

The EBLIDA Newsletter is published monthly on European library & information society issues, programmes, news and events of interest to the library, archive and cultural heritage community.

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Forward

The President's Editorial



Dear colleagues,

Autumn brings good news for EBLIDA. We are pleased to make some positive announcements to you about changes on our Executive Board.

Ulrika Domellöf-Mattsson will for the coming time take over the board duties of Anders Söderbäck, who, due to professional reasons, has handed over to Ulrika until further notice. Ulrika is of course very familiar with EBLIDA, having served on our Executive Board from 2009 – 2015, and has been substitute for Anders Söderbäck since his election in 2018.

I'm also honoured to introduce Hella Klauser as new Member of the Executive Committee. Ulrika has already been member of the EBLIDA Executive Committee from 2009 to 2015. Hella is a new Member and replaces Natasha Reip as a representative from Germany.

Ulrika and Hella, welcome (back) onboard!

Librarians are discussing whether SDGs represent a new frame for the "social" library or it is *the* new library frame, also including traditional cultural and educational missions. Whatever their position, I am not afraid of repeating myself: Sustainable Development is not something that is taking place aside or ahead of libraries; it is happening inside of them, and now. And to help European Libraries to attain SDGs, EBLIDA is launching the [EBLIDA SDG European House](#) and its first product: the [EBLIDA Matrix](#).

The EBLIDA SDG European House is a fully-fledged concept according to which EBLIDA will

EUROSTAT indicators. More services linked with the EBLIDA Matrix will be provided in the near future.

Another important step in EBLIDA's progress is the setting up of the EBLIDA [ELSA \(European Libraries and Sustainability Assessment\)](#) Working Group. ELSA works on impact studies – those studies which evaluate libraries and show how important they are for society.

This is only the first of a series of products and services which EBLIDA will launch very soon. Together, we are working for a more sustainable and stronger EBLIDA.

Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President

Welcome to Hella Klauser and Ulrika Domellöf--Mattsson

In its meeting of 7th October 2019, the EC Committee applauded the proposals made by BID ([Bibliothek Information Deutschland](#)) to include **Ms. Hella Klauser** as new EC Member replacing Natasche Reip and to welcome **Ms. Ulrika Domellöf-Mattsson** as acting substitute for Mr. Anders Söderbäck until further notice. Hella and Ulrika will participate in the next EC meeting, which will take place in Riga on 3rd April 2020.



Hella has been involved in library international affairs for many years. She started her career as Director of the Library of the German-American Institute in Heidelberg. She continued her international commitment as Library Director at Goethe Institut in Tokyo and Paris before becoming the Head of the 'Libraries' Department at the Goethe-Institute Headquarters in Munich (2013-2016). Since 2004, she has been responsible for international cooperation within the Network of Excellence for Libraries (KNB) at the German Library Association. Hella has been involved in IFLA work as Secretary of the IFLA-National Committee in Germany and as Member of the Standing Committee in the sections 'Management of Library Associations' and 'Management and Marketing'.

"I am very excited to work for a strong and coordinated lobbying at European level", Hella says. "Lobbying may be done for copyright, involvement in Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030, e-lending and other issues. Library associations and institutions play a central role in these matters and, as representative of the German umbrella association, BID (Bibliothek Information Deutschland), I am very keen to contribute to the future of EBLIDA".

Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson is currently an information specialist / open data manager at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Ulrika has been a member of the national executive committee of the Swedish Library Association for many years and she has also been involved in different national library groups. Earlier, she was head of a network of governmental libraries within the Swedish Library Association. She is now working on a Swedish Strategy for

supporting the new e-management authority in Sweden in their mission to support open data publishing, data driven innovation and Artificial Intelligence. She also supports the Swedish Ministry of Environment with their work to fulfil the [Aarhus Convention](#) – your right to environmental information.



Ulrika, who was in the EBLIDA Executive Committee 2012-18, stated: *“I am happy to be re-engaged in EBLIDA for a while and will continue my efforts regarding copyright issues and a strong library-lobby in Brussels with joint efforts. These issues, as well as connecting the national level to the European level, are questions of importance to the Swedish Library Association (which I represent). I look forward to contribute with and to new ideas in EBLIDA, our navigator in a fast changing world full of information, new technique, obstacles to pass and great opportunities.”*

Ton van Vlimmeren, President EBLIDA stated: *“Hella Klauser and Ulrika Domellöf-Mattsson’s presence in the EBLIDA Executive Committee as Permanent Member will reinforce EC’s action and will ensure that the issues now being prioritised in EBLIDA’s work receive appropriate impulsion at international level”.*

The EBLIDA SDG European House

The [EBLIDA SDG European House](#) is now open.



What is it, and what is it for?

The EBLIDA House is delivering *services* to its own *communities* through their own *tools* and *training* activities.

A house is made by those who live in it. These people are the *communities* of EBLIDA Members as well as the Groups that are supporting EBLIDA in its activities: [EGIL](#) (the Expert Group on Information Law) and [ELSA](#) (European Libraries and Sustainability Assessment).

But libraries do not work in isolation. Today, a great number of European organisations are in the process of building their own SDG House. There is practically no Prime Minister who is not (or claims not to be) putting Sustainable Development at the top of the country’s political agenda. Therefore, communities are public organisations pursuing [Sustainable Goals](#) and implementing the 2030 European agenda. Communities are also private firms whose business value is based, in addition to the loss/profit perspective, on the evaluation of their social and environmental performances – what is called Triple Bottom Line ([TBL](#)).

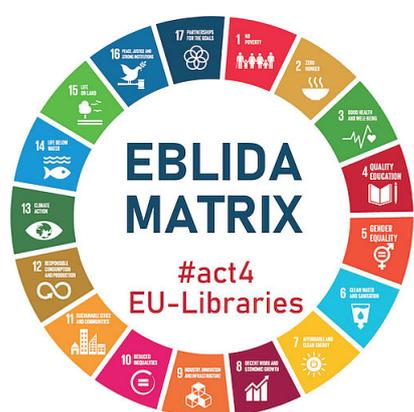
Libraries are per se sustainable agencies. They have to show, however, how well they are implementing SDG policies and for this, they need *tools*. [The EBLIDA Matrix](#) (see article below) is the first tool made available by the EBLIDA SDG European House. For the moment it lists EU programmes implementing SDGs in Europe and their related EUROSTAT indicators. More content will be made available in the near future.

setting up templates and other materials through which they can use existing legislation, incentive policies and socio-economic indicators to shape up library activities implementing SDGs. Services for EBLIDA Members will be made available by the EBLIDA Secretariat in the first half of 2020.

And finally, the EBLIDA SDG European House also provides training on how to implement sustainability and how to report about that.

The first of these trainings will be provided on the occasion of the 28th EBLIDA Conference which deals with the implementation of SDGs in European libraries (Beograd, 23 June 2020).

4. The EBLIDA Matrix



The [EBLIDA Matrix](#) is a comprehensive toolkit which describes, goal after goal and programme after programme:

- a) EU programmes pursuing Sustainable Development Goals which are relevant for libraries; b) EUROSTAT indicators, and related trends, for each of the Goals;
- c) on-going library policies in Europe contributing to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (under construction);
- d) library indicators (under construction).

EBLIDA Matrix works for the library sector, but can also be successfully transferred to other cultural institutions, like museums and archives.

European libraries, and in general, European cultural actors can use the EBLIDA Matrix in three possible ways.

They can use it in order to align their policies to those of other actors also implementing SDG policies. EU programmes set up overarching policies through EU projects. Partnerships with prominent EU actors help libraries out of their isolation. Through EU databases they can find local partners and work effectively for the communities they refer to.

Another possible use of the EBLIDA Matrix is in the assessment of SDG activities in libraries. The impact of these activities is different depending on whether they consist of one-off events or are long-term policies linked to local communities. Their evaluation through [EUROSTAT sustainable indicators](#) provides for objective terms of assessment and sets SDG activities in libraries into the right socio-economic context.

And finally, the EBLIDA Matrix can also be used to raise the profile of a library in European projects. When libraries cooperate with external partners, they achieve full integration into qualified and often advanced networks. Section 1 of the EBLIDA Matrix lists relevant EU programmes for which libraries may find appropriate partnerships for sustainable targets. Therefore, the EBLIDA Matrix is also a list of funding opportunities for libraries.

The EBLIDA Matrix will be updated on an annual basis.

European Libraries and Sustainability Assessment Working Group

The [ELSA Working Group](#) was established on 7th October 2019. It deals with the evaluation of library performances, but from a different perspective. Normally, quantitative indicators include statistics on registered users, numbers of visits and numbers of loans, both in physical and in digital form. What is designated the “social” library, or the “third place” library - library services not related to library collections and performed with organisations of civil society, migrants, minorities, socially excluded citizens – is not recorded. Therefore, the impact of libraries in terms of urban planning, social inclusion and democratic participation is missing in official statistics.

European libraries can rattle off figures and statistics concerning the annual number of library visitors and transactions – this is certainly useful to show the volume of their business. However, the best way to advocate for libraries and to convince politicians and policy-makers of how relevant they are is to show the impact of libraries on sustainability, well-being, and GDP Indexes - at European, national and/or local level.

ELSA's objectives are as follows:

- To establish proper methodologies for the assessment of library performances in the social and economic field, in addition to current collection-oriented quantitative library measurement;
- To advocate for libraries at European level by measuring the impact of libraries on society as a whole and to link this impact to socio-economic indicators of more general nature, such as the Eurostat-based SDG Indicators, the OECD Well-Being Index, and similar;
- To disseminate WG-ELSA results through awareness, evaluation and training activities.

The experts who kindly expressed their willingness to join ELSA are:

- **Ms Selenay Aytac**, LIS Professor, Long Island University, United States;
- **Ms Maija Berndtson**, retired Library Director, Helsinki City Library, Finland;
- **Mr Christophe Evans**, Sociologist, Service des Études et de la Recherche, Bibliothèque Publique d'information, Paris, France;
- **Ms Chiara Faggiolani**, LIS Professor, University Roma La Sapienza, Italy;
- **Ms Marjolein Oomes**, Researcher, Royal Library, The Netherlands;
- **Mats Öström**, Former Culture Director, Gävle and Sandviken, Sweden;
- **Ms Ulla Wimmer**, LIS Professor, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany.

ELSA will be assisted ex officio by Giuseppe Vitiello, Director EBLIDA, and will also benefit from the support of Ton van Vlimmeren, President EBLIDA.

A paper will be delivered soon, which reports about library impact studies in Europe and provides input on how ELSA can contribute to the assessment of SDG activities in libraries. This input will be applied during the 28th EBLIDA Conference (Beograd, 23 June 2019).

We continue our tour into individual goals of the European 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Focus on SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Empowerment of women and the realisation of gender equality depends on the balanced participation of women and men in formal education, in the labour market and in leadership positions. Closing the gender employment gap is an urgent economic and social objective, for the individual as well as for society as a whole. It is about access to quality education, which has been achieved in primary education and, to a lesser extent, in secondary and tertiary education. It is about access

to work places, where equality is far from being reached, with only half of working-age women participating in the labour force in comparison to three quarters of working-age men – and often, for lower pay and jobs that are perceived as being less important. And it is about policies of equality between women and men in decision-making, with the elimination of physical and sexual violence against women.

The general objective is to be achieved into the attainment of several sub-targets, the very first being ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere and the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls both in the public and private spheres (including sexual trafficking) and harmful practices, such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Other sub-targets include actions of more affirmative nature, such as the recognition of unpaid care and domestic work and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household. Affirmative action is also needed to ensure full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Legislative and policy measures also concern the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels, and in particular in providing universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights enacting reforms that give women equal rights to economic resources and enhance the use of technology for women.

Within the EU, gender equality has made steady progress over the last decades, through legislation and integration of the gender perspective into all other policies and specific measures. The Eurostat indicator evaluating violence against women gender equality in the European society is “Physical and sexual violence to women experienced within 12 months prior to the interview”, but there is a proposal to implement a “Gender based violence” indicator. Gender equality is assessed through the “Gender pay gap”, the “Gender employment gap”, the percentage of “Inactive population due to caring responsibilities”, the number of “Seats held by women in national parliaments and governments” and the “Positions held by women in senior management”.

Other multipurpose indicators evaluate gender equality in accessing education, namely “Early leavers from education and training”, “Tertiary educational attainment” and the “Employment rate of recent graduates”.

Campaigns organised in libraries may have the double objective of creating awareness about gender equality issues and the measures designed to implement them. In European countries where gender equality is fully achieved, awareness campaigns may help promote the good practices that have been instrumental in attaining the Goal at national and international level. In those countries where gender equality is still a problem, libraries can disseminate the Council of Europe and European Union Social Charter and the European Pillar of Social Rights as keystone for a sustainable society. Since women represent the majority of the library workforce, libraries can use internal manpower statistics to promote themselves as a place where women are fully empowered and gender equality is no longer an issue.

Focus on SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Access to water is a basic human need. Clean water in sufficient quantity is also of paramount importance for agriculture, industry and the environment and plays a crucial role in providing climate-related ecosystem services. The most important pressures on Europe's water resources are pollution, for example from agriculture, as well as municipal and industrial discharges and waste as well as hydrological or physical alterations of water bodies. In the past 30 years, the European Commission has

put considerable effort into devising policies that address these challenges and aim to protect the quality of Europe's water resources and to ensure their sustainable and efficient use.

By 2030, Goal 6 intends to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all and to water services. This can be achieved through increasing water-use efficiency across all sectors.

There is a sheer problem of clean water which consists of reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimising release of hazardous chemicals and materials. The protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes include the involvement of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Indicators assessing the attainment of Goal 6 concern "The percentage of population having neither a bath, nor a shower" and "connected to at least secondary wastewater treatment". Other indicators relate to toxic substances in rivers and the number of bathing sites with excellent water quality.

Sustainable Development?

The bulk of EU citizens have access to basic sanitation and are connected to secondary wastewater treatment. Differences between Member States exist with regards to levels of access to water services and sanitation. Improved wastewater treatment leading to declining biochemical oxygen demand values in European rivers. The vast majority of inland and coastal bathing waters show 'excellent' quality; water stress is low in most EU countries, but still high in a few.

Awareness activities in libraries may concern clean water and its use at local level. In places where sewage and waste disposal is poor and sanitation does not reach adequate standards, libraries can denounce this state of affairs through campaigns and exhibitions with a view to enhancing the health conditions of the communities they refer to.

Where universities and research or monitoring centres are present in the regions where they are installed, libraries can act as liaison agents to transmit and circulate information about sanitation conditions. Library visitors can also collect information to feed databases present in the region.



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Events and Dates in November

November 12-18

[Zagreb Interliber: 42nd International Book Fair](#)

Place: Zagreb, Croatia

Organizer: Zagreb Fair

November 12-14

[DCDC19 Conference - Navigating the digital shift: practices and possibilities](#)

Place: Birmingham, United Kingdom

Organizer: The National Archives, RLUK and Jisc

November 20

[Challenges in Scholarly Publishing Cycle 2019](#)

November 25-27

[SWIB19 - Semantic Web in Libraries 2019](#)

Place: Hamburg, Germany

Organizer: ZBW - Leibniz Information Centre for Economics and North Rhine-Westphalian Library Service Centre (hbz)

November 27-28

[14th Munin Conference 27-28 November 2019](#)

Place: Tromsø, Norway

Organizer: Arctic University of Norway



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