THE FUTURE OF THE BOOK

Giuseppe Vitiello, Director
EBLIDA
European Parliament, 21.3.2023
Performance trends

Figure 2. Trends in performance in reading, mathematics and science
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PISA Reports - Germany
Figure 2. Trends in performance in reading, mathematics and science
PISA Reports - France

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PISA Reports - Denmark
THE FUTURE OF THE READING

Reading skills are steady at the best, and declining in many countries

PISA 2020-2021 not available, but in all likelihood they plummeted, as constantly declining library loans demonstrate
Finland
Book loans (2018-2021)

- 17% in two years

Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)

- 34% in two years

Source: EBLIDA Member communication
Norway
Book loans (2018-2021)

- 5% in two years

Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)
Poland
Book loans (2019-2022)

Source: NL Poland (2023)
Germany
Book loans / Million (2011-2021)

- 35% in ten years

Source: DBS
THE FUTURE OF THE READING

1st Recommendation to the Rapporteur:

“Create a permanent infrastructure monitoring reading developments in European public libraries”

E-books/E-audiobooks: 76% in 2018; 71% in 2021

Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)
Norway

e-Audiobooks/e-books: 27% in 2019; 63% in 2021

Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)
Finland

Ebooks/Eaudiobooks: 76% in 2018; 71% in 2021

Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)

+294% in Estonia; NA in Lithuania

EBLIDA Member communication
## Lending vs E-lending in Europe (ph)

<table>
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<tr>
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Source: EBLIDA Handbook on e-lending policies in EU public libraries (2023)
Lending and e-lending in libraries are formidable instruments for promoting books and e-books (818% growth in e-book sales and 201% growth in print sales).

The market for e-loan transactions in libraries is now dramatically low (from 10 to 100 times lower than the number of book loans; in France, 400 times less).
## Lending vs E-lending in Europe (ph)

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<th>Country</th>
<th>(1) E-lending Transactions</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>E-lending Per inhb</th>
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Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)
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Digital literates - “those people who are able to carry out online transactions, pay a bill or use the digital services offered by the public administration” and read e-books (Eurostat)

Digital literates are less than half the European population.
A desperate need for e-lending in Europe
A new Alliance between Publishers and Libraries

Hovering between a Totem (copyright) and a taboo (shared Knowledge)

“Foster the acquisition by libraries of licenses for digital books as soon as they are published”

Let’s meet together on library platforms
The future of the reading book

Recommendations to the Rapporteur:

2) Increase the volume of e-lending transactions in Europe;
3) Reduce regional disparities in e-lending
4) Projects aiming to create a digital ecosystem for e-books (libraries collaborate with publishers);
5) European award for e-lending schemes (public access to information is maximised and creators / honest brokers are fairly remunerated).
THE FUTURE OF THE BOOK

Thank you for attention
European Parliament, 21.3.2023