main objectives:

- to foster consultation between its members on matters of common concern;
- to act as a channel of communication between its members and other interlocutors, foremost amongst which would be the European Commission, the European Parliament and other institutions of the European Union;
- to act as a representative voice of the library and information science professions in European matters;
- to serve and promote other interests of the library and information science profession, its institutions and its professional workers in Europe.

EBLIDA is committed at the European level through its strategic alliances and also aims at encouraging, inspiring and supporting its members national lobbying actions, providing the necessary alerts and background information for targeted actions, such as the EBLIDA Campaign “the Right to e-Read”.

EBLIDA is accountable to its members for the delivery of the strategic goals agreed by EBLIDA Council members. The development and rationale of the strategy relies heavily on the experience and expertise of EBLIDA’s Expert Groups on Information Law, and Culture and the Information Society, and also on the e-Books Task Force.

The responsibility for the strategy lies with the EBLIDA Executive Committee. The EBLIDA Executive Committee is responsible for the delivery of the strategy, implementation, communication, assessment and update.

The EBLIDA Annual Report 2013-2014 shows that the implementation of the strategy is in line with the Annual Work Programme 2013-2014. It gives an overview of the situation of the association and the actions undertaken from 1 May 2013 to 30 April 2014.

## *EBLIDA: Lobbying for Libraries*

EBLIDA is the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations.

### **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 1992 to represent library associations at a 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 in May.
- Employs 2.1 full-time equivalent staff in the secretariat.
- Annual budget of 130,006 Euro (2013 expenditure).
- Executive Committee comprises 10 representatives from full member organisations.
- EBLIDA President, Klaus-Peter Böttger is Director of the Public Library of Essen.
- The policy areas are led by one Expert Group for Information Law, one Expert Group on Culture and Information Society and one Task Force on e-Books.
- EBLIDA is a member of Culture Action Europe and Copyright for Creativity.
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- European Union, Interest Representative Register ID: 32997432484-79

## People

### **President:**

Mr Klaus-Peter Böttger, Germany.

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

### **Vice President**

Ms Glòria Pérez Salmerón, Spain.

FESABID (Spanish Federation of Archives, Libraries, Documentation and Museum Associations).

Substitute: Ms Margarita Taladriz, FESABID, Spain.

### **Treasurer:**

Ms Erna Winters, The Netherlands.

VOB - Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheken (Netherlands Public Library Association).

Substitute: Marian Koren, VOB, Netherlands.

### **Members of the Executive Committee (in alphabetical order):**

Mr Guy Daines, UK.

CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals).

Substitute: Ms Annie Mauger, CILIP, UK.

Ms Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson, Sweden.

Svensk Biblioteksforening (Swedish Library Association)

Mr Georgios Glossiotis, Greece.

EEB, Enosis Ellenon Bibliothekarion (Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists)

Substitute: Ms Christina Kyriakopoulou, EEB, Greece.

Ms Lone Knakkegaard, Denmark.

Danmarks Biblioteksforening (Danish Library Association).

Substitute: Hellen Niegaard, DLA, Denmark.

Mr Gerald Leitner, Austria.

BVÖ, Büchereiverband Österreichs (Austrian Library Association)

N.B.: Chair of the EBLIDA eBooks Task Force

Substitute: Ms Christa Muller, VOB, Austria.

Ms Maria Jose Moura, Portugal.

BAD (Association of Portuguese Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists).

Substitute: Mr Bruno Duarte Eiras, BAD, Portugal.

Mr Aldo Pirola, Italy.  
AIB - Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (Association of Italian Libraries).  
Substitute: Ms Guiseppina Carrera, AIB, Italy.

Ms Leena Toivonen, Finland.  
Suomen Tieteellinen Kirjastoseura R.Y. (Finnish Research Library Association).  
Substitute: Ms Susanne Holmlund, Finland, Finlands svenska biblioteksörening  
(Finland's Swedish Library Association).

## **People (continuation)**

### **Expert groups**

#### **Chair of Expert Group on Information Law:**

Ms Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson, Swedish Library Association, Sweden

#### **Chair of Expert Group on Culture and Information Society:**

Mr Aldo Pirola, Association of Italian Libraries, Italy, replacing since September 2013, Ms Hella Klausner, Competence Network for Libraries, International Relationship of the German Library Association (BID), Berlin, Germany.

### **Task Force**

#### **Chair of the Task Force on eBooks:**

Mr Gerald Leitner, Austria.  
BVÖ, Büchereiverband Österreichs (Austrian Library Association).

### **Secretariat**

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## 1. Mission Activities

### 1a) Lobbying and Monitoring

#### i) Copyright and Other Legal Issues

Copyright has become and will remain a critical issue for libraries, information and documentation centres in the coming years. Under copyright issues lie fundamental questions about democracy, access to information and completion of a true knowledge society.

2013 has seen the ending of the Licences for Europe<sup>3</sup> dialogues. None of the three working groups in which EBLIDA participated gave productive results.

Together with EBLIDA, LIBER and other organisations stepped out of Working Group 4 on Text and Data Mining on 24 May 2013 considering that “[...] *any meaningful engagement on the legal framework within which data-driven innovation exists must address the issue of limitations and exceptions. The current approach of the Commission instead places licensing as the central pillar of the discussion*”<sup>4</sup>. A letter of explanation was sent to the EU Commission<sup>5</sup>.

EBLIDA met twice with DG Markt representatives in July and September 2013 to highlight the needs of libraries and the situation with regard to licences, especially cross-border licensing. Despite these meetings, there were no changes in the Licences for Europe dialogue.

In Working Group 1 (Cross-Border Access and Portability of Services) and 3 (Audiovisual Sector and Cultural Heritage), EBLIDA remained involved almost until the end, arguing for a better acknowledgement of libraries’ interests. But the proposed recommendation made by EBLIDA EC was substantially modified by other stakeholders in Working Group 1. It was therefore impossible to sign the proposed recommendation for EBLIDA without contradicting its general position and “*The Right to e-Read*” campaign. Therefore, EBLIDA didn’t sign the proposed recommendation.

In Working Group 3, although there were positive steps throughout the process, it was clear from the latest developments that libraries’ interests were no longer represented. Therefore once again, EBLIDA didn’t sign any recommendation.

EBLIDA released an official statement on Licences for Europe on 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2013 stating that “[...] *the eight months process in avoiding the salient issue of copyright reform has proved to be unsuccessful. Because of a narrow pre-determined agenda, it was not possible to ensure that users’ views were heard in these discussions, and that their concerns and demands were voiced properly.*”

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<sup>3</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/licences-for-europe-dialogue/en/content/about-site>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.eblida.org/news/commission-response-to-stakeholder-letter-on-licences4europe-text-and-data-mining.html>.

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.eblida.org/News/Letter\\_of\\_withdrawalL4E\\_TDM\\_May%2024.pdf](http://www.eblida.org/News/Letter_of_withdrawalL4E_TDM_May%2024.pdf).



*Exceptions and limitations to copyright aim to balance the exclusive rights of the rights holders with other fundamental rights, and should be considered an essential part of the copyright framework. Under the current copyright regime, they are often overridden by licences that undermine the rights of users. This reality creates a distorted balance of rights that needs to be addressed in order to create a flexible copyright regime.*

*There is no need to further postpone in depth discussions on copyright reform. On the contrary, the time for copyright reform at the European level has come. We expect the Commission's forthcoming review of the European copyright acquis to take full account of the needs of European libraries and archives[...]<sup>6</sup>".*

Over the course of 2013, EGIL began to work on a copyright reform document mainly written by Rosa Maiello, to be used as background information for EBLIDA members. This draft was very useful when the European Commission DG Markt launched a Public Consultation on EU Copyright Rules on 5 December 2013 .

The consultation consisted of 80 detailed questions covering a broad range of issues related to copyright. EBLIDA created its response<sup>7</sup> by merging views from different European countries and from the perspective of national, university, public and school libraries and called in particular for:

- Reinstating a true balance of rights between the exclusive rights of the rights holders and other fundamental rights;
- Full exploitation of digital opportunities to be supported by a progressive and flexible approach to copyright rules at EU level;
- An updated copyright framework to secure libraries' public missions;
- A legislative solution to clarify that access to content made by libraries and cultural institutions for their public-interest mission is allowed, regardless of the medium of transmission;
- Greater harmonisation of the legal framework for sharing content across EU member states;
- All exceptions to be made mandatory for all EU countries, especially those for research and education, public-mission institutions, and disability, because they protect fundamental rights;
- Ensuring that contracts cannot override limitations and exceptions to copyright;
- The "right to e-lend" for libraries to give the library users a "right to e-read";
- Improving user rights;
- An adaptation of the public lending right to apply to the extension of digital lending (e-lending) of copyright works ensuring that authors and creators are rewarded for the use of their works;
- The current 70 years after death terms of protection in Europe to be reduced to life plus 50 years for copyrighted works as is in the Berne Convention.

On the occasion of this consultation, EBLIDA also took part in the coalition C4C to build a joint answer called <http://fixcopyright.eu/>, where together with two other organisations, it

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.eblida.org/news/press-release-licences-4-europe-plenary-on-13-november.html>.

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.eblida.org/News/2014/EBLIDA\\_response\\_to\\_Public\\_Consultation\\_on\\_EU\\_Copyright\\_rules.pdf](http://www.eblida.org/News/2014/EBLIDA_response_to_Public_Consultation_on_EU_Copyright_rules.pdf).

was in charge of Chapter III. Limitations and Exceptions in the Single Market, item A. Access to content in libraries and archives (addressing the issues of preservation and archiving, off-premises access to library collections, e-lending and mass digitisation).

In March and April, EBLIDA together with C4C met with EU officials to present its position and investigate potential information following this consultation. In light of the release of a white paper on copyright by EU Commission DG Markt, these meetings are planned to continue.

## ii) Culture and Information Society

The main priority for the year 2013 and 2014 was Creative Europe 2014-2020, and the issue of information literacy.

Just after the EBLIDA Annual Council and Conference 2013, EGCIS applied to become a speaker at the biennial cultural event, the [European Culture Forum](#) (Brussels, 4-6 November 2013) in the new session called "What's Your Point?". This session aims at giving the floor to a selection of speakers to present an inspirational idea about culture and Europe and to open up the debate with the other approximately 1.200 participants. Hella Klauser (then EGCIS Chair) proposed to EGCIS members to create a short video building on the EGCIS Statement "*Libraries Cultural Peaks for Information and Inspiration*"<sup>8</sup>. The project had to be explained through a 3 minute video. Aldo Pirola kindly submitted a video to the organiser. Unfortunately, EBLIDA's was not chosen.

Meanwhile, for all topics related to Culture and Creative Europe, EBLIDA follows-up with strong players in this field, such as Culture Action Europe (CAE). Throughout the year, CAE was alerted to the issue related to the risk posed by the budget of Creative Europe. CAE shifted towards becoming a political platform.

Following the participation of Luca Bergamo (Director of CAE) at the EBLIDA Conference in Milano in May 2013, links and connections were maintained and gave EBLIDA the opportunity to take part for the second time in the CAE General Assembly, and for the first time to speak at their Annual Conference "It is not a crisis, it's a transition" held in Rome (Italy) from 3 to 5 October 2013.

Although the focus was mainly on museum, theatre and music, it was a good opportunity to put libraries forward as visible partners and make the case for their work.

Since information literacy became one of the working focus points of EBLIDA EGCIS, EGCIS applied successfully to participate at the European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL) in Istanbul on 23 October 2013 where it organised a panel discussion entitled "*How to build up a Europe of Knowledge – count on libraries!*"<sup>9</sup>. This session provided EBLIDA representatives with the opportunity to create an interactive session with a lot of questions from the audience that included about 25 participants.

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<sup>8</sup> [http://www.eblida.org/News/EN\\_Position\\_Paper\\_EGCIS\\_May\\_2011.pdf](http://www.eblida.org/News/EN_Position_Paper_EGCIS_May_2011.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> See [1d\) Conference, Seminars and Workshops](#), item ii.

It has become clear that for a few years, information literacy has become a part of EU policies. Lately, the EU also decided to invest in literacy. With the support of the EGCI members, EBLIDA successfully applied for the European Literacy Network call for participation and became a partner in the ELINET project<sup>10</sup>.

### iii) “The Right to e-Read” Campaign

The issue of e-books and access to information has been assimilated into “the Right to e-Read” campaign. This has become a core focus at EBLIDA for the past year. Following the EBLIDA Conference in Milan, numerous events and public presentations were organised to raise awareness on the issue<sup>11</sup>.

The e-Books Task Force worked out three slogans<sup>12</sup> for national members to select one to be translated into their national language. Flexibility was offered to match the marketing needs of the campaign at the national level, so that the slogans could differ a bit from country to country where necessary.

The EBLIDA President signed a contract with a designer proposed by the EBLIDA e-Books Task Force Chair. The designer was commissioned to deliver a package for the campaign containing a “branded” logo and communication documents such as posters, postcards, leaflets and badges. By the beginning of April 2014, each EBLIDA member received a package containing postcards, leaflets, badges and posters.

The “Right to e-Read” website was launched by mid-January 2014<sup>13</sup>. The translations into European languages of the communication documents (posters and EBLIDA Statement) were progressively made available. To date, the posters are available in 21 languages. The website also hosts a blog where people can leave comments. There was a lot of tweeting activity related to the campaign.

The EBLIDA team followed-up with EBLIDA members to highlight the need for raising awareness on the campaign at the national level, and to check undertaken and planned action at the national level. Meanwhile, the use of #eread was pushed for throughout the tweets released during part of the campaign, helping to tag the Campaign.

To activate the campaign and make it available both at European and national level, the EBLIDA Petition for “the Right to e-Read”<sup>14</sup> was created to be officially launched on 23 of April (World Book and Copyright Day). By 30 April, the petition had already collected 5000+ signatures.

During this time, EBLIDA took part in two EBLIDA Press Conferences on the 23 of April in Brussels and the Hague where two MEPs delivered a message of support each to the campaign<sup>15</sup>. Luigi Berlinguer (MEP, S&D’s, Italy) acknowledged the need for “[...] a wider

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<sup>10</sup> See [1c\) European Project](#), item i.

<sup>11</sup> See chapter [1d\) Conference, Seminars and Workshops](#), item i, iii and iv.

<sup>12</sup> “legalise it”, “grant it”, “enact it”

<sup>13</sup> See chapter [1b\) Communication and Information](#), item ii.

<sup>14</sup> See <http://www.change.org/en-GB/organisations/eblida>

<sup>15</sup> See <http://www.eblida.org/news/press-release-the-right-to-e-read-on-world-book-and-copyright-day.html>

access to reading so that we don't only have a right to read traditionally speaking but now a new right to e-read [...]” while Marietje Schaake (MEP, ALDE, The Netherlands) highlighted that “[...]the right to e-read is part of the right of access to information and that is a key element in a knowledge and highly educated society”.

A “Right to e-Read” background paper was created and should be made available in the weeks following the Council in Athens.

## **1b) Communication and Information**

### **i) External Communication**

Since 2013, EBLIDA’s work was highlighted in several articles:

- “Opening up libraries”, in *European Voice*, November 2013; <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/opening-up-libraries/78728.aspx>;
- « Le métier de bibliothécaire » (Being a librarian) , in *Lectures*, nr. 184, January 2014, article in French.

EBLIDA Director was interviewed to give EBLIDA’s view on the EU Consultation of Copyright Rules by the newspaper Bookseller (UK), the newspaper Information Today (US). The Director was also interviewed on Licences for Europe by the newspaper Information Today (US).

The Swedish Biblioteksbladet also interviewed the Director on the situation of libraries in Europe.

Additionally , the “Right to e-Read” Campaign got good press exposure in several countries such as UK, Germany and France and others. Further information is available at <http://www.eblida.org/e-read/news-room.html>.

EBLIDA also has joined the Online Dictionary of the French National Information Science and Librarian School (ENSSIB) at the entry European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA): <http://www.enssib.fr/le-dictionnaire/european-bureau-library-information-and-documentation-associations-eblida>.

### **ii) Newsletter**

The EBLIDA Newsletter, edited by the EBLIDA team, remains an important communication tool relating news about EBLIDA and its related European issues. It was published eleven times during the last year instead of ten times before (i.e an increase of the frequency of publication of 10%).

It is published every second Thursday of the month.

The newsletter mailing list, created in 2013, grew from 320 to 510 registered email addresses (i.e. an increase of 60% of registered readers in one year).

There are a few elements pertaining to the impact of the newsletter itself, but the design should certainly be updated in the near future.

Archives of all newsletters are accessible via the website.

### iii) **Website**<sup>16</sup>

The website display has been restructured so that EBLIDA Conferences are more visible.

#### **a. "Right to e-Read" webpage**

<http://www.eblida.org/e-read/>

In addition to usual information related to EBLIDA, the website hosted dedicated webpages for the "Right to e-Read", where all information related to the campaign is stored and updated.

The dedicated webpages are organised as follows:

- Home: short description and direct access to the petition;
- The Campaign: description of the campaign;
- What we want: the purpose of the campaign;
- Get involved: all campaign materials are available here to be downloaded for printing or advertisement;
- News room: links and information on news populated on the web, media overview, news, articles, blogs, podcast, video and conferences organised in connection to the campaign;
- Other resources: other useful and complementary resources;
- The "Right to e-Read" statement: original statement of EBLIDA;
- FAQ.

#### **b. Knowledge and Information Centre**

The data collected for the Knowledge and Information Centre was made accessible through a downloadable report as well as made accessible online on the EBLIDA website as of 14 May 2013. Additional data has recently been collected but not yet made accessible to the users.

Data collected in the KIC was used for the EU Commission DG Markt for documents related to library and copyright issues.

Data about e-books should be integrated into the KIC, but the previous e-books survey would need to be updated in accordance with the changes occurring in the e-books market and the latest development<sup>17</sup>.

#### **c. Joint EBLIDA-CLM/IFLA Satellite Meeting**

<http://www.eblida.org/copyright-and-beyond>

For the Joint IFLA CLM & EBLIDA Satellite Meeting, 13–14 August 2014 in Strasbourg, a dedicated website has been set up to provide information about the Conference and to facilitate online registration. It was prepared by EBLIDA.

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<sup>16</sup> EBLIDA home page: <http://www.eblida.org>

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/publishing/ALIA-Elending-Landscape-Report-2014\\_0.pdf](https://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/publishing/ALIA-Elending-Landscape-Report-2014_0.pdf).

#### **iv) Social Media**

##### **a. Blog**

Eblida "The Right to E-read" Campaign

<http://eblida.tumblr.com/>

This online public platform, created at the end of February, is meant as a means to communicate with and to reach out to potential new contacts to get them involved with the campaign. On this blog anybody can post comments, information and/or opinions on the campaign. By offering the audience other social media and web links to the Petition we are hoping to generate more traffic and thereby raise awareness, as well as become more visible on the Internet.

##### **b. Twitter**

<https://twitter.com/Eblida>

Created in April 2011, EBLIDA twitter account is a shared account among team members and interested Executive Committee members.

To date, it has 211 followers, and 283 messages have been published. Since after the EC meeting in Prague at the beginning of March and in relation with the "Right to e-Read" campaign, the twitter account gained 101 followers and 135 tweets were published.

##### **c. Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/Eblida>

Created at the end of May 2013 and public since October 2013. The page currently has 273 likes<sup>18</sup>.

##### **d. Pinterest**

<http://www.pinterest.com/eblida/>

Additionally at the request of some members we have created a Pinterest account on 17 April 2014. This pinboard-style photo-sharing website allows us to manage & share theme-based image collections through social media. Such as posters, photos, logos for "The Right to e-Read" campaign and visual material for the Annual Conference and other events in the future.

#### **v) Mailing list**

Following the creation of the mailing lists last year (see Annual report 2012-2013 p. 13), it was decided to create mailing lists for full and associate members (so that all e-mail exchanges are recorded) and to create a new list dedicated to communicating to the broader library community: EBLIDA-list. This general list is open to any people interested and does not require these persons to be a member of EBLIDA. It aims at communicating externally and supports the idea of spreading information to people interested in library issues. The current number of registered email addresses stands at 179.

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<sup>18</sup> On 7 April 2014 it was 134.

## 1c) European Projects

### i) European Literacy Network (ELINET)

In September 2012, the EU High level group on Literacy released its final report<sup>19</sup> to which EBLIDA's Expert group on Culture and Information Society (EGCIS) responded. Among other things, the report highlighted that 1 in 5 Europeans have difficulty reading and the report was followed-up by an event hosted by Marietje Schaake (MEP, ALDE, The Netherlands) in the European Parliament on 22 January 2013 to present it<sup>20</sup>. Commissioner Vassiliou officially announced the willingness of the European Commission to help the creation of a network of literacy organisations.

In February 2014, the project was accepted by the EU Executive Agency and was officially launched in Vienna during an opening week (from 24 to 28 February 2014) by Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands on 25 February as ELINET, the European Literacy Policy Network. It is a two year project grouping together 80 organisations from 29 European countries distributed into 8 teams. The overall project received a grand of almost 3 million Euro for two years.

EBLIDA is member of Team 7: Awareness raising.

EBLIDA and other members of Team 7 have been commissioned to develop a toolkit for action and advocacy, and to prepare a literacy event in Brussels on International Literacy Day: 8 September 2015.

EBLIDA is the only core network partner representing libraries. It stresses the role libraries can play in the promotion of reading, raising awareness about low literacy and facilitating the learning of new literacy skills. The work will comprise of information gathering, dissemination and exploitation of information and library knowledge among library networks.

EBLIDA's commitment will also help to improve libraries social and economic position in Europe. In Vienna, EBLIDA, represented by Marian Koren, took the opportunity to connect with other European organisations in the field of adult learning, literacy and reading. EBLIDA in particular plans to raise awareness on the project during library events over the two coming years.

EBLIDA as a partner organisation is granted €36,830.- in 3 instalments for the two year project.

## 1d) Conference, Seminars and Workshops

### i) **E-Books-Strategies and Actions available for the Public Libraries**, Next Library Conference, Aarhus, Denmark, 17-19 June 2013;

EBLIDA Director was invited to speak at the interactive session "e-Books – Strategies and Actions Available for the Public Libraries" on 18 June 2013 along with Trine Nielsen (Danish Culture Agency) and Pat Losinski (Columbus Metropolitan Library, Ohio, USA).

In his presentation, EBLIDA Director highlighted the three greatest challenges for public libraries in relation to establishing a qualitative and comprehensive e-book offer to the

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<sup>19</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/school/doc/literacy-report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/school/doc/literacy-report_en.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> See EBLIDA Annual Report 2012-2013, p. 10-11.

public, namely: the legal framework, the market environment and technical obstacles. He then explained that those challenges could become opportunities if libraries clearly show that they are not competitors within the market and don't take for granted the practices proposed by the publishers. He stated that libraries are not end-users, so can't be compared to individual consumers, and discussed the need for cooperation among library organisations.

Input was also given on potential allies that could help in the struggle for e-books services such as library organisations and their library users, politicians and civil society as a whole. He then concluded his presentation by showing the "Right to e-Read" campaign launched by EBLIDA and the need for copyright reform.

Other panellists presented different strategies and actions. Rolf Hapel (chair of the session) concluded the presentation by introducing the new Danish Digital Library integrated model developed in cooperation with different stakeholders to serve Danish library users.

### **ii) ECIL Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, 21-25 October 2013**

In October 2013, Aldo Pirola (Chair of EGCIS), Marian Koren (EGCIS member) and Vincent Bonnet (EBLIDA Director) organised the session "*How to Build Up a Europe of Knowledge - Count on Libraries!*" for the ECIL Conference in Turkey.

The idea was to present a complex combination of a wide variety of literacies. Literacy in general refers to the ability to read and understand a text. But literacy covers a wide range of sub-categories such as information literacy, financial literacy, health literacy and of course, numeracy.

From the panel, presentations were given about EBLIDA and the role it plays in literacy issues at the European level, the situation in the Netherlands, the report from the OECD and concrete examples from Milan (Italy) and Belgrade (Serbia). This combination of examples showed that whatever form literacy takes, libraries have an important role to play to build up a Europe of knowledge.

The panel format provided the audience with the opportunity to intervene and exchange, more precisely on the lobbying role of EBLIDA in relation to the promotion of libraries as partners for literacy programme. It gave the opportunity to exchange also in detail with ALA (American Library Association) colleagues about their lobbying role and the way they address it and to see similarities with the EU.

### **iii) World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) organised by IFLA**

EBLIDA was actively represented throughout the whole WLIC of IFLA in Singapore.

Firstly with the "Right to e-Read" campaign that was highly visible during the special day on e-books on 19 August 2013 addressing the issue "*Exploring an e-book future (e-book lending models, copyright and other issues)*" in two sessions.

The first session in the morning was organised by "Copyright and other Legal Matters with Management of Library Associations" and was chaired by Gerald Leitner (IFLA Governing board member and chair of the EBLIDA e-books task Force). One of the sub-session "*The challenge world wide - e-book licensing policy/principles/issues around the globe*" welcomed Klaus-Peter Böttger and other speakers to present the situation in Europe and the EBLIDA Campaign "The Right to e-Read".

The afternoon session was organised as a World Café focussing on "*Putting principles into practice: global initiatives to secure access to e-books in libraries.*"



EBLIDA secured its presence on the booth of the Goethe Institute with a dedicated space for the campaign, providing information to those interested about the campaign actions and other related information.

EBLIDA Director and chair of EGIL actively participated in the CLM Standing Committee meetings.

#### **iv) Conference attendance and other presentations**

The President represented EBLIDA at the following events and presented EBLIDA's work:

- First e-book seminar organised by FEP and EWC, Helsinki, 10 May 2013;
- Conference of the Finnish Library Organisation, Mikkeli, 11 and 12 June 2013;
- Cycling for libraries, The Hague, 20 June 2013;
- LIBER Conference, Munich, 27 June 2013;
- EU Commission DG Copyright. Libraries in the digital age, Brussels, 5 July 2013;
- Berlin: Consumer advice Centre, 9 August 2013;
- Singapore IFLA WLIC, 17 to 22 August 2013;
- Erfurt: Section II of German Library association on e-books, 18 September 2013;
- Sofia: Biblioworldforum, Sofia, 25 and 26 September 2013;
- Council of VBNW (Libraries in Northrhine-Westfalia), eBooks, Düsseldorf, 11 October 2013;
- Launch of the European Research Area Manifesto, Brussels, 16 October 2013;
- 100th anniversary of the Norwegian Library Association, Oslo, 25 October 2013;
- Council of BIB, Bielefeld, 23 November 2013;
- University 'Europe and EBLIDA', Cologne, 29 November 2013;
- Second e-book seminar organised by FEP and EWC, Paris, 6 December 2013;
- European Youth Parliament, Essen, 7 December 2013;
- University Literature and Media, Essen, 18 December 2013;
- After Intellectual property?, Essen, 10 January 2014;
- e-books - between Euphoria and doubt?, Cologne, 22 March 2014;
- Press Conference *The Right to e-read*, Berlin, 22 April 2014;
- Press Conference *The Right to e-read*, European Parliament, Brussels, New Babylon, The Hague, 23 April 2014.

The Director represented EBLIDA at the following events, as well as those already mentioned in this Annual Report:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Seminar on remote access to e-books organised by FEP and EWC, Helsinki, Finland, 10 May 2013;
- Torino Book Fair, E-books Campaign presentation, Torino, Italy, 16 May 2013;
- Annual Conference of the Belgian Association for Documentation (ABD/BVD): *Information Overload*, Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels, 30 May 2013;
- *Cycling for Libraries*, round table debate at the Dutch House of Parliament, The Hague, the Netherlands, 20 June 2013;
- *Seminar on Literacy*, Greens/EFA Group, European Parliament, Brussels, 26 June 2013;
- *Cycling for Libraries*, official reception with MEPs, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 26 June 2013;

- IFLA WLIC, Singapore, 17 – 22 Aug 2013;
- Conference “*Cultural contents in the digital era*”, Confrontations Europe, Brussels, 26 September 2013;
- *Maastricht for Research*, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 16-17 October 2013;
- *Copyright and Research and innovation Policy, the case of Text and Data mining*, European Parliament, Brussels, 12 November 2013;
- Presentation of EBLIDA’s mission and e-book campaign, Seminar, École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques, Lyon, France, 2 December 2013 ;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Seminar on remote access to e-books organised by FEP and EWC, Paris, France, 6 December 2013
- Presentation of EBLIDA’s mission and e-book campaign, CFWB, Namur, Belgium, 17 December 2013;
- Conference “Intellectual Property Rights in Europe: a tool for jobs and growth?”, Brussels, Belgium, 30 January 2014;
- Hearing on TDM, French Minister of Culture, Paris, France, 11 February 2014;
- Hearing/meeting on Copyright Consultation, European Commission, Brussels, 17-18 February 2014;
- *Communication strategies for libraries*, Goethe Institute, Prague, 26 February 2014 ;
- C4C-IFLA - Breakfast debate *Limitations & Exceptions for Libraries & Archives at EU & WIPO Level*, European Parliament, Brussels, 20 March 2014;
- Hearing/meeting on Copyright Consultation, European Commission, Brussels, 19-20 March 2014;
- Paris Book Fair, Intervention on e-books, Paris, France, 24 March 2014;
- Presentation of EBLIDA’s lobbying role and the Right to e-read campaign, Brussels, 25 March 2014;
- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of European Organisation in the book Industry, 4-5 April, 2014;
- Press conference *The Right to e-read*, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, and New Babylon meeting space, The Hague, The Netherlands, 23 April 2014.

Other members of EBLIDA’s Expert Groups and Task Force represented EBLIDA at the following events:

- Gerald Leitner (EBLIDA e-books Task Force, Chair) :
  - Presentation of the Right to e-read Campaign, Greek Book Fair, Thessaloniki, 17 May 2013;
  - Presentation of the Right to e-read Campaign, 13<sup>th</sup> General Congress of FESABID, Toledo, Spain, 25 May 2013;
  - Presentation of the Right to e-read Campaign and panel discussion, Conference “Future Publishing and Accessibility by The Ministry of Culture of Denmark and The DAISY Consortium, Copenhagen, Denmark, 14 June;
  - Task Force Meeting, The Hague, NL, 20 June 2013, Chair
  - Presentation of the Right to e-read Campaign, ALA Conference, Chicago, USA, 29 June 2013;

- Meeting with German Consumer Organization, Berlin, Germany, 9 August 2013;
  - Presentations and meetings, IFLA WLIC, Singapore, 17 – 22 Aug 2013;
  - Presentation of the Right to e-read Campaign , the European Congress on E-Inclusion; Brussels, Belgium, 3 October 2013;
  - Presentation of the Right to e-read Campaign, Frankfurt Academy (Book Fair), Frankfurt, Germany, 8 October 2013;
  - Presentation of the Right to e-read Campaign, Bibliotheksleitertag OCLC, Frankfurt, Germany, 8 October 2013;
  - Presentation of the Right to e-read Campaign and Workshop, BAD Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 16 November 2013;
  - Presentation and Agreement for support of IFLA for the Right to e-read Campaign, IFLA GB, The Hague, NL, 4 December 2013;
  - *Culture and Democracy in the Digital Era, Hopes and Threats*, Council of Europe Conference in Vienna, Austria, 13 December 2013;
  - Conference “Intellectual Property Rights in Europe: a tool for jobs and growth?”, Brussels, Belgium, 30 January 2014;
  - Presentation of the Right to e-read Campaign, Conference Goethe-Institute, Prague, Czech Republic, 26 February 2014.
- Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson (EBLIDA EGIL, chair):
    - Meeting of the Out of Commerce Task Force, Berlin, 26 November 2013.
  - Marian Koren (EBLIDA EGCIS):
    - ECIL Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, 21-25 October 2013;
    - ELINET opening Conference, Vienna, Austria, 24-28 February 2014.
  - Harald Müller (EBLIDA EGIL):
    - Meeting with EU Commission DG Market, Brussels, 5 July and 18 September 2013.
  - Aldo Pirola (EBLIDA ECGIS, chair):
    - Culture Action Europe, Roma, Italy, 3-5 October 2013;
    - ECIL Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, 21-25 October 2013.
  - Barbara Stratton (EBLIDA EGIL):
    - 10<sup>th</sup> International PLR Conference, Dublin, Ireland, 26-28 September 2013.
  - Leena Toivonen (EBLIDA EC):
    - Workshop for the future of European Research Area (ERA) with key stakeholders from universities and research & technology organisations (RTO) in Europe, Manchester Institute of Innovation Research of the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, 4 April 2014.

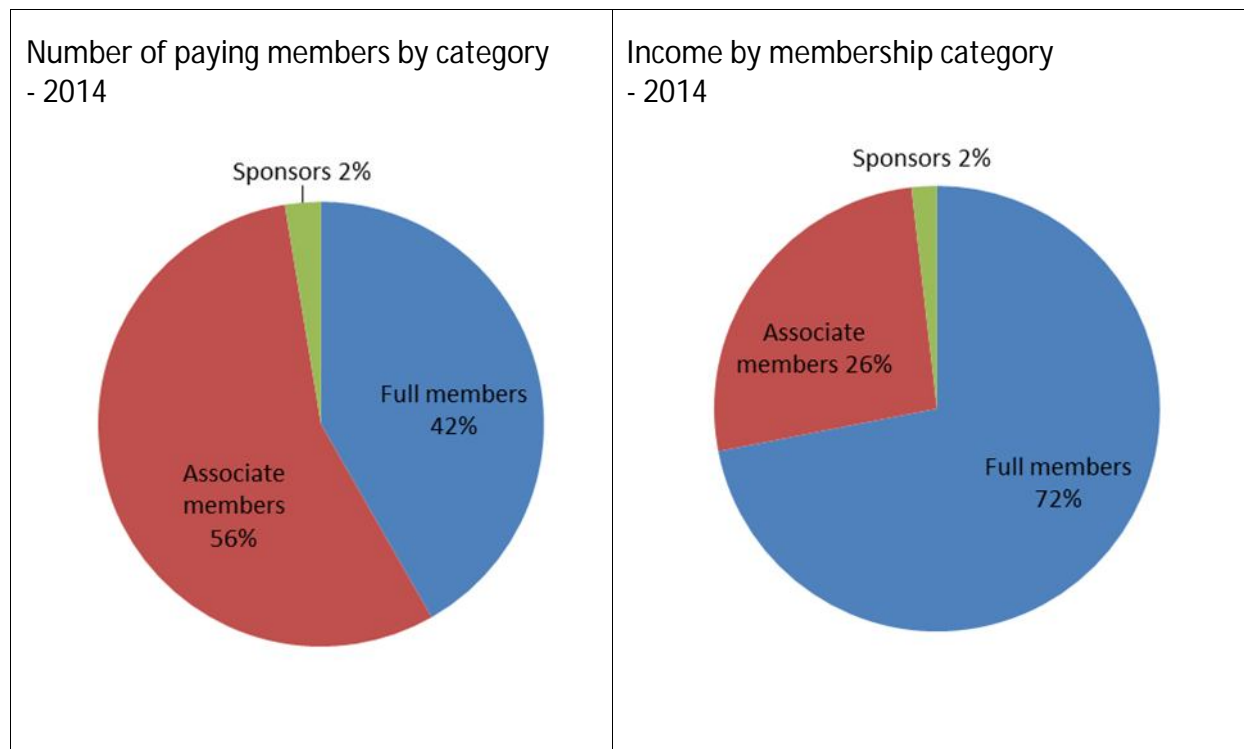
## 2. Members

### 2a) EBLIDA Members

EBLIDA is a membership-based organisation, focussing on library organisations and associations from both EU and non-EU member states. By 30 April 2014, EBLIDA counted

112 members: 48 Full Members, 64 Associate Members to which should be added 3 Sponsors. Those members are distributed over 37 countries on the European Continent while each European Union Member State is represented by at least one Full Member.

The membership and income structure are displayed in two pie charts below:



EBLIDA acquired five new members in the past year:

- 1 Full member:
  - o Réseau Carel (France)
- 4 Associate members:
  - o Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (Belgium);
  - o National Library of Poland (Poland);
  - o Danish Digital Library (Denmark);
  - o Tbilisi Media Center Union/MEDIATHEK (Georgia)

Seven cancellations (by request and subject to approval by the Council) effective in 2014 have been received from:

- 1 Full member:
  - o ADBS, Association of Information and Documentation Professional, (France)
- 6 Associate members:
  - o Donegal County Library (Ireland);
  - o Budapest University of Technology & Economics (Hungary);
  - o Veria Central Public Library (Greece);
  - o National Library of Serbia (Serbia);
  - o British Library Copyright Compliance Office (United Kingdom)
  - o JISC, Joint Information Systems Committee (United Kingdom)

Two dismissals are proposed by the Executive Committee to be effective after approval by Council:

- 2 Associate members:
  - o Turkish Library Association - Istanbul Branch (Turkey);
  - o Istanbul Technical University Library (Turkey).

## 2b) Membership fees

For the year 2014, the membership fees increased following the inflation rate of 2%. Members were invoiced for 2013 as follows:

<b>2013</b>			
<b>Band</b>	<b>ANP Turnover €</b>	<b>Non-Dutch Members Total due</b>	<b>Dutch Members Total due inc. VAT</b>
A: Full member	0 - 25,000	624,55	633,85
B: Full member	25,001 - 100,000	1.523,18	1532,48
C: Full member	100,001 - 250,000	2750,31	2759,61
D: Full member	250,001 - 350,000	3909,26	3918,56
E: Full member	350,001 - 500,000	5006,22	5015,52
F: Full member	500,001 or more	5948,26	5957,56
G: Associate member		519,19	528,49
H: Bronze Sponsor		€ 750	€ 750
I: Silver Sponsor		€ 1600	€ 1600
J: Gold Sponsor		€ 2000	€ 2000

## 3. Resources and Infrastructure

### 3a) Council and Conference

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual EBLIDA Council meeting was held on 14 May 2013 in Milan, Italy. The Council meeting welcomed 44 people representing 32 members, i.e. 24 representatives of Full Members and 8 representatives of Associate Members which included 10 members of the Executive Committee, 3 Expert Group and Task Force Chairs.

The minutes were approved by the Executive Committee during its Prague meeting (Czech Republic) in March 2014 for posting to Council members. The minutes have been uploaded for members on the members web space online to be approved at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Council meeting in Athens (Greece) on 13 May 2014.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference programme was prepared in cooperation with NAPLE and the Italian Library Association. The programme of the conference "*Ready? Read 'e' - E-services in Libraries, from European thinking to local actions*" aimed at addressing the issue of e-services in libraries and how European thinking can be transferred into local actions.

Libraries all over Europe demonstrate the ability to create and ensure attractive services. National libraries make digitised collections available through online services. University libraries deliver access to e-resources to their students while public libraries provide access to a broad range of online resources and continue the fight to acquire the right to make e-books available to their patrons just as they do with printed books and other media. However, these issues continue to be challenged by national borders and real European accessibility is missing.

About 120 participants attended the conference which ended with the release of the EBLIDA Position Paper "*The Right to e-Read*"<sup>21</sup> claiming for a change and being the signal of the European Campaign with the same name.

The position paper was then circulated to participants. The position paper was issued from the information paper "*European libraries and the challenges of e-publishing*".

### **3b) Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee members (listed at the beginning of the Annual Report in the section "People") met at the following meetings:

- 13 May 2013, Milan (Italy).
- 07-08 November 2013, Zagreb (Croatia).
- 27–28 February 2014, Prague (Czech Republic).

Minutes of these meetings have been shared with EBLIDA Members through the 22<sup>nd</sup> Council's secure website.

### **3c) Secretariat**

The EBLIDA team is comprised of:

- Vincent Bonnet, EBLIDA Director (permanent position) chief representative of EBLIDA externally in hearings, conferences and meetings in Europe. For the past year, the Director also took a stronger participation in the writing of core documents built by the expert groups and task force.
- Majella Cunnane, EBLIDA Office Assistant who entered her third year with EBLIDA in November 2013, on a part time basis of 20 hours per week. She is in charge of the membership monitoring and of administrative tasks and ensure a smooth running of the office. She is bilingual in the English and Dutch languages.
- Sophie Felföldi, EBLIDA Communication Officer in charge of managing the communication of EBLIDA and of the maintenance of the website, mailing lists and other communication tools. a free-lancer working 20 hours a week was renewed for one year as of January 2014.

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<sup>21</sup><http://www.eblida.org/e-read/the-right-to-e%E2%80%90read-statement.html>

In addition to working on surveys (see Knowledge and Information Centre), Sophie designed “the Right to e-Read” website and created the online petition for “The Right to e-Read” with Change.org.

### **3d) Expert groups**

The activities of the past year led to a high production of content detailed in other parts of this Annual Report.

Expert Groups and Task Force provided advice and recommendations to the Executive Committee, President and Director and help decide on actions on various points related to their area of expertise. A lot of EBLIDA’s work is determined by Expert Groups and Task Force.

The two Expert Groups and the Task Force met on a regular basis either during formal meeting or via remote online meetings on the following days:

- Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL)
  - Milan (Italy), 14 May 2013;
  - Skype call, 27 June 2013;
  - Zagreb (Croatia), 06 November 2013;
  - Skype call, 22 January 2014;
  - The Hague (The Netherlands), 9 April 2014 and a joint meeting with IFLA-CLM, 10 April 2014.
  
- Expert Group on Culture and Information Society (EGCIS).

On 1 September 2013, Aldo Pirola (Director of the Library system of Milan) took over from Hella Klauser (now Goethe Institute, Munich) as chair of the group.

  - Milan (Italy), 14 May 2013;
  - Skype call, 4 June 2013;
  - Singapore (Singapore) during the IFLA Conference, 21 August 2013;
  - Skype call, 9 October 2013;
  - Skype call, 16 January 2014;
  - Skype call, 16 April 2014.
  
- E-Books Task Force
  - The Hague, June 2013,
  - Skype call, 21 January 2014.

## **4. Cooperation with Library Organisations**

The cooperation with international and European library organisations is shown in this chapter.

It is important to note that the situation has changed since last year with the creation of a new library organisation and strengthening of lobbying work by current library organisations.

#### **4a) IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations)**

As mentioned in the annual report 2012-2013, EBLIDA and IFLA built strong ties and continue to share the common goal to ensure a free access to information through libraries.

EBLIDA supports the ILFA campaign at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) while IFLA has been a strong supporter of the e-book work done by EBLIDA. While EBLIDA is taking the lead on the issue at the European level, the connection with international actions organised by IFLA remain an important asset to both organisations.

The IFLA e-Lending working group and the EBLIDA e-Books Task Force are in regular contact to ensure consistency to the work achieved on the e-books issue.

EBLIDA EGIL and IFLA CLM organised a new a joint meeting in April in The Hague to coordinate the work at international and European level and support a better representation in the international fora respectively (WIPO, European Commission...).

EBLIDA President, e-Books Task Force Chair and EBLIDA Director liaise frequently with the IFLA Secretary General and IFLA Policy Director and relevant colleagues of standing committees and groups.

#### **4b) LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche)**

Over the past year, the relationship between EBLIDA and LIBER evolved. With the development of copyright-related issue in the research area (such as text and data mining), LIBER has taken a proactive approach on the copyright topic. It has also set up an expert group on copyright of which two EGIL members have joined.

The formal Memorandum of Understanding between both organisations is outdated and the area of expertise originally detailed has changed. An updated version is under discussion.

Both organisations participated in joint event (such as meetings with EU officials, or breakfast debate at the European Parliament) building on their respective fields of expertise.

#### **4c) NAPLE (National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe)**

EBLIDA and NAPLE organised the conference "*Ready? Read 'e'. E-service in libraries, from European thinking to local actions*" that took place in Milan on 15 May 2013, and coordinated efforts in organising the conference "*Libraries in transition: Changes? Crisis? Chances!*" in Athens.

In January 2013, the Chair of NAPLE, Antonia Carrato-Mena retired and was replaced by Jan Braeckman (Director of Bibnet) as interim chair. The official new chair of NAPLE should be appointed at the coming NAPLE General Assembly on 13 May 2014.

#### **4d) Public Libraries 2020/Foundation Reading and Writing (R&W), Brussels**

In the past years the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation decided to fund an organisation based in Brussels to raise awareness on public libraries in Europe. The chosen organisation was the Foundation Reading and Writing, and the structure was setup in January 2014.

The Director of the structure is Ilona Kish who worked before for Culture Action Europe and has connections in Brussels.



Contact between EBLIDA and the R&W began in December 2013. Although the organisation's primary objective is regarding public libraries, R&W was also in contact with LIBER and IFLA.

This new organisation aims at being used as a coalition structure to increase the visibility of public libraries among Brussels policy makers and other EU officials.

## **5. Cooperation with other organisations**

The cooperation with other organisations other than library organisations as described in the work plan has evolved since 2012.

In relation to the cooperation with Issues-related stakeholders:

- Information Sans Frontières has been put on hold and cease to exist as a formal structure. C4C, Copyright for Creativity has become a strong partner since the Public Consultation on the Review of Copyright Rules with weekly exchange of information.
- FEP (Federation of European Publisher), EBF (European Booksellers Federation) and EWC (European Writers Council) have organised sessions in which EBLIDA participated, especially in relation to e-books.

Cooperation with other Organisations:

- CIVIC agenda produced a Written Declaration on the Impact of Libraries in European Communities<sup>22</sup> for MEPs and supported the Campaign to get MEPs signing the declaration. The result was that the Declaration was signed by 214 MEPs drawn from all 28 EU Member States, meaning that 28% of all EU elected representatives (on behalf of over 112 million European constituents) have recognised the essential services public libraries provide to all EU communities.
- EDRI, European Digital Rights.
- ICA, International Council on Archives;
- EIF, European Internet Foundation;
- BEUC, European Consumers' Organisation;

Cooperation with these organisation differs on the topic and on the European agenda. Some stronger relationships were created this year with C4C and EDRI with whom it has been possible to make a joint statement and to work together.

## **Annual Report 2013 – 2014: Conclusion**

The Annual Report 2013 – 2014 shows the work achieved between 1 May 2013 and 30 April 2014. The content refers to activities taking place in the previous year in relation to the Work Programme 2013 – 2014, and the implementation of the EBLIDA strategy 2013-2016.

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.wdpubliclibraries.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/131007-EP-Written-Declaration-0016-20131.pdf>.

Over the past year, activities in relation to copyright as well as to culture and information society increased. The European Union with the outgoing Parliament and Commission tried to achieve some of its earlier engagements.

The work achieved by EGIL in creating information document and in responding to the EU Consultation on Copyright Rules have been beneficial in strengthening the association. Monitoring legal developments at the EU level is daily work that needs consistency and time.

By participating at the European Conference on Information Literacy and being partner in the European Literacy Network (ELINET), EGICS continues to pave the way for statement in relation to culture and information society.

This year has also seen a strong commitment from the e-Books Task Force with the EBLIDA Campaign "The Right to e-Read". The Task Force carried out good advocacy and advertising work to make it a success. The topic of e-books is a multi-layered issue that addresses both access to information and copyright issues, as well as literacy and the building of a knowledge society issues. The issue of building a culture of reading has become a core question at the European level, as it is a core issue for libraries of any kind.

The report testifies to the success of EBLIDA despite limited human and financial resources. The voice of libraries is heard at the European level, but it would benefit from greater coordination with partners so that we can build on the competences of each organisations, as was proposed in the EBLIDA Strategy 2013-2016. The story to tell in 2016 remains the one of a library association acting as the voice of libraries in Europe. But it should be acknowledged that the voice should be a collective one when it comes to specific issues where the expertise can lie outside EBLIDA, where EBLIDA can help deliver the message and strengthen the work.

After a worrying decrease in membership over the year 2012-2013 due to the long-term effect of the financial crisis but also to a consistent update of the membership database, the situation seems to have arrived at a balance, with still a small negative balance in terms of loss. In comparison to the previous years, where no new members were gained, EBLIDA gained four new members in 2013-2014, with another new membership enquiry in recent days. That is certainly positive sign for the future.

"The Right to e-Read" campaign is providing the association with the opportunity to increase its visibility also to the broader user community, and to show politicians and policy makers that libraries are on the agenda, and that access to information and the development of a wealthy knowledge Society can be left to market forces.

EBLIDA has been quoted in several press releases and journals, but furthermore it has been contacted on several occasions to give its opinion on library issues at the European level. These are positive sign of recognition of EBLIDA as a key-player in the library field at the European level.

- END -