CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF EBLIDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
2021-2024

RAUHA MAARNO

MOTIVATIONAL STATEMENT FOR THE EBLIDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

“I am looking forward to Europe after COVID-19-pandemic and specially to rebuilding the European societies. Libraries play an important role in Europe to strengthen democratic development and foster civilized societies.

Libraries provide access to reading, information, and literature in different languages, as well as public access to computers which is an essential part of digital inclusion.

In EBLIDA I will work for copyright policy issues which are in the core of EBLIDA’s work. I will do my best to support the good work at the office and in the EBLIDA network. In addition to this I would like to develop a common European understanding that people’s access to library services in the future needs to be guaranteed, even in times of crises.”

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Rauha Maarno is currently working as the Executive Director of the Finnish Library Association. At the association she been leading a strategic change towards more active advocacy for public libraries and more up to date image of library work.

Maarno has extensive experience from the library field since 2007 including partnership projects, web services and communications. Her understanding of public libraries, literacy issues and information accessibility is thorough.

With accessibility she worked in the Celia national center for accessible literature and publishing in Finland. Maarno has been leading the transition of more accessible public libraries in Finland and she has originated the national Accessibility Guidelines for Public Libraries in Finland. In her current job as the director of Finnish Library Association she is up to date with international developments concerning accessibility issues including the Marrakesh Treaty.

Maarno has international experience from The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. In addition, she has also worked with state funded development projects for libraries in Tanzania.

During the COVID-19-pandemic Maarno has been active in communicating that it is a necessity that libraries stay open even with limited service. She also originated a study in Finland which provided evidence that the library closings have seriously restricted people’s access to information, literature, and learning.

http://www.eblida.org