

EBLIDA European Bureau of Library, Information
and Documentation Associations

Annual Report

European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

EBLIDA

1 May 2015 - 30 April 2016

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Annual Report 2015 – 2016: Introduction

The Annual Report 2015 – 2016 covers the period from 1 May 2015 to 30 April 2016. 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 24th Council in May 2016.

The content of the Annual Report refers to activities taking place in the previous year in relation to the Work Programme 2015-2016¹. The structure of the report broadly corresponds to the areas defined in the Strategy and the Work Programme and testify to the results of EBLIDA's achievements by 30 April 2016. It is the last of the 3 reports implementing the Strategy 2013-2016.

From its strategy 2013-2016² *“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 represents 100+ library, information, documentation and archive member organisations, and Europe's libraries form a network of some 70.000 organisations at the service of European citizens.

Libraries and archives are the gateways to recorded human knowledge, fostering a reading culture, providing access to information and knowledge in all formats and delivering training in basic skills, digital competence and research skills.

In that context, EBLIDA lobbies *“(...) to defend and promote the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals in Europe”, and “to promote free access to information, education and culture for all citizens in Europe” (...)* *“in influencing European and international institutions and organisations” and “in providing support to national member organisations”².*

¹ EBLIDA Work Programme 2015-2016 was presented and approved during the Annual Council 2015 and accessible under the Council member area after log in.

² Excerpt of the EBLIDA strategy 2013-2016, http://www.eblida.org/Documents/EBLIDA-Strategy_2013-2016_approved.pdf.

EBLIDA is the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations. Its motto is *Lobbying for Libraries*.

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 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 1,98 full-time equivalent staff distributed as 1.56 full time employees (FTE) in the secretariat, and 0,42 FTE as contracted services for website and communication.
- Annual budget of 139,329 Euro (2015 expenditure).
- Executive Committee comprises 10 representatives from full member organisations.
- EBLIDA President is Jukka Relander (Consultant) since 7 May 2015 preceded by Klaus-Peter Böttger (Director of the Public Library of Essen) until 7 May 2015.
- The policy areas are led by the Expert Group for Information Law, the Expert Group on Culture and Information Society and, until February 2016, the E-Books Task Force.
- EBLIDA is a member of IFLA and Copyright for Creativity, and was a member of Culture Action Europe until 31st December 2015.
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People

President:

Mr Jukka Relander, Finland.
Suomen Kirjastoseura (Finnish Library Association).

Vice President

Ms Barbara Lison, Germany.
BID – Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (Federal Union of German Library and Information Associations).
Substitute: Mr Benjamin Blinten, BID, Germany.

Treasurer:

Jean-Marie Reding, Luxembourg,
ALBAD, Associatioun vun de Lëtzebuurger Bibliothekären, Archivisten an Dokumentalisten (Luxembourgish Librarian, Archivist and Documentalist Association).
Substitute: Estelle Beck, ALBAD, Luxembourg.
Jean-Marie Reding was appointed Treasurer during the EBLIDA EC Meeting in Valencia, February 2016. He succeeds Gerald Leitner, BVÖ, Büchereiverband Österreichs (Austrian Library Association), who was Treasurer from May 2015.

Members of the Executive Committee (in alphabetical order):

Mr Steen Bording Andersen, Denmark.
Danmarks Biblioteksforening (Danish Library Association).
Substitute: Dan Skjerner, Danmarks Biblioteksforening, Denmark.

Mr Guy Daines, United Kingdom.
CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals).
Substitute: Mr Simon Edwards, CILIP, United Kingdom.

Ms Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson, Sweden.
Svensk Biblioteksforening (Swedish Library Association).

Mr Gerald Leitner, Austria.
BVÖ, Büchereiverband Österreichs (Austrian Library Association).
Substitute: Ms Christa Muller, VÖB, Vereinigung österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare (Austrian Association of Librarians), Austria.
Mr. Leitner resigns as member of the EBLIDA Executive Committee from 30th April 2016 and will be succeeded by Ms Christa Muller.

Mr Charles Noordam, The Netherlands.
VOB - Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheken (Netherlands Public Library Association).
Substitute: Marian Koren, FOBID (Netherlands Library Forum), Netherlands.

Mr Stefano Parise, Italy.
AIB - Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (Association of Italian Libraries).

Ms. Alicia Sellés Carot , Spain.
FESABID – Federación Española de Sociedades de Archivística, Biblioteconomía, Documentación y Museística (Spanish Federation of Archives, Libraries, Documentation and Museum Associations).
Substitute: Ms. Glòria Pérez Salmerón, FESABID, Spain.

Uldis Zariņš, Latvia.
LBB – Latvijas Bibliotekaru Biedriba (Library Association of Latvia).

People

Expert groups

Chair of Expert Group on Information Law:

Ms Barbara Stratton, Vice-Chair of the UK Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance (LACA), replacing Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson, Swedish Library Association with effect from 8 September 2015.

Chair of Expert Group on Culture and Information Society:

Mr Guy Daines, CILIP, replacing since 8 May 2015 Aldo Pirola, Association of Italian Libraries, Italy.

Task Force

Chair of the Task Force on E-Books:

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

NB: The Task Force on E-Books was disbanded as of the EBLIDA EC Meeting, Valencia, on 22 and 23 February 2016.

Working group

Chair of Working Group on Finance and Membership:

Mr Charles Noordam, VOB - Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheken (Netherlands Public Library Association).

Secretariat

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1. Mission Activities

1a) Lobbying and Monitoring

Over the past 12 months since the Annual Council of 2015 in Riga, Latvia, EBLIDA has continued its lobbying and advocacy activities, maintaining representation in Brussels, increasing activities for its members and extending participation in fora such as the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva (Switzerland), in order to improve the position of libraries at global level.

The traditional pattern of the annual report has been reviewed to better reflect the current reality of EBLIDA's lobbying activities. These operate mainly through two core items: copyright (including the issue of e-lending) and literacy, with some recent additional development in other library-related activities such as welcoming migrants and refugees into libraries, questions related to data collections, to name but a few.

i) Copyright and Other Legal Issues

The questions surrounding copyright continued to be a key driver of EBLIDA's activities in 2015 as well as in the first 4 months of 2016.

On 6 May 2015, the European Commission released its Communication *A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe*³. In its public statement of 9 June, EBLIDA highlighted its vision "(...) to ensure free access to information through an updated copyright framework and a wealthy information society and to pursue the building of a robust, inclusive and sustainable library and information organisation network across Europe" and welcomed President Juncker's willingness "(...)to modernise copyright rules in the light of the digital revolution [...] to boost digital skills and learning across society [...] and to facilitate horizontal policy, covering all sectors of the economy and of the public sector [as well as its will to build] a vibrant knowledge-based society⁴".

- **European Parliament Own Initiative Report (INI) on the INFOSOC directive**

The communication of the EU Commission that includes specific references to copyright closely relates to the report on the *Implementation of Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the Harmonisation of Certain Aspects of Copyright and Related Rights in the Information Society* initially proposed by the rapporteur Julia Reda from the Legal Affairs Committee of the EU Parliament (JURI Committee) in January 2015.

³ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe, Brussels, 06 May 2015. The document is accessible in 23 out of the 24 official languages of the European Union at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1447773803386&uri=CELEX:52015DC0192>.

⁴ The full statement is accessible at: <http://www.eblida.org/news/digital-single-market-strategy.html>.

Further to the information contained in the Annual Report of 2014-2015⁵, EBLIDA closely followed-up on the JURI report and thoroughly reviewed its last version containing 556 amendments. EBLIDA provided its opinion to all JURI Committee members ahead of the vote on 16 June 2015, and certainly helped some MEPs to choose in favour of libraries.

Once the document was voted, it then reached the 751 MEPs for the final vote in plenary session scheduled for 9 July.

Ahead of the vote, EBLIDA called on the 751 MEPs to vote yes to the report “(...)to ensure and optimize access for European citizens through libraries, to science, education, and culture⁶ (...)”. At the same time, EBLIDA asked the national library associations to follow-up with their national MEPs so that they also received the information at national level.

The report was approved with a large majority of MEPs by 445 votes to 65, with 32 abstentions. Directly after the voting results were announced, EBLIDA sent a message of congratulations to all the MEPs to thank them for voting for the report. The message also raised awareness about the fact that the position contained in this report was different to the EU position at WIPO⁷, where the EU was holding back discussions on international copyright reform for libraries and archives (see further down item WIPO).

- **E-books and e-lending**

EBLIDA’s vision of free access to information and knowledge facilitated by a modern, citizen inclusive, copyright framework that fosters a rich information society and builds a robust, inclusive and sustainable library network across Europe that supports learning and research coincides with President Juncker’s intention to *modernise copyright rules* [...] and build a *vibrant knowledge-based society by creating a connected digital single market*. This vision of course includes e-books and e-lending.

The question of e-lending was briefly mentioned in the European Parliament INI report whereas a little while before, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) consulted EU Member States governments to enquire “*whether “lending” in the Directive includes making digital copies of various books available for users to download in such a way that the downloaded copy becomes unusable after a certain period and during that period the original copy cannot be downloaded by others*” under the form of a 4 questions sheet. This request referred to the Dutch case 174/15 VOB vs Leenrecht on the question of the lending of e-books applicability under current copyright rules.

EBLIDA with the support of its Expert Group on Information Law, provided answers to the 4 questions and circulated its position to the 28 copyright offices of the EU member states. An action plan and model answer were developed and then provided to each EBLIDA member. EBLIDA members were requested to contact their national copyright office, request meetings and explain the library community’s point of view. This was a successful action plan.

⁵ http://www.eblida.org/Documents/eblida_annual_report_2014-2015_approved-by-council.pdf.

⁶ See press release of 7 July 2015: <http://www.eblida.org/News/2015/infosoc-report-eblida-press%20release.pdf>.

⁷ The statement was co-signed by a joint coalition of libraries and archives organisations and published on 9 July 2015, see <http://www.eblida.org/news/international-copyright-reform-for-libraries-and-archives-held-back-by-eu.html>

EBLIDA and partners developed background information highlighting the changes needed to update copyright laws in order to enable e-lending, including a legal solution and adaptation of the Rental and Lending Directive, as well as of the INFOSOC Directive. Documents were created for communication with EU policy-makers and politicians.

- **European Commission's Communication Towards a Modern, More European Copyright Framework**

On 9 December 2015, the European Commission released its communication *Towards a Modern, More European Copyright Framework*⁸

The Communication highlighted 6 points:

1. Copyright in the Digital Single Market
2. Ensuring wider access to content across the EU
3. Adapting exceptions to digital and cross-border environments
4. Achieving a well-functioning marketplace for copyright
5. Providing an effective and balanced enforcement system
6. Fostering a long-term vision

Out of those 6 points, point 3 is in particular of interest: *“The Commission will take action to ensure that the EU framework on exceptions that is relevant for access to knowledge, education and research is effective in the digital age and across borders.*

As a first step, the Commission will propose the legislation required to implement the Marrakesh Treaty.

The Commission is assessing options and will consider legislative proposals on other EU exceptions by spring 2016⁹, in order to:

- *allow public interest research organisations to carry out text and data mining of content they have lawful access to, with full legal certainty, for scientific research purposes;*
- *provide clarity on the scope of the EU exception for ‘illustration for teaching’, and its application to digital uses and to online learning;*
- *provide a clear space for preservation by cultural heritage institutions, reflecting the use of digital technologies for preservation and the needs of born-digital and digitised works;*
- *support remote consultation, in closed electronic networks, of works held in research and academic libraries and other relevant institutions, for research and private study;*
- *clarify the current EU exception permitting the use of works that were made to be permanently located in the public space (the ‘panorama exception’), to take into account new dissemination channels.*

⁸ The Communication is accessible in English, French and German on the webpage <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/towards-modern-more-european-copyright-framework-commission-takes-first-steps-and-sets-out-its> by clicking on the link Commission Communication.

⁹ By the time this report was written, the Legislative draft proposal was already postponed to the end of September 2016.

The general objective is to increase the level of harmonisation, make relevant exceptions mandatory for Member States to implement and ensure that they function across borders within the EU.

In preparing the proposals, the Commission will take into account the relevant market situation and licensing practices for the uses concerned, and care will be taken to comply with international obligations, including the 'three-step' test. The aim is to give users and right holders a legally certain and predictable system".

Based on the communication, EBLIDA and IFLA published a joint statement *Modernisation of EU copyright rules: yes, but...*¹⁰ acknowledging "(...) EU Commission's objectives of making EU copyright rules fit for the digital age and of building a modern and more European copyright framework" while regretting the absence of some critical issues for libraries from it "(...) such as ensuring cross-border access by all citizens to information via libraries and archives, protecting statutory exceptions and limitations to copyright from being overridden and undermined by contractual clauses and introducing legislation to address the challenges of e-lending, to name but a few (...)".

In order to know more about EU Commission's plan on copyright reform especially with the absence of reference to critical issues highlighted above, EBLIDA requested the Vice-President of the EU Parliament Sylvie Guillaume and MEP Virginie Rozière to put a written question to the EU Commission.

The question Nr/-000652/16 was written as follow:

Subject: Reform of copyright for libraries

The recent publication of the Commission Communication on the modernisation of copyright in Europe shows that the Commission wishes to move towards a greater harmonisation of exceptions and limitations with regard to copyright in Europe.

We appreciate the fact that exceptions and limitations linked to knowledge, research and education are a key priority for the future.

In view of the above, will the Commission say how it intends to address:

- The issue of e-lending through libraries, as set out in Article 53 of the European Parliament's own-initiative report adopted in plenary sitting on 9 July 2015 (2014/2256 (INI));
- The issue of an exception allowing libraries to digitise content for the purposes of consultation, cataloguing and archiving (Article 54 of the European Parliament's own-initiative report) and that of the protection of legal exceptions and limitations that cannot be waived by contractual terms;
- The issue of cross-border access to library content?

It was sent to the Commission in December 2015 and the answer came from Commissioner Oettinger on 2 March:

¹⁰ The statement is accessible at: <http://www.eblida.org/news/modernisation-of-eu-copyright-rules-yes,-but.html>

As announced in its communication of 9 December 2015, the Commission will consider legislative proposals on exceptions and limitations to copyright in the area of access to knowledge, research and education in 2016.

Regarding exceptions for libraries and other similar institutions, the Commission is now assessing different options in order to determine how to:

- allow preservation by cultural heritage institutions, reflecting the use of digital technologies for preservation and the specificities of born-digital and digitised works;
- support remote consultation, in closed electronic networks, of works held in research and academic libraries and other relevant institutions, for research and private study.

The cross-border functioning of these exceptions across the EU is one of the objectives of this review. The Commission will assess the impact of different options on libraries, users and right holders, taking into account existing licensing solutions provided by the market. A decision on the scope of an eventual legislative initiative on exceptions and limitations has not been made yet.

In the meantime, there is a pending preliminary reference on whether the current copyright acquis in particular the Rental and Lending Directive already permits e-lending. Case-174/15 remains to be seen what the court judgment will be.

Unsurprisingly, the European Commission doesn't provide a clear message on exceptions and limitations to copyright for the benefit of libraries. However, in December 2015, representatives of EBLIDA met with Commissioner Oettinger (4 December) and with Vice-President Ansip (17 December) to exchange views on copyright reform and to underline the need for a *modern, more European copyright framework* that ensures libraries can continue to fulfil their missions in the 21st century.

- **WIPO SCCR**

Further to the work achieved on copyright at EU level, EBLIDA resumed its participation at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) [Standing committee on Copyright and Related Rights](#) (SCCR) and WIPO General Assemblies¹¹ in Geneva (Switzerland). WIPO SCCR is the international forum where high-level discussions on global aspect of copyright take place, and where IFLA put forward a proposal for a treaty on [Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives](#) since 2011.

IFLA identified the following 11 cluster topics forming the structure of the original Treaty and are now used as a basis for discussions: 1 Preservation, 2 Right of reproduction and safeguarding copies, 3 Legal deposit, 4 Library lending, 5 Parallel importations, 6 Cross-border, 7 Orphan works, retracted and withdrawn works, and works out of commerce uses, 8 Limitations on liability of libraries and archives, 9 Technological measures of protection, 10 Contracts and 11 Right to translate works.

¹¹ WIPO SCCR 30 took place from June 29 to July 3, 2015, WIPO General Assembly took place from and WIPO SCCR 31 took place from 07 to 11 December 2015.

During SCCR 30 (July 2015) in addition to a general statement made by EBLIDA¹² only the preservation topic was addressed, while quite surprisingly, at SCCR 31 (December 2015), 3 statements were made, i.e. the right of reproduction and safeguarding copies, legal deposit (statement made only by the head of delegation, i.e. IFLA) and lending.

Combining the advocacy work both at EU and at WIPO level is a good way to move forward the library agenda with regard to copyright. Working towards legal certainty for libraries both within the EU and globally is an important component of EBLIDA's raison d'être. It also helps to tackle the multiple aspects of the EU's position on copyright.

Many other actions have been undertaken. To name but a few, EBLIDA joined a coalition to denounce Elsevier's policy on Open Access¹³, followed-up closely on the Copyright Manifesto from C4C, answered the *questionnaire on contract rules for online purchases of digital content and tangible goods* and countless other copyright-related actions.

ii) Literacy, Culture and Information Society

• Literacy

Over the past years, literacy has been identified as a key social issue where libraries have a strong role to play. This was already visible in past EBLIDA actions, for instance with participation at literacy-related events, the high-level report on literacy in 2014 as well as actively contributing as a core and unique European library partner to the European Literacy Policy Network, ELINET¹⁴ (see details over the project under the item 1c) Project, ii ELINET). Literacy has also been put on the forefront of EBLIDA's actions with the new President Jukka Relander, who, directly after his election, mentioned in EBLIDA's Newsletter editorial "(...) *An increasing number of people in different European countries are lacking basic literacy skills to participate in the information society. Libraries provide the only existing European-wide network at hand that can improve both the literacy and digital skills of tens of millions of people. We have a mission in here*¹⁵".

• Culture and Information Society

Being active in the Information Society also means developing tools to include and protect our citizens using the Internet.

Since July 2014, EBLIDA participated at the Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation organised by the Council of Europe. The first one was hosted in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 4-5 July 2014, followed by a meeting in Strasbourg in September 2014 and a second Platform in Linz (Austria) on 4-5 September 2015.

Part of the platform members work has been to work specifically on the definition of the *Internet of Citizens* that (...) *promotes the human and cultural dimension of the internet as a complement to the Internet of Things. It is a new notion which calls for a people-centred approach to the Internet, in particular to empower everyone who uses and relies upon it for their everyday activities.*

¹² EBLIDA statements at WIPO are accessible at <http://www.eblida.org/about-eblida/expert-groups/statements-made-by-eblida-at-wipo.html>

¹³ <http://www.eblida.org/news/new-policy-from-elsevier-impedes-open-access-and-sharing.html>

¹⁴ See [1c\) European Project](#), item i.

¹⁵ See EBLIDA Newsletter, May 2015, <http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=e89f2b03e1c5beec6e43581dd&id=05e622b6e1&e=>

EBLIDA's comments on the draft were stronger on copyright than the final compromised text, but at least an international agreed text defining citizens' rights in the digital environment is existing and can be used for advocacy.

The Council of Europe announced the adoption of its Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)2 on the Internet of Citizens on 10 February 2016 by the Committee of Ministers at the 1247th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies. The recommendation is accessible at the address <http://bit.ly/1o1dATl>.

EBLIDA highlighted this work in a Press Release of 19 February 2016 accessible at the address <http://www.eblida.org/news/council-of-europe-internet-of-citizens.html>.

iii) Other library-related topics

- **EBLIDA and the question of refugees**

Further to the decision of the EC meeting of September 2015, EBLIDA published a Statement on Refugees¹⁶ on 21 September 2015.

EBLIDA collected information from members on existing actions undertaken by libraries and/or library associations in favour of refugees, populated the result online¹⁷ and used it for meetings with EU Institutions representatives.

In the last week of September 2015, the 751 MEPs received an information e-mail on the positive actions organised by libraries to welcome refugees.

In April 2016, further to a call for Proposals: *Support for Refugee Integration Projects under the EU Commission's Creative Europe programme*¹⁸, and to the Erasmus+¹⁹ call for projects, EBLIDA contacted partners to check the possibility to apply for such projects by the deadline of 28 April 2016.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to create a sound project with several partners at such short notice. However good contacts have been created for future applications to other projects.

1b) Communication and Information

i) External Communication

EBLIDA's presence in articles and review since May 2015:

- Oury, A., Le numérique a besoin 'd'une véritable politique publique'²⁰, in *Actualité*, 15 June 2015.

¹⁶ <http://www.eblida.org/news/press-release-public-libraries-in-europe-welcome-refugees.html>.

¹⁷ <http://www.eblida.org/activities/public-libraries-in-europe-refugees.html>

¹⁸ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/news/call-for-proposal-support-refugee-integration-projects_en

¹⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/sites/erasmusplus/files/files/resources/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf

²⁰ See article (in French) at <https://www.actualitte.com/article/monde-edition/entretien-avec-vincent-bonnet-directeur-du-bureau-europeen-des-associations-de-bibliotheques/58962>

- Bonnet, V., Leitner, G., Il ruolo di EBLIDA per l'accesso alla conoscenza, in *Biblioteche Oggi*, vol 33, November 2015 ;
- Mønsted, S., Bibliotekslobbyisterne i EU, interview from EBLIDA Director²¹, in *Bibliotekarforbundets fagmagasin Perspektiv*, nr. 1, January, 2016.

ii) Newsletter

The EBLIDA Newsletter now has 790 subscribers²² (i.e. up 31,5% over the past year). Since 2012, the newsletter has been opened to the general public. It first started with 320 registered addresses, and was published ten times a year.

Since 2013, it is published eleven times a year every second Thursday of the month.

Since February 2015, the newsletter was moved to a new format under mailchimp, and has now reached 790 subscribers.

From 2012, there has been a 147% increase in subscribers!

iii) Website²³

The website has been updated following changes within the organisation.

a. Creation of a new item: Projects & Campaign Archive

Following the Executive Committee decision to disband the E-Books Task Force²⁴, the webpage of the task force and of the Right to E-Read campaign²⁵ have been stored under the item Projects & Campaign Archive²⁶.

This new page will store future archives of campaigns, expert groups or task force that cease to function.

b. Knowledge and Information Centre

The survey has been re-launched and data has been updated with the latest information provided by our different contacts within the library associations in Europe.

It is important to note that most of the data provided by our partners are usually the result of data collected three years before. Information on the Knowledge and Information Centre are accessible at <http://www.eblida.org/activities/kic/>.

iv) Social Media

a. Blog

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

Created in February 2014 originally as EBLIDA's Right to E-Read blog, it is now progressively shifting towards a more general blog with information on e-books as well as copyright issues. This is an online public platform where anybody can post comments.

b. Twitter

<https://twitter.com/Eblida>

²¹ The article in Danish is accessible at

<http://bf.dk/FagmagasinetPerspektiv/Bladet/2016/Perspektiv1/BibliotekslobbyisterneIEU>.

²² On 7 April 2016.

²³ EBLIDA home page: <http://www.eblida.org>

²⁴ <http://www.eblida.org/about-eblida/task-force/>

²⁵ <http://www.eblida.org/about-eblida/task-force/>

²⁶ <http://www.eblida.org/about-eblida/archive/>

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

To date²⁷, it has 1012 followers and continues to grow.

c. Facebook

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

The Facebook account is used for posting videos and articles frequently.

d. Pinterest

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

Originally used for information related to e-books, e-lending and copyright, pinterest is also used to post visual bookmarks to strengthen social media engagement strategies on all EBLIDA related topics.

e. Flickr

All meetings pictures testimony are made accessible through Flickr since it offers large photo-sets accessible to our members & general public of EBLIDA meetings and conferences.

v) Mailing list

EBLIDA maintains several mailing-lists of interest to members, expert groups, the newsletter and the general list EBLIDA-L.

1c) Projects

i) European Literacy Network (ELINET)

ELINET was a two year project that lasted from 1st February 2014 until 31st January 2016 that “[...] strives to improve literacy policies in all member countries, reduce the number of children, young people and adults with low literacy skills in Europe, and help increase reading skills and reading for pleasure [...]”²⁸.

EBLIDA together with the other 77 partners contributed to the organisation of the European Literacy Week that started on International Literacy Day (September 8) and ended on the 17 September 2015 with an event for high-level influencers in Brussels. A dedicated website (<http://www.literacyweek.eu/>) has been created collecting and displaying information on many literacy events in lots of places in Europe.

The Literacy Week closing event of 17 September opened with a statement by Commissioner Tibor Navracsics asking “*How can we face the future when 1 in 5 Europeans is struggling with literacy?*” While there is no direct answer to this question, throughout the event, multiple ways on how to help solve this problem were highlighted. Glòria Pérez Salmerón, President Elect IFLA and EBLIDA EC member substitute, talked about how the network of 65,000 Public Libraries can help accomplish a more literate Europe.

²⁷ Consulted on 26 April 2016.

²⁸ Read more at <http://eli-net.eu/>, consulted 10 February 2015.

From 20 to 22 January 2016, the European Literacy Final Conference 2016²⁹ took place in Amsterdam with international experts from different fields of literacy. For three days, partners from over thirty European countries discussed the results of the two-year project during workshops, sessions and networking opportunities.

EBLIDA representatives included Vincent Bonnet and Majella Cunnane from the office and Marian Koren (EGCIS) who participated in the plenary sessions and several workshops.

Further to the many documents for which EBLIDA offered strong support and/or leadership (see detailed information in the Annual Report 2014-2015), EBLIDA together with Dublin's Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) developed the Libraries e-Pack: an information resource pack containing information on the work of ELINET and useful material and references based on the work of the ELINET teams and designed for the network of libraries in Europe.

The Libraries e-pack was delivered and presented at the final ELINET Conference during a dedicated workshop to a group of librarians and literacy organisation representatives.

ii) Library Advocacy 4 EU

The Library Advocacy 4 EU Event *'Increase the power of your influence: individually and collectively'* was jointly organised by EBLIDA and the Library Association of Latvia (LBB) in Brussels (Belgium) from the 1st to 3rd February 2016. It was made possible by a grant from the Reading and Writing Foundation under the PL2020 programme.

The overall purpose of the event was to equip the 26 participating Library Association Presidents, Directors and Public Library Directors and other advocates from 19 countries in Europe, with improved advocacy skills while supporting EBLIDA's work at European level as well as to provide a platform for active networking and knowledge sharing.

The 2 days of training aspired to:

1. Develop an improved understanding of trends and opportunities in areas of importance for libraries within the EU, and consequentially at national level;
2. Learn about and share everyday networking tools about increasing the power of your influence;
3. Prioritise libraries on the European agenda for the next 5 years;
4. Build informal networks and collective power;
5. Develop a collective roadmap and an individual action plan to place libraries on the EU and national political agenda and expand your power of influence

The objective was to intensify our dialogue with European institutions to set out an agenda for libraries in a modern European knowledge economy, and to believe that this meeting is crucial in order to mobilise our collective power, as well as to grow stronger as individual advocates.

One of the first results was the creation of an informal network of trusted colleagues through common trainings and tools on identified library issues as well as the start of a data

²⁹ <http://www.eli-net.eu/about-us/amsterdam-conference/>

collection on non-formal and informal learning activities in public libraries to be later expanded at EU level with the EBLIDA's support.

1d) Conference, Seminars and Workshops

i) ABF Congress, Strasbourg (France), 10-13 June 2015

Four EBLIDA representatives took part to the French Library Congress in Strasbourg: EC members and substitute Gerald Leitner, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón and Jean-Marie Reding as well as EBLIDA Director Vincent Bonnet.

EBLIDA Director attended the congress specifically because of Julia Reda's (German MEP) speech on Saturday 13 June about Copyright Reform.

EBLIDA Director was interviewed by a French Magazine on the topic and partly helped the simultaneous translation of Reda's speech and questions and answers from the audience.

ii) Next Library, Aarhus (Denmark), 12-15 September 2015

The conference was hosted in the brand new public library Dokk 1 that opened in July 2015.

EBLIDA organised a workshop together with the Latvian Library Association on Library Advocacy (<http://bit.ly/1MsvjxU>) and participated at the panel discussion *library as a global force* (<http://bit.ly/1Jd4mqh>) where discussions focussed on how networks and connections among and between library workers and leaders can help position libraries as a global force for change and community development.

EBLIDA Director made the case that since libraries are not a direct EU competency, library issues are addressed through specific topics: i.e. Copyright, Literacy and Social/Digital inclusion, and that proficient advocacy is being made in mobilising the different networks where they connect whether it is through people, topics etc, so as to better exploit and share common intelligence and expertise.

iii) Public Lending Right Conference (PLR), The Hague (The Netherlands), 24-25 September 2015

EBLIDA Director made a presentation at the PLR conference on the current position on PLR in Europe, built in light of the then IFLA position on PLR. He also underlined the absence of definitions and remits of ePLR until now and the difficulty of such topics, as well as highlighting EBLIDA's Right to E-Read Campaign, calling for legal certainty on all questions related to rights in the new digital environment. He concluded that "*EBLIDA wants to see every e-lending model accommodate libraries' missions and needs (among which the freedom to select the e-book titles they want), wants to ensure the continued vitality of books and reading, and wants to support authors to continue creating new works. It is a question of democracy, of access to information and of cultural diversity*".

iv) Conference attendance and other presentations

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

- Presentation at IFLA presidential seminar *Strong Libraries, Strong Societies*, Milan, Italy, 21-22 May 2015;
- EBLIDA Open Meeting, Helsinki, Finland, 25-26 June 2015;
- IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Cape-Town, South Africa, 15-21 August 2015;

- Presentation on Libraries, Politics, Societies at the Cobal conference, Riga, Latvia, 11-12 October 2015;
- Presentation at the seminar on Library Networks organised by the Spanish ministry of Education, Madrid, Spain, 3-4 November 2015;
- Meeting with publishers, booksellers and author's organizations, Brussels, Belgium, 4 November 2015;
- Meeting on Copyright Reform with Andrus Ansip, Vice-President of the EU commission, Brussels, Belgium, 17 December 2015;
- Meeting with publishers, booksellers and author's organizations, Brussels, Belgium, 17 December 2015;
- Library Advocacy 4 EU, Brussels, Belgium, 01-03 February 2016
- Meeting of the Scandinavian library associations, *Uniting the north in fight against publishers*, Reykjavik, Iceland, 8-10 February 2016;
- IFLA workshop on E-books and e-lending, The Hague, Netherlands, 28-29 February 2016;
- Presentation *Working (in) Libraries*, annual meeting of the Hungarian library association, Budapest, Hungary, 3-4 March 2016;
- Presentation on the European Copyright Situation, IFLA MLAS meeting, Panama City, Panama, 19 April 2016.

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

- Public Libraries 2020, Official Launch of the *Libraries change live* publication, Brussels, Belgium, 16 June 2015;
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June-2 July 2015;
- 2nd second multi-stakeholder Platform on Culture and Digitisation of the Council of Europe, "Smart Creativity, Smart Democracy", Linz, Austria, 4-5 September 2015;
- World Intellectual Property Organisation General Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, 07-08 October 2015;
- 11th Forum of the SGDL, *Europe of books and creation*, 21-22 October 2015;
- Breakfast Debate on Copyright reform in the EU organised by the Dutch Public Library Association, Brussels, Belgium, 18 November 2015;
- Round table debate on [2015 the End of Copyright. Taking for free is stealing](#), Paris, Centre National du Livre, 27 November 2015;
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) from 9 to 11 December 2015;
- ELINET Conference, presentation of the library e-pack, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 20-22 January 2016;
- Library Advocacy 4 EU, Brussels, Belgium, 01-03 February 2016
- Presentation of EBLIDA, Institut national des études territoriales (INET), Strasbourg, France, 18 April 2016.

Other members of EBLIDA's Executive Committee represented EBLIDA at the following events:

- Jean-Marie Reding (EBLIDA EC member):

- 104. Deutscher Bibliothekartag: „Bibliotheken – von Anfang an Zukunft“, Nürnberg, Germany, 26-29 May 2015
 - Inforum ABD/BVB: The I&D puzzle: new pieces to solve it, Brussels, Belgium, 04 June 2015
 - 61e congrès ABF: Inventer pour surmonter. Bibliothèques en tension, Strasbourg, France, 11-13 June 2015
 - 32. Österreichischer Bibliothekartag: „Offen(siv)e Bibliotheken: Neue Zugänge, neue Strukturen, neue Chancen“, Vienna, Austria, 15-18. Sept. 2015
 - 105. Deutscher Bibliothekartag: „Bibliotheksräume – real und digital“, Leipzig, Germany, 14-17 March 2016
- Uldis Zarins (EC and EGIL member):
 - Digital Assembly, Riga, Latvia, 17-18 June 2015.
 - Charles Noordam (EC member):
 - Voice of Culture: a structured dialogue between the European Commission and the cultural sector, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 18-19 June 2015.
 - Preliminary Court hearing on Case C 174/15 between VOB and Leenrecht, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 09 March 2016.

Representation by other representatives:

- Majella Cunnane (EBLIDA team) :
 - Literacy Week closing event, Brussels, Belgium, 17 September 2015.
 - ELINET final conference, Amsterdam 20-21 January 2016.
- Anne-Marie Beunen (EGIL member):
 - Europeana Licensing Workshop, Luxembourg. Luxembourg, 26-27 November 2015.

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.

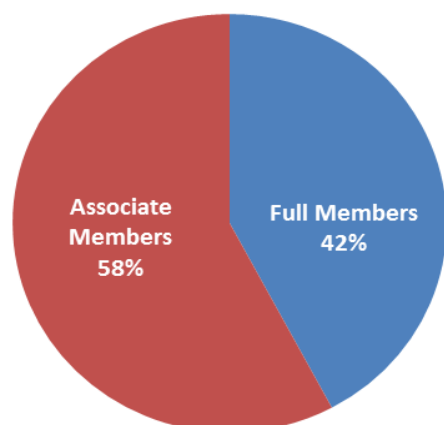
Over the past year, EBLIDA has noticed a slight decrease in membership that needs to be carefully analysed.

By 30 April 2016, EBLIDA counted 109 members: 46 Full Members, 63 Associate Members distributed over 36 countries on the European Continent and each European Union Member State is represented by at least one Full Member.

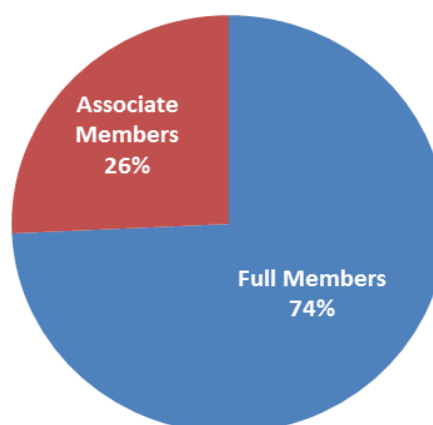
By 30 April 2016, EBLIDA counted 5 sponsors, with 2 new sponsors being gained since January 2016: ACCUCOMS, a silver sponsor, and OCLC, a bronze sponsor.

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

Number of paying members by category
2015



Income by membership category
2015



EBLIDA acquired 2 new members since May 2015:

- 0 Full members:
- 2 Associate members:
 - o KBR - Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Belgium
 - o L'Alpha Mediathèque, France

3 cancellations (by request and subject to approval by the Council) effective in 2015 have been received from associate members only:

- o Spain, National Library of Spain
- o Denmark, Nykøbing Falster Centralbibliotek
- o Belgium, European Commission, due to a conflict of interest, because EBLIDA is registered on the Trade Register.

The Executive Committee proposed the dismissal of (subject to the approval of the Council): ABIDOR, Romania. Unfortunately, despite several attempts to contact them over the past few years, we have received no response. Membership invoices have not been paid since 2013.

N.B.: Sponsors are not accounted as members and not displayed on the above pie charts.

2b) Membership fees

For the year 2016, the membership fees were frozen and stayed the same as in 2014 and 2015:

EBLIDA Membership Fees 2016			
Band	ANP Turnover €	Non-Dutch Members Total due	Dutch Members Total due inc. VAT
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 23rd Annual EBLIDA Council meeting was held on 07 May 2015 in Riga, Latvia. The Council meeting welcomed 49 people, representing 34 members, i.e. 23 Full Members and 11 Associate Members which included 9 members of the Executive Committee, 2 Expert Group members and 1 Task Force chair.

The Riga Council minutes were approved by the Executive Committee during the Valencia meeting in February 2016 for posting to members. The minutes have been uploaded on the member web space online to be approved at the 24th Annual Council meeting in The Hague (The Netherlands) on 09 May 2016.

EBLIDA elections took place in Riga with the following results:

The newly elected President is Jukka Relander, from Finland, elected unanimously.

For this election, there were 13 candidates for 10 seats. Therefore, members of the executive Committee were elected with ballot papers, see the results below:

Country	Association	Name	Nbr of votes	Result
Austria	BVÖ, Büchereiverband Österreichs Austrian Library Association VÖB, Vereinigung österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare Austrian Association of Librarians	Mr Gerald Leitner Substitute: Ms Christa Müller	133	elected
Denmark	DB, Danmarks Biblioteksforening Danish Library Association	Mr Steen Bording Andersen Substitute: Mr Dan Skjerning	103	elected
Finland	FSBF, Finlands svenska biblioteksforening Finland's Swedish Library Association	Ms Susan Holmlund	24	not elected
Finland	Suomen Tieteellinen Kirjastoseura R.Y. Finnish Research Library Association	Ms Marita Ahola Substitute: Mr Jarmo Saarti	22	not elected
Germany	BID, Bibliothek & Information Deutschland Federal Union of German Library and Information Associations	Ms Barbara Lison Substitute: Mr Benjamin Blinten	105	elected
Greece	EEB, Enosis Ellenon Bibliothekarion Association of Greek Librarians	Ms Roxana Theodorou Substitute: Mr Giorgios Glossiotis	68	not elected
Italy	AIB, Associazione Italiana Biblioteche Italian Library Association	Mr Stefano Parise	90	elected
Latvia	LBB, Latvijas Bibliotekaru Biedriba Latvian Library Association	Mr Uldis Zarins	81	elected
Luxembourg	ALBAD, Associatioun vun de Lëtzebuurger Bibliothekären, Archivisten an Dokumentalisten Luxembourgish Librarian, Archivist and Documentalist Association	Mr Jean-Marie Reding Substitute: Ms Estelle Beck	81	elected
Netherlands	FOBID, Netherlands Library Forum	Mr Charles Noordam Substitute: Ms Marian Koren	102	elected

Country	Association	Name	Nbr of votes	Result
Spain	FESABID, Federación Española de Sociedades de Archivística, Biblioteconomía, Documentación y Museística Spanish Federation of Archives, Libraries, Documentation and Museum Associations	Ms Alicia Sellés Carot Substitutue: Ms Glòria Pérez-Salmerón	126	elected
Sweden	Svensk Biblioteksörening Swedish Library Association	Ms Ulrika Domellöf-Mattsson	86	elected
UK	CILIP, The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals	Mr Guy Daines Substitute: Mr Simon Edwards	120	elected

The 23rd Annual EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference programme was prepared in cooperation with NAPLE and the Library Association of Latvia. The programme of the conference "*Building a Europe of Readers*" highlighted the role libraries play in reading development and how they help citizens to access information and knowledge in all formats, as well as making libraries more visible to the European Institutions. The theme of the conference was based on the key-priorities of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union: involvement, growth and sustainability.

The conference was attended by 92 participants³⁰ of which a large number of library and information science students and 548 people followed the conference via online streaming³¹.

3b) Executive Committee

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

- 07 May 2015, Riga (Latvia).
- 07-08 September 2015, Berlin (Germany)
- 05-06 November 2015, Luxembourg (Luxembourg).
- 22–23 February 2016, Valencia (Spain).

Minutes of these meetings have been shared with EBLIDA Members through the 24th Council's secure website.

3c) Secretariat

The EBLIDA team comprises of:

- Vincent Bonnet, EBLIDA Director (permanent position) is chief representative of EBLIDA externally in hearings, conferences and meetings in Europe and has been taken a stronger participation in the writing of core documents and statements produced by the expert groups and task force.
- Majella Cunnane, EBLIDA Administrative Officer (permanent position) is working on a part time basis of 20 hours per week. Her main tasks lie in the membership monitoring and administrative tasks as well as in running the office. She is bilingual in the English and Dutch languages.

³⁰ Out of 138 registered people.

³¹ 548 online streaming from individual IP addresses.

- Sophie Felföldi, EBLIDA Communication Officer, is a contracted consultant in charge of managing EBLIDA communication, maintenance of the website, mailing lists and other communication tools. A free-lancer was renewed for six months as of January 2016 for 15 hours a week. Over the past year, Sophie developed the new format of the Newsletter.

3d) Expert groups

Expert Groups, Task Forces and Working Groups provide advice and recommendations to the Executive Committee, President and Director and help decide on actions on various points related to their area of expertise.

- Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL)

The EGIL provides expert input, advice and (where possible) representation for EBLIDA's policy and activity concerning copyright and related rights. The Group's work is fundamental to EBLIDA's core activity to advocate for reform to EU legislation in pursuance of making access to knowledge widely available. Highlights from EGIL's 2015-16 activity include:

- The Executive Committee appointed Barbara Stratton (UK) as EGIL Chair in September 2015 to succeed Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson (SE)³². The Group's first meeting led by the new Chair took place in October 2015 in London.

New guidelines were created, approved by the EC in its Luxembourg meeting (5-6 November 2015), and are accessible online at <http://tinyurl.com/jp8ez54>.

- With the backing of the Group, EBLIDA was represented by Director Vincent Bonnet at two WIPO SCCR meetings and its General Assembly to publicly support the IFLA and ICA³³ led campaign for an international instrument to establish a global normative copyright exceptions and limitations framework for libraries and archives. EBLIDA's presence at WIPO meetings is of particular importance to the campaign given the EU's strong opposition to the proposal.

- During the year the Director had met with Commission officials and MEPs on a number of occasions concerning copyright reform. At the EGIL's instigation, EBLIDA representatives also met Commissioner Guenther Oettinger and Vice-President Andrus Ansip, the two Commissioners responsible for copyright and the EU Digital Single Market, in December 2015. Both Commissioners acknowledged the importance of the work of European libraries, recognising that they are vital players in Europe's information society. The meetings were generally positive and substantive and useful discussions took place.

- In 2016, the Group began developing two major resources on EU Member State copyright exceptions harmonisation and on existing national legislation examples that can be cited in support of EU copyright reform. This is an ongoing project and the intention is that these resources should be maintained and in time extended for input from all EBLIDA

³² See EBLIDA Newsletter Oct 2015 <http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=e89f2b03e1c5beec6e43581dd&id=eedc3f274f>

³³ International Council on Archives.

member associations of countries not yet represented. Initially the EGIL aims to use these resources to assist it in providing the Commission with textual recommendations for legislation in the upcoming EU copyright reform proposals expected in the autumn of 2016.

- Expert Group on Culture and Information Society (EGCIS)

The remit of this expert group has been revisited. The EC has agreed new guidelines which focus on libraries and literacies. This will build on the work of EGCIS members, Vincent Bonnet and Marian Koren within the ELINET project, reported on elsewhere in the Annual Report. It covers not only reading and writing, but the “higher” literacies including information literacy and digital literacy, and also financial literacy and health literacy. An early focus for the Expert Group in 2016 will be in identifying and articulating the contribution of libraries and skilled librarians in supporting the development of these literacies especially within marginalised communities. The Expert Group will be seeking new members with an interest and expertise in libraries and literacies. The name EGCIS will also change to better reflect its new focus.

- E-Books Task Force

There were no E-Books Task Force meetings over the year. The Task Force has been disbanded officially as of February 2016, as decided during the Valencia EC Meeting. E-books issues are absorbed into the work of the EC with the support of EGIL.

- Working Group on Finance and Membership

Created during the Valencia EC meeting in February 2016, the group aims to make suggestions to the EC to attract new sources of funding and increase income and membership.

It is composed of 3 EC members: Charles Noordam (Chair), Jean-Marie Reding (Treasurer) and Stefano Parise.

The group started its work and is looking to produce a first set of recommendations for the EC meeting in Autumn of 2016.

4. Cooperation

EBLIDA maintained high-level cooperation with library organisations and other groups.

4a) Strengthen Libraries cooperation and coordination

One of EBLIDA’s strategic priorities in 2013-2016 was to pool resources of library organisations in Europe. Although the European library organisations landscape hasn’t changed much over the past year, improved coordination of the library organisations activities have been achieved by setting up a common mailing list, intelligence sharing and joint declarations.

Strong cooperation between EBLIDA and other organisations such as IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) and LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche) on the issue of copyright reform has been extended to other partners in order to speak with one coordinated voice at EU level and to advance the library’s position on the European Union agenda. We are gathering the views and expertise of the partners such as the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), Europeana, and other European

wide bodies such as Public Libraries 2020 to also include the diversity of the issues libraries are facing going beyond copyright.

New relationships have been built with national library associations for joint projects, such as with the Library Association of Latvia in organising the Library Advocacy for EU and data collection on non-formal and informal activities in Public Libraries.

Coordination of the work with NAPLE (National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe) is ongoing with the annual EBLIDA-NAPLE conference and related meetings.

4b) Cooperation with other organisations

EBLIDA maintains coordination with a lot of other partners, for instance, Copyright for Creativity where libraries have a strong representation.

Meanwhile, EBLIDA also maintains regular contact with other stakeholders especially with the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), the European Writers Council (EWC) and the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF).

These are not the only organisations with which EBLIDA has contact, but those are the most important stakeholders with which direct contacts are ongoing.

Annual Report 2015 – 2016: Conclusion

The Annual Report 2015 – 2016 reflects the work achieved at EBLIDA between 1 May 2015 and 30 April 2016. The content refers to activities taking place in the previous year in relation to the Work Programme 2015 – 2016, and the implementation of the EBLIDA strategy 2013-2016.

Lobbying and advocacy cannot successfully be achieved in isolation. Over the last year, EBLIDA built further on intelligence with its natural partners that are the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Ligue des bibliothèques européennes (LIBER), the Public libraries 2020 programme of the Reading and Writing Foundation, the National Authorities for Public Libraries in Europe (NAPLE) and Europeana.

While the focus of the association is still copyright, and despite the fact that it is known for that, it has become more and more obvious that building alliances helps the association to gain broader recognition and success. EBLIDA is working for the benefit of the whole library spectrum, whether it is public, university or national, as well as for librarians and the general information and documentation profession.

Building alliances and sharing intelligence is one of the reasons why EBLIDA is embedded into WIPO discussions. At this global forum, EBLIDA offers additional support to IFLA's work and helps debunk some myths surrounding European library practices. EBLIDA's participation at WIPO goes beyond mere (joint) public statements, since it also is of benefit to further nurture discussions within the European Union, especially with regard to the cross-border nature of access to content and knowledge sharing through libraries.

EBLIDA provided an important contribution to the ELINET project (see chapter 1ci). Not only did EBLIDA offer substantial organisation of the ELINET work on specific topics (such as for instance creating elevator pitch models and trainings), it also integrated together with Dublin's Local Government Management Agency, LGMA, resulting in the provision of an e-pack for libraries. This gathered all relevant information within the ELINET project pertaining to libraries. EBLIDA therefore played a strong role in communicating and raising awareness on ELINET and its work.

The organising of a dedicated event on advocacy in cooperation with the Latvian library association, Library Advocacy 4 EU, demonstrated EBLIDA's ability to gather representatives from different EU countries and work together on common advocacy tools, improve knowledge about what EBLIDA is doing, and created a good network atmosphere that deepened the sense of belonging to the same library community.

All of these actions are of course supported by a lot of meetings and information delivered to the Members of the European Parliament throughout the year. Likewise, a close follow-up with the European Commission staff on Copyright reform and meetings with

Commissioners and their cabinet staffs are demonstrating the ability of EBLIDA to reach EU's highest level despite its limited human and financial capacities.

After the release of the Annual Report 2015-2016, EBLIDA will be on its way to its 25th anniversary. We are confident that our members, in recognition of our work, will make this 25th year a success for the European library, information and documentation community.

- END -