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

1 May 2016 - 30 April 2017
The EBLIDA Annual Report 2016 – 2017 covers the period 1 May 2016 – 30 April 2017. It was approved by the 25th EBLIDA Council, Aarhus (Denmark), 03 May 2017.
The Annual Report 2016 – 2017 covers the period from 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2017. It is produced by the President, the Executive Committee and the Director with the support of the Secretariat and input from the Expert Groups and Working Groups and approved in its final form at the 25th Council in May 2017.

The content of the Annual Report refers to activities taking place in the previous year in relation to the Work Programme 2016-2017. The structure of the report broadly corresponds to the areas defined in the Strategy and the Work Programme and testifies to the results of EBLIDA’s achievements by 30 April 2017. It is the first of 3 reports implementing the Strategy 2016-2019.

From its Strategy 2016-2019 EBLIDA aims at being “A strong European library and information community enabling an equitable, sustainable and well-informed European civil society.

Our goals are to:

- act as the voice of associations and institutions of the library, archive, documentation and information management sectors in Europe;
- strengthen library and information institutions in Europe;
- enable the citizens of Europe to fully participate in modern society;
- prioritise work on copyright, lending and literacy.

We achieve them by:

- encouraging cooperation between library and information associations and institutions in Europe as well as at international level;
- influencing national and European strategies and policies.

EBLIDA represents 110+ library, information, documentation and archive member organisations in 36 countries in Europe and relies on a network of 70,000+ libraries at the service of European citizens.

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1 EBLIDA Work Programme 2016-2017 was presented and approved during the Annual Council 2016 and accessible under the Council member area after log in.
For 25 years, EBLIDA has been tirelessly lobbying for libraries. Despite Brexit demonstrating the struggle for European societies to stay united in diversity\(^2\), EBLIDA believes in a common future for the broader European library community, including the United Kingdom\(^3\).

We strive for frequent representation in Brussels, to monitor and influence library related activities at EU level. We also represent the sector at high level professional conferences and of course we maintain regular contact with our members all of which will be outlined further on in this report.

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

\(^2\) United in diversity (in Latin *In Varietate Concordia*) is the official motto of the EU, see [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/motto_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/motto_en).

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 139,813 Euro (2016 expenditure).

Executive Committee comprises 10 representatives from full member organisations.

EBLIDA President is Jukka Relander (Consultant) since 7 May 2015.

The policy areas are led by the Expert Group for Information Law and the Literacies Expert Group (replacing the previous Expert Group on Culture and Information Society).

EBLIDA is a member of IFLA and Copyright for Creativity.

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European Union, Interest Representative Register ID: 32997432484-79
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 Lëtzebuerger Bibliothekären, Archivisten an Dokumentalisten (Luxembourgish Librarian, Archivist and Documentalist Association).

Substitute: Estelle Beck, ALBAD, Luxembourg.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

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

Mr Guy Daines, United Kingdom.
CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals).
Substitute: Mr Simon Edwards, CILIP, United Kingdom is no more a substitute since March 2017.

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

Ms Christa Müller, Austria.
VÖB, Vereinigung österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare (Austrian Association of Librarians).
Mr Charles Noordam, The Netherlands.
VOB - Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheeken (Netherlands Public Library Association).

Substitute: Marian Koren, FOBID (Netherlands Library Forum), Netherlands is no more a substitute since January 2017.

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 Museísta (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).

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, United Kingdom.

WORKING GROUP

CHAIR OF WORKING GROUP ON FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP:
Mr Jean-Marie Reding, ALBAD, Luxembourg replacing since 24 February 2017 Mr Charles Noordam, VOB, the Netherlands.
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1. MISSION ACTIVITIES

1A) LOBBYING AND MONITORING

2016 and 2017 have been placed under the sign of the European Copyright reform with the European Union submitting its proposals for a Copyright Directive in the Digital Single Market and legislation on the implantation of the Marrakesh Treaty for Visually Impaired People.

As well as this core activity, EBLIDA maintains pressure on the question of e-lending, and pursues its work at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). It also achieved the shift from culture and information society issues towards literacies as addressed by a dedicated expert group. Related topics such as the question of migrants was also looked at. EBLIDA either individually or in partnerships substantially increased the number of published statements and press releases, created briefing papers on specific issues and answered public consultations. It also looked back at its history and compiled information into an online brochure.

I) COPYRIGHT AND OTHER LEGAL ISSUES

- Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market


The Directive proposals contains 47 recitals and 23 articles, of which two

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have caught most attention from different parties, namely article 11 on a new neighboring right for press publishing and article 13 on upload filtering.

However, the focus of the library sector revolves mainly around the following articles:

- Article 3 on text and data mining;
- Article 4 on illustration for teaching;
- Article 5 on preservation for Cultural Heritage institutions (CHI’s);
- Article 7 to 9 on out of commerce works.

In addition to coordinating the work and issuing joint statements (see item iv further down), the library and cultural heritage community organised many face to face meetings with European Commission representatives and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), and are following up closely with the different committees in charge of the copyright dossier in the EU Parliament. Those are:

- The Legal Affairs (JURI) Committee, lead committee, rapporteur MEP Therese Comodini Cachia (EPP, Malta).
- The Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), rapporteur MEP Catherine Stihler (S&Ds, United Kingdom).
- The Committee on Culture and Education (CULT), rapporteur MEP Marc Joulaud (EPP, France).
- The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), rapporteur MEP Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR, Poland).
- The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), rapporteur MEP Michał Boni (EPP, Poland).

Each committee published a draft opinion that is then subject to amendments that will be compiled into a final document from the leading committee (JURI) before a vote in a Plenary meeting at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

EBLIDA and its partners study the opinions and suggest changes for the benefit of the sector to the MEPS. They communicate their views through face to face meetings and with the organisation or participants at events to raise awareness on issues libraries are facing with the current copyright reform. Reports were published in press releases and in the newsletters.

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7 Committees have published their opinion respectively as follow: CULT Opinion, 6 February 2017; IMCO Opinion, 20 February 2017; ITRE Opinion, 02 March 2017; JURI Opinion, 08 March 2017; the LIBE Opinion was not yet published.

8 A timeline (subject to changes) identifying the major dates for votes is accessible here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B76ETmnNY36TNGRlWTc4MnN5Rlk/view, Consulted 12 April 2017.
As an example, on 22nd of February 2017, EBLIDA and MaLIA organised a visit of the National Library of Malta in Valletta and invited Maltese MEPs to join. The visit was followed-up by round-table discussion on the Copyright Directive Proposal of the EU Commission with the participation of MEP Therese Comodini Cachia⁹, rapporteur for the JURI Committee (leading the committee for the Copyright Directive in the European Parliament).

The most recent event, Over 100 million library users in the EU: how can copyright help them?¹⁰ was organised on March 15th at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. It gathered experts from libraries and Cultural Heritage Institutions as well as MEPs and their assistants, political advisors and other interested guests aiming at discussing rules that foster creativity and innovation, support improved access to knowledge and Europe’s diverse cultural heritage and set out a path towards a copyright reform that will empower Europe's over 100 million library users.

- **Marrakesh Treaty Implementation in the European Union**

The Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled¹¹ (aka Marrakesh Treaty) was adopted by the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh, on June 27, 2013.

It allows people with print disabilities to make accessible copies of books to which they have lawful access, or for “authorised entities” such as libraries to do so on their behalf, without having to seek the agreement of right holders and with no mandatory requirement to pay compensation. The aim is to increase the overall supply of books in accessible format for the print disabled by facilitating the work of those who produce such formats. The Treaty also allows authorised entities to supply copies of these books across borders. This treaty aim at solving the so-called Book Famine¹².

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¹² People with print disabilities only have access to a tiny percentage (less than 7%) of all the books on the market.
In September 2016, as part of the copyright reform package, the European Commission proposed a draft Directive\(^{13}\) and Regulation\(^{14}\) on the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, both of which are now under discussion at the Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

Additionally, the Opinion A-3/15\(^{15}\) of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 14 February clearly established that the EU has full competence to ratify the Treaty on behalf of all Member States.

EBLIDA has been working closely with IFLA to ensure that the Marrakesh Treaty is ratified quickly and effectively in Europe. However, to circumvent the political obstacles to effective ratification, EBLIDA called on its members to take action at their national level to ensure that both government and MEPs are aware of what libraries and partner organisations need. A substantive group of EBLIDA members actively relay the information to their governments, and help advocate on this core issue.

To date, the process is still ongoing with upcoming meetings to be held at Council level, the more secretive EU institutions, by the end of April.

- E-books and e-lending

Soon after the EBLIDA annual Council meeting, on 16 June 2016, Advocate General (AG) Szpunar of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in the case of VOB v Stichting Leenrecht (C174/15) published his opinion that the lending of electronic books is comparable to the lending of traditional books. It followed that the general regime of the lending right, which provides in particular for fair remuneration for authors under the public lending exception, is applicable. EBLIDA, IFLA and PL2020 welcomed the AG opinion with a press release\(^{16}\).

The AG opinion was confirmed by the judges of the CJEU in their ruling of 10 November 2016\(^{17}\) underlining that library lending of electronic books (e-books) may, under certain conditions, be treated in the same way as library lending of paper books. EBLIDA issued a statement\(^{18}\) on 16 November mentioning that “the legal framework for library lending in


Europe needs amendment to ensure that library users’ right to read includes the ‘right to e-read’, so that they can borrow books from libraries in any format, including remotely. EBLIDA calls upon the European Parliament and the European Commission to act swiftly to holistically address the issue of e-lending at EU level and for Member States to apply the Court ruling to their legislation without delay”.

Despite the ruling, the situation for member states remains unclear. In that context, EBLIDA issued on 19 January 2017 a briefing on the e-lending judgement of the CJEU\(^{19}\) with the aim to shed some light on a topic that, until now, is still controversial. This briefing has been created under the form of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) style to improve understanding among EBLIDA members and the broader EBLIDA community. Considering that the situation would still need legal certainty to achieve a sound e-lending functioning within the European Union, EBLIDA continues to push for the inclusion of the issue into the Copyright in the DSM proposal (see item previous item on Copyright reform).

- **WIPO SCCR**

EBLIDA continues its participation at World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Standing committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) in Geneva (Switzerland).

Over the year, library representation has grown and covered a wide range of different organisations coming from all corner of the world.

The discussions at WIPO SCCR remain fundamental as they address copyright issues from a global point of view and interact closely with discussions at European and National levels.

Activities of libraries and archives at global level and in cross-border environments are highlighted by library delegations organising\(^ {20}\) or participating\(^ {21}\) at events to


\(^{20}\) IFLA organised at WIPO SCCR 32 an event *Shelves to Servers: Digital content in Libraries and Archives* where speakers made the case that licensing is not the answer to the issues libraries and archives are currently facing.

\(^{21}\) The Library delegation attended a side event on Public Lending Right where Erna Winters (former EBLIDA board member) made a very good talk about PLR being wrongly taking out of library budget in the Netherlands and not being the best option for increasing readership. She notably referred to the fact that while library lending are decreasing, rightholders are starting to ask for higher remuneration level.
inform WIPO delegates about the need for setting minimum norms for libraries and archives worldwide.

Further to the proposal on 12 July 2016 of WIPO Director General Francis Gurry to appoint Mrs Sylvie Forbin to the position of WIPO Deputy Director General of Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, the library delegation issued a statement underlining the issues Mrs Forbin would face, especially the need to take a *carefully balanced approach to benefit the public interest, taking account of the needs of rights holders, users, research and education, thus reflecting the goals of copyright itself*\(^2\).

Mrs Forbin’s appointment was confirmed at the WIPO Coordination Committee, in its 72\(^{nd}\) Session on September 12, 2016 in Geneva.

During WIPO SCCR 32 and 33\(^2\), the large delegation of libraries and archives provided substantial content to the WIPO delegates on the remaining 6 of the 11 topics\(^2\). EBLIDA in particular produced statements\(^2\) on: Cross-border, Orphan Works, Limitation on liabilities of libraries and archives; Technological Protection Measures and Contracts.

Changes are expected for future WIPO SCCRs because the chair and vice-chair are changing. Meanwhile, the current treaty on Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives proposed by IFLA since 2011 will be evolving by encompassing museum issues as well and by becoming a Treaty for Libraries, Museums and Archives.

**A WIPO booklet**

EIFL has compiled a booklet of statements by library and archive organisations on how access to knowledge is denied when copyright exceptions stop at the border, or when licensing fails.

The statements were made by librarians and archivists at sessions of WIPO’s Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR).

The statements are from the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), EIFL, the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA), the German Library Association (DBV), the International Council on Archives (ICA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Karisma Foundation, LIBER

\(^2\)[http://www.eblida.org/news/joint-statement-on-ms-forbin-s-nomination-wipo.html]

\(^2\)WIPO SCCR 32 took place from May 09 to 13, 2016, and WIPO SCCR 33 took place from 14 to 18 November 2016.

\(^2\)The 11 topics were: 1/ Preservation, 2/ Rights of reproduction and safeguarding copies, 3/ Legal deposit, 4/ Library lending, 5/ Parallel importations, 6/ Cross-border uses, 7/ Orphan works, retracted and withdraw works, and works out of commerce, 8/ Limitations on liability of libraries and archives, 9/ Technological protection measures, 10/ Contracts, 11/ Right to translate works.

\(^2\)All EBLIDA statements at WIPO are accessible on the [EBLIDA website](http://www.eblida.org/news/joint-statement-on-ms-forbin-s-nomination-wipo.html)
(Association of European Research Libraries), the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA), and the Society of American Archivists (SAA).

The booklet is a valuable resource for policy-makers and government officials concerned with copyright, as well as librarians and archivists involved in copyright advocacy. [http://www.eifl.net/news/new-resource-cross-border-access-knowledge](http://www.eifl.net/news/new-resource-cross-border-access-knowledge)

### II) LITERACIES AND INFORMATION SOCIETY ISSUES

- **Literacies**

Literacies are part of the European cultural and information society issues. After the end of the project for a European Literacy Policy Network, ELINET26, EBLIDA strives to maintain a level of awareness on these issues.

EBLIDA President frequently mentions in his speeches the alarming level of illiteracy in Europe, and events relating to literacy were attended where possible. In addition to the information provided further down under the item EBLIDA Literacies Expert Group, EBLIDA Director attended a Meeting of the EU School Policy Networks on the review of the Key Competences Framework (4-5 April, Brussels).

The event revolved around the need for an update of the 2006 EU Commission Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning27. 140 participants from all over Europe and from different literacy networks participated and exchanged on ways to review it.

During the different workshops, EBLIDA Director underlined the need to include libraries as a partner for lifelong learning activities and literacy issues, referred to the recent (2016) UNESCO Policy Brief on Literacy, Libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals, and also mentioned the need to relate to copyright issues, such as for instance the Panorama Exception and the Illustration for teaching currently under discussion in the copyright in the DSM Directive.

The Review of the 2006 Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning can be done by answering the public consultation28 opened until 19 May 2017. EBLIDA Literacies expert group is now contemplating the need to answer it.

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26 See 1c) European Project, item i.
• **Activities with the Council of Europe**

EBLIDA Director coordinates EBLIDA activities with the Council of Europe that develop policy documents and recommendation to its Member States with a strong focus on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.

As a follow-up to the 3rd Council of Europe Exchange Platform on the Impact of Digitisation on Culture held in Tallinn, Estonia, in September 2016 (see also further down item 1d), the Council set-up an expert group composed 7 people to address the challenges of big data for culture, literacy and democracy and to submit a draft recommendation to be endorsed by the Committee of Ministers to Member States.

Although no public information can be done on the paper, it has been communicated to the relevant Committee and will be finalised at a later stage before the next Council of Europe Exchange Platform on the Impact of Digitisation on Culture scheduled in October in Karlsruhe, Germany.

### III) OTHER LIBRARY-RELATED TOPICS

• **EBLIDA and the issue of refugees**

Following-up on the activities of 2015, EBLIDA submitted on March 3 an application to IFLA International Advocacy Project on the Sustainable Development Goals entitled *What we share in common – A handbook on welcoming refugees in libraries throughout Europe*.

Building on experiences exchanged and lessons learned, the objective of the project is to develop a common handbook on how to address the needs of refugees while highlighting how libraries contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (especially goal 16 and also 4, 5, 10 and 17).

The activities would revolve around sessions with librarians in 4 EU countries impacted by the refugees crises (Belgium, Sweden, Italy and the UK) and at 2 EBLIDA Conferences (DK and probably France) to build on existing experience in the country and to raise awareness on the link to Sustainable Development Goals.

On 21st April 2017, EBLIDA received the answer that its application was not selected for funding.

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29 2 representatives of the Council of Europe, 2 representative of Member-States and of the Committee of Ministers, 3 experts.
IV) LIST OF STATEMENTS, BRIEFINGS AND ANSWERS TO PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Since May 2016, EBLIDA either alone or in coordination with partners has published 19 statements and 2 briefings, as well as several press releases (that sometimes overlap) that are not counted here.
In addition, EBLIDA also answered to 2 public consultation from the European Commission.

See the list of statements, briefings and answers to public consultation presented in chronological order of publication:

- **Statements at WIPO SCCR 32 (09 to 13 May 2016):**
  - Statement by EBLIDA on Orphan Works, retracted and withdrawn works and out of commerce works;
  - Statement by EBLIDA on Cross-border uses;
- **Be Open to Open Science**, statement on Open Science and Open Access to support the Council of the EU declaration, 9 June 2016, [http://www.eblida.org/news/be-open-to-open-science.html](http://www.eblida.org/news/be-open-to-open-science.html);
- **Our Common Future**, statement of support to UK colleagues after Brexit, 05 July 2016, [http://www.eblida.org/news/brexit.html](http://www.eblida.org/news/brexit.html);
- **Towards a modern, more European Copyright Framework**, statement ahead of the publication of the EU Copyright proposals, 6 July 2016,
- **Marrakesh Treaty enters into force in less than three months' time, but Europe’s still not on board**, statement on Marrakesh Treaty (Copyright), 07 July 2016, [http://www.eblida.org/news/marrakesh-treaty-enters-into-force-in-less-than-three-months.html](http://www.eblida.org/news/marrakesh-treaty-enters-into-force-in-less-than-three-months.html);

• Statements at WIPO SCCR 33 (14 to 18 November 2016):
  - Statement by EBLIDA on Limitation on Liabilities;
  - Statement by EBLIDA on Technological Measures of Protection;
  - Statement by EBLIDA on Contracts;


**Briefings**

At the start of 2017, EBLIDA developed briefings freely available online on its website. Those papers aimed at giving concise information on issues that are currently ongoing at EU level and that impact libraries’ missions.


**Public consultations**

• **Public consultation on the role of publishers in the copyright value chain and on the ‘panorama exception’**, Consultation from March to 15 June 2016, answer sent on 15 June;
• Public Consultation on reduced VAT rates for electronically supplied publications, Consultation from 25 July to 19 September, answer sent on 19 September.

V) EBLIDA HISTORY

In 2015 and 2016, EBLIDA opened up its archives to a student from the École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques (ENSSIB, Villeurbanne) who chose to write her master thesis to validate her diploma as head of libraries on the lobbying from library associations at European level.

Building on his previous article available in Wikipedia, and since 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the organisation, Jean-Marie Reding, EBLIDA Treasurer, compiled all available information to create the paper A History of EBLIDA. The first 25 years of the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations that is available on the EBLIDA website at: http://www.eblida.org/Special%20Events/Presentations/eblida-history-the-first-25-years.pdf.

This history gives members and all interested people a comprehensive overview of the reasons why the organisation was created, the work it achieves and its activities.

1B) COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

i) External Communication

EBLIDA’s presence in articles, reviews or books since May 2016:
- Verneuil, A., Innover, in Bibliothèque(s), n.85/86, Octobre 2016;
- Bonnet, V., Eblida, les décideurs, les influences et les relations publiques, in Bibliothèque(s), n°87, Décembre 2016;

30 French Library and Information Science School.

### ii) Newsletter

The *EBLIDA Newsletter* now has 987 subscribers (i.e. increase of 20% over the past year). It is published eleven times a year every second Thursday of the month. Since 2012, there has been a 208% increase in subscribers.

### iii) Fortnightly News Summary

Since 2nd June 2016, EBLIDA provides a new service to its members, the Fortnightly News Summary (FNS).

This information is sent as an email to full and associate members only and consists of a compilation of information on activities undertaken by EBLIDA in the previous two weeks.

It also contains strategic information to mobilise the network and follows up on activities at national level.

By April 30, 2017, 23 FNS was sent to members.

### iv) Website

The website has been updated following changes within the organisation. The items on the website remain unchanged and are updated.

The Knowledge and Information Centre has not been updated since 2015 regarding the data on libraries, but has gained the information from the Survey on Non-Formal and Informal Learning Activities in Public Libraries Across Europe.

The results of the online survey conducted by EBLIDA and the Latvian Library Association between 15 May and 15 July 2016 are available at the address:

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33 On 10 April 2017.
34 EBLIDA home page: [http://www.eblida.org](http://www.eblida.org)
Those results can be used for advocacy purposes especially when it comes to demonstrating the role public libraries play in lifelong learning activities.

v) Social Media

a. Blog

http://eblida.tumblr.com/
Created in February 2014 originally as EBLIDA’s Right to E-Read blog. It is now part of the network building effort and progressively shifting towards being a brand building, promotional tool for EBLIDA and for libraries in general. A blog with information on e-books as well as copyright issues and advocacy, this is an online public platform where anybody can post comments. The blog gets lot of visits and currently has 236 followers.

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 keep up with our community. To date, it has 1603 followers and continues to grow.

c. Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/Eblida
There is increasing social pressure to use Facebook. We use it to share information on EBLIDA’s work, events, ideas and goals; to engage and communicate with people and to generate traffic to EBLIDA’s website. To date, we have reached 1,051 followers compared to 696 in 2016.

36 Consulted on 28 April 2017.
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d. Pinterest

http://www.pinterest.com/eblida/
This interactive bulletin board is used for social broadcasting and to build a community of people (potential members) who share the same interests as EBLIDA.

e. Flickr

https://www.flickr.com/photos/eblida/albums
To show the activities of our organisation, we share photos of EBLIDA’s meetings and conferences with members and the general public.
Special thanks to our Treasurer, J.-M. Reding, for providing most of the pictures.

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

1C) PROJECT

i) Library Advocacy 4 EU survey on non-formal and informal training activities in Libraries in the European Union

The Library advocacy for EU project has been a twofold project: a gathering in February 2016 to exchange experiences on advocacy and share best practices and ideas (see Annual report 2015-2016), and a survey on non-formal and informal learning activities in public libraries in Europe.

The aim of the survey was to demonstrate that all over Europe, libraries offer non-formal and informal learning activities and tend to have developed expertise in these matters, though the topic has not yet been studied in depth.

While the European Commission is developing an interest in these questions related to learning outside of traditional curricula, linking national pilot survey to the European scale could be a way forward to having libraries recognised as central places on those matters, in addition to their other proven and recognised core activities of providing access to information and knowledge.
The survey focussed on both quantitative figures and qualitative evidence:

- Numbers of trained individuals and numbers of non-formal & informal learning events;
- Non-formal training target groups;
- Scope of partnerships with third parties in non-formal training;
- Validation and certification of non-formal learning outcomes;
- Information about most important non-formal educational offer and training programmes delivered by public libraries;
- Impact of non-formal and informal learning activities on citizens and communities.

The results of the survey show that libraries in Europe create & provide numerous opportunities for non-formal and informal learning activities.

1,413 libraries responded to the survey (partial completion) and a total of 453 libraries completed the survey, providing sufficient data to demonstrate the importance of services provided by local libraries, how libraries serve communities, meet their needs and add considerable value to people's life by providing guidance from trained librarians and support lifelong learning activities.

1D) CONFERENCE, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

i) Culture 4 D, 3rd multi-stakeholder Platform on Culture and Digitisation of the Council, Tallinn, Estonia, 28 September to 1 October 2016;

Culture 4D: Digitization, Data, Disruptions, Diversity was the 3rd Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation.

The conference rationale was based on an understanding that the new digital and networked infrastructures should be used to reinforce access to and participation in an open culture, thereby strengthening democracy. The conference focussed on some of the opportunities and challenges that are emerging in relation to digitisation of culture and management of cultural data.

EBLIDA Director participated at panel 3 on day 1 on public (cultural institutions) – private (online & ICT industries) co-operation, giving a short talk about how libraries partner with all kinds of stakeholders.

37 The threshold below which the survey result couldn’t have been acceptable was of 425 (CALCULATED SAMPLE SIZE ACCORDING TO Sample size calculator FROM CREATIVE RESEARCH SYSTEMS)

High-level representatives of the European Parliament and the Commission attended the opening of the exhibition opened by HRH Laurentien of the Netherlands and the Commissioner for Education and Culture, **Tibor Navracsics** seeing libraries as beacons of our society.

The exhibition provided many examples of different activities related to coding, digital skills, robotics etc. taking place in libraries.

5 MEPs hosted the event and were present at the opening: **Antanas Guoga** from Lithuania, **Eva Paunova** from Bulgaria, **Michal Boni** from Poland and **Sean Kelly** from Ireland and **Catherine Stihler** who officially launched the **MEP library lover group** who are ambassadors who believe that libraries support literacy and lifelong learning, build communities, are the great equaliser, protect our right to know, promote authors and reading for pleasure.

3 EC members participated (Vice-President Barbara Lison, Treasurer Jean-Marie Reding and Steen Bording Andersen) and the EBLIDA Director.

On 19 October, PL2020 and partners organised the event **Copyright Reform - The exceptions that prove the rule** hosted by **Therese Comodini-Cachia** (Malta) rapporteur for the Copyright Directive proposal of the EU Commission, Catherine Stihler (UK) and **Kaja Kallas** (Estonia).

The panellists were Erna Winters (Kennemerwaard Public Library), Ben White (British Library), Stuart Hamilton (IFLA) and Inge van Nieuwerbergh (University Library of Gent).

iii) **Convegno Stelline**, Milan, Italy, 16-17 March 2017;

On the invitation of the organisers, EBLIDA Director gave a presentation on **European Policies for an Open Library** underlining the importance of free access to information and knowledge through libraries. He underlined the challenges and opportunities posed by the functioning of the European Union, the development of digital technologies, the current agenda on research and innovation (especially in relation to open access and open science) and the current copyright reform. He concluded with the fact that the Open Library is not a given and needs the commitment of all to become a reality.
During day 2, EBLIDA Director also participated in a round table discussion on the CJEU ruling on e-lending and the developments in Europe.

iv) Conference attendance and other presentations

The President represented EBLIDA at the following events and presented EBLIDA’s work:
- IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Columbus, Ohio, USA, 13-20 August 2016;
- Presentation "Copyright - who's right is it?", 41. General Assembly and Conference of Croatian Library Association, Primošten, Croatia, 12-14 October 2016;
- Presentation at Annual meeting of the Library Association of Peru, Lima, Peru, 8-10 November 2016;
- Presentation at AIB Annual Conference, Rome, Italy, 24-25 November 2016;
- Meeting of German-Speaking Library Associations, The Hague, Netherlands, 22-23 March 2017;
- Presentation at the Irish Library Congress, Dublin, Ireland, 31 March 2017;
- IFLA Presidential Meeting, Athens, Greece, 3-4 April 2017.

The Director represented EBLIDA at the following events, as well as those already mentioned in this Annual Report:
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) 32, Geneva, Switzerland, 10-13 May 2016;
- Literary heritage - from the letter to the digital library, Brussels, Belgium, 24 May 2016;
- ABF Congress, Clermont-Ferrand, France, 08-11 June 2016;
- Copyright round table, Bucharest, Romania, 30 June 2016;
- IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Columbus, Ohio, USA, 13-20 August 2016;
- Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy, Council of Europe Presentation, Brussels, Belgium, 14 October 2016;
- Generation Code, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 18-19 October 2016;
- World Intellectual Property Organisation, Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) 33, Geneva, Switzerland, 14-18 November 2016;
- AIB Annual Conference, Rome, Italy, 24-25 November 2016;
- Council of Europe 3rd Platform on Digitisation, Paris, France, 2nd December 2016;
- Council of Europe 3rd Platform on Digitisation, Paris, France, 20 January 2017;
- The Library of the Future, round table with MEP Comodini Cachia, Valletta, Malta, 22 February 2017;
- The Open Library, Presentation, Convegno Stelline, Milan, Italy, 16 March 2017.
• E-lending round table discussion, Convegno Stelline, Milan, Italy, 17 March 2017;
• Meeting of German-Speaking Library Associations, The Hague, Netherlands, 22-23 March 2017;
• Meeting of the EU School Policy Networks on the review of the key competences framework, Brussels, Belgium, 04-05 April 2017;
• PL2020 Advocacy Lab meeting and EU Parliament breakfast on Libraries, Brussels, Belgium, 24-25 April 2017
• The Open Library, Presentation at MOA conference, Karlstad, Sweden, 26-28 April 2017.

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

• Steen Bording Andersen (EC member):
  o Generation Code, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 18-19 October 2016;

• Barbara Lison (Vice-President):

• Ulrika Domellöf-Mattsson (EC member):

• Jean-Marie Reding (EBLIDA EC member):
  o Generation Code, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 18-19 October 2016;

• Charles Noordam (EC member):

Representation by other representatives:

• Barbara Stratton (Chair of EGIL):

• Marit Vestlie (Member of EBLIDA Literacies):
  o Meeting of the Media Literacy Expert Group, Brussels, Belgium, 15 November 2016.
2. MEMBERS

2A) EBLIDA MEMBERS

EBLIDA is a membership-based organisation, focusing on library organisations and associations from both EU and non-EU member states. Over the past year, there has been an increase in membership numbers from 109 in April 2016 to 118 at the end of April 2017. EBLIDA’s membership consists of 44 Full Members (down 2 from last year), 74 Associate Members (up 11 from last year) distributed over 36 countries on the European Continent and each European Union Member State is represented by at least one Full Member.

By 30th April 2017, EBLIDA has 3 sponsors, including OCLC from last year’s conference.

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

Number of paying members by category
2016
Associate Members 63%
Full Members 37%

Income by membership category
2016
Associate Members 33%
Full Members 67%

EBLIDA acquired 12 new members since May 2016:
- **1 New Full Member**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RO</th>
<th>National Association of Public Libraries and libraries in Romania</th>
<th>May 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The EBLIDA Annual Report 2016 – 2017 covers the period 1 May 2016 – 30 April 2017. It was approved by the 25th EBLIDA Council, Aarhus (Denmark), 03 May 2017.
- **11 Associate Members:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Code</th>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LT</td>
<td>National Library of Lithuania</td>
<td>May-16</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>Randers Public Library</td>
<td>May-16</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>Aalborg City Library</td>
<td>May-16</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Milan City Libraries</td>
<td>June-16</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>Herning Central Library</td>
<td>June-16</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Free University Berlin</td>
<td>Jan-17</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Munich Public Library</td>
<td>Feb-17</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>Viborg Bibliotekerne</td>
<td>Mar-17</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Consorzio Sistema Bibliotecario Nord Ovest Italy</td>
<td>Mar-17</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>BNU Bibliothèque Nationale et Universitaire de Strasbourg</td>
<td>Apr-17</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Oslo and Akerhus University of Applied Sciences, Learning Centre and Library</td>
<td>Apr-17</td>
<td>€ 519,19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 cancellations (by request and subject to approval by the Council) effective in 2017 have been received from 2 Full Members as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Code</th>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>HK/Kommunal</td>
<td>Canceling for 2017, received e-mail cancellation before 30/06/16.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>HK/Stat</td>
<td>Canceling for 2017, received e-mail cancellation before 30/06/16.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### 2B) MEMBERSHIP FEES

For the year 2017, the membership stayed the same as 2014, 2015 and 2016, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>ANP Turnover €</th>
<th>Non-Dutch Members Total due</th>
<th>Dutch Members Total due inc. VAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: Full member</td>
<td>0 - 25,000</td>
<td>624,55</td>
<td>633,85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: Full member</td>
<td>25,001 - 100,000</td>
<td>1,523,18</td>
<td>1,532,48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: Full member</td>
<td>100,001 - 250,000</td>
<td>2,750,31</td>
<td>2,759,61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D: Full member</td>
<td>250,001 - 350,000</td>
<td>3,909,26</td>
<td>3,918,56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E: Full member</td>
<td>350,001 - 500,000</td>
<td>5,006,22</td>
<td>5,015,52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: Full member</td>
<td>500,001 or more</td>
<td>5,948,26</td>
<td>5,957,56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G: Associate member</td>
<td>519,19</td>
<td>528,49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H: Bronze Sponsor</td>
<td>€ 750</td>
<td>€ 750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I: Silver Sponsor</td>
<td>€ 1600</td>
<td>€ 1600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

3A) COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE

The 24th Annual EBLIDA Council meeting was held on 9 May 2016 in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Council meeting welcomed 35 people representing 32, i.e. 22 representatives of Full Members and 10 Associate Members representatives, which included 10 members of the Executive Committee, 1 Expert Group chair.

The Hague Council minutes were approved by the Executive Committee during the Roma meeting in November 2016 for posting to members. The minutes have been uploaded on the member web space online to be approved at the 25th Annual Council meeting in Aarhus (Denmark) on 03 May 2017.

The 24th Annual EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference programme was prepared in cooperation with NAPLE and FOBID (the Netherlands Library Forum). The programme of the conference "Empowering Europe! Libraries opening up new perspectives" was inspired by the EU-presidency themes, especially the Union’s aim to empower and protect all citizens, and accommodated libraries’ actual topics and concerns of opening up libraries to the outside world.

The conference was attended by 88 participants from 26 countries in Europe (22 EU and 4 non EU).

3B) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

- 09 May 2016, The Hague (The Netherlands).
- 22-23 November 2016, Roma (Italy).
- 22–24 February 2017, Valletta (Malta).

Minutes of these meetings have been shared with EBLIDA Members through the 25th 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. He has been taken a stronger participation in the writing of core documents and statements.
- 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.
- Sophie Felföldi, EBLIDA Communication Officer, is a contracted consultant working on a part time basis in managing EBLIDA communication, maintenance of the website, mailing lists and other communication tools.

### 3D) EXPERT GROUPS

Expert Groups 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 representation for EBLIDA’s policy and activity concerning copyright and related rights.

Between May 2016 and April 2017, the group met 3 times in London to develop positions on the on-going copyright reform, to work on WIPO issues and look into national developments in several countries in Europe.

The group continued the development of resources on EU Member State copyright exceptions harmonisation and on existing national legislation examples and helped out in drafting policy documents for endorsement by the EBLIDA Executive Committee.

Among its activities, the group especially with the help of its chair and the EBLIDA Director, developed a briefing paper on the CJEU ruling in VOB vs Stichting Leenrecht on e-lending.

The chair and the Director also participate actively in the copyright coordination group that is instrumental in the lobbying and advocacy activities in Brussels (see also item 4a cooperation).

#### EBLIDA Literacies Expert Group

As announced at the last EBLIDA Council the Expert Group has now changed its name and has formally become the EBLIDA Literacies Expert Group. This reflects its focus on literacy matters, not only reading literacy but the other types of empowering literacies such as information, digital and media literacy to name the most common. The Expert Group also

has a new membership reflecting this new focus including experts from seven European countries.

It has proved difficult to meet. However despite this, the Expert Group is putting together an advocacy document aimed at, and for, national library associations when engaging with their governments on the “Upskilling Pathways” agenda. This is a recommendation from the EU (adopted in December 2016) inviting member states to develop national plans to support those adults with basic skills problems. The EBLIDA advocacy document will map what contribution libraries do and could make to this important agenda with some modest extra investment.

During the year one of the Group’s members, Marit Vestlie (Norway), attended a meeting of the EU Media Literacy Expert Group. EBLIDA was the only library organisation present. As well as sharing innovative practices across the wide range of media interests there was also a focus on the need to promote media critical awareness skills in response to the emergence of new political threats to society resulting in such things as the Charlie Hebdo shootings.

Other smaller activities related to the legacy of the ELINET project (The European Literacy Network) and what might follow it. The Group also looked at responding to EU consultation documents of relevance to libraries and literacies.

**Working Group on Finance and Membership**

The group achieved a lot of work this year in reviewing the EBLIDA Constitution and started making proposals to the whole Executive Committee.

It also investigated activities and actions to support a membership campaign, which was then launched after the EC meeting in Rome (Italy) in November 2016 to recruit new members, especially Associate members.

Following the EC meeting in Valletta (Malta), the group originally composed of 3 EC members Charles Noordam, Jean-Marie Reding and Stefano Parise, gained a 4th one, Alicia Selles Carot, and Jean-Marie Reding was appointed chair in replacement of Charles Noordam.

The group is continuing to look for sustainable solutions in terms of membership and finances.
4. COOPERATION

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

4A) MAKING THE SECTOR VISIBLE

The information sector goes beyond libraries. Over the course of the years, it has become increasingly obvious that strengthening our cooperation with our core partners namely IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) and LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche) would provide further gains from reaching out to bodies such as the Europeana and Public Libraries 2020.

The wealth of each of our organisations is better exploited when we share information and organise our work. As a result, we have been able to effectively publish several statements with multiple logos all calling in particular for copyright reform that is beneficial for libraries and cultural heritage institutions, i.e. the whole sector.

All those strong voices build and form a strong representation of the sector that has become more visibility in recent years and whose voices can be heard within the European institutions.

Additionally, EBLIDA continues its work with NAPLE (National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe) in organising the annual EBLIDA-NAPLE conference and related meetings.

4B) COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The library and information sector is not isolated in its work on copyright. For that reason it is vital to maintain connection with partners such as Copyright for Creativity, as well as other stakeholders such as the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), the European Writers Council (EWC) or the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO). From time to time, or when issues permit, EBLIDA can enter into contact with other stakeholders.

The strategy underlines EBLIDA as *the strong voice of the library and information community in Europe*[^39]. And as mentioned in item 4a above, the core of our work is to represent the sector together with our partners. This is in line with the EBLIDA vision of *A strong European Library and information community enabling an equitable, sustainable and well-informed European civil society*[^40].

Throughout the year, EBLIDA participated at lots of events with numerous MEPs, Commission staff and other relevant bodies to increase the visibility of the library, documentation and information sector.

With 2017 being the year of the 25[^41]th anniversary, the association compiled information into an online brochure that gives an introduction to the world of EBLIDA and underlines its value after 25 years of existence.

Whereas the Malta Presidency of the Council of the EU aims to develop the Digital Single Market[^41], the Prime Minister of Estonia, next member state in charge of the Presidency of the Council of the EU, called[^42] for continent unity declaring that “*striving towards a seamless physical and digital connectivity is in the interest of the whole European Union as economic success cannot be separated from the free movement of goods, services, people, capital, and knowledge***.”

To make free circulation of knowledge a reality, the library and cultural heritage communities support real reforms[^43] and a robust, mandatory and user-friendly set of copyright exceptions, strengthening the fight against piracy by providing legitimate alternatives.


[^40]: *Ibid*


The impact of European legislation on copyright is instrumental to the way libraries can effectively function in the 21st century. But Copyright is an intricate web of national, European and international legislation. The Marrakesh Treaty for instance, was first adopted by some WIPO Member States before being discussed in the Europe Union. And the way the EU will vote on it will in return impact on the real effect the treaty will have.

Copyright is not the only issue that has strong ramification with access to information and free circulation of knowledge. Literacies are also very relevant for libraries and key for a well-informed European Civil Societies. That is also the reason why EBLIDA is strongly connected to the Council of Europe, that focusses on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of law, that is without doubt another key player.

In that context, the annual report 2016-2017 demonstrates the crucial importance of the work EBLIDA is achieving at the European level. Soon EBLIDA will open the celebration of its 25th anniversary to take place during the 25th Council and conference in Aarhus Denmark on 3 and 4 May 2017. A celebration that we hope will open a new cycle for the organisation and its members.

- END -