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1. President's Editorial

This month April is the month of the EBLIDA Conference, on 18 April 2023 and the EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 event on 19 April 2023, both in the National Library of Luxembourg.

We have a great array of speakers who will tell you that libraries:

1. are “lieux du vivre” (living places), apart from “lieux du livre” (book places);
and equitable society;
3. are an essential and irreplaceable component of the social, cultural and heritage informational infrastructure of a sustainable society where freedom of expression, public access to information and democratic participation are guaranteed;
4. have developed as an enriching space for human interaction, knowledge creation and civic engagement;
5. should contribute to common sustainable development goals, such as social inclusion, quality education, peace, justice and strong institutions, etc;
6. are created for the benefit of their user communities so as to provide people with open access to information and ideas;
7. are an independent meeting place and arena for public discussion and debate, they contribute to the development of a democratic society and to the freedom of expression and thought;
8. should be included in national cultural and educational policies pursuing the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals as prescribed by the United Nations and their equivalent programmes in a European context;
9. are essential services in times of disaster;
10. are active agents in the book and information chains;
11. should enjoy a special status in governmental measures designed to encourage the development of cultural content and access of individuals to it.

Of course, they will not only speak about it but will interact with you and exchange examples and experiences on how we can work on all these aspects. As these define the libraries we strive for. Our wish and passion to make a difference in the world by creating such libraries is the essence of library power.

I am looking forward to welcoming you in Luxembourg.

Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President


The 31st EBLIDA Council and Conference is taking place at the National Library of Luxembourg from 17 to 18 April 2023. It is followed by the Joint EBLIDA – NAPLE – PL2030 Conference on the morning of 19 April 2023, and a Resourcing Libraries in the European Union (RL:EU) workshop in the afternoon.
countries, the event gathers 36 speakers who will guide participants through the topic of soft power in libraries. To achieve this, there will be several panels and workshops on democracy, the essence of library power, policies, the future of European libraries, and EU funding.

You can read the full programme here.

You also have the opportunity to learn more about the award-winning Luxembourg Learning Centre on a guided visit on Thursday 20th of April, an event which required pre-registration.

And because networking and sharing experiences is also crucial – what better way to do that than sharing a meal together? On 17 April at 19:00, the EBLIDA Council is gathering for dinner at Restaurant Siweburen, while on the following day dinner will be served at the Portuguese Restaurant Piri Piri at 20:00. Please do keep an eye on the online programme for any last minute (minor) changes.

If you are still looking for accommodation or are unsure about travelling to Luxembourg, take a look at the suggestions and information on the accommodation page and travelling page.

And finally, if you are a speaker, please note the instructions for speakers – the deadline for the submission of materials is 14 April!

3. Welcome session and keynote speeches

The EBLIDA Conference counts a rich selection of speakers, including two diplomats and five directors of public libraries, as well
international associations, from a total of 12 different countries – including the United States of America.

The Conference begins on the morning of 18 April with an introduction to democratic participation and the role of libraries and library professionals toward it. The first four presentations will launch the discussion on the topic from various perspectives: international, societal, organisational, and management.

Matjaž Grunden, Director of the Division Democratic Participation of the Council of Europe, will speak about the Council of Europe’s promotion of human rights through international conventions and other legal instruments, and how it enables and empowers citizens to participate in today’s diverse and complex democratic society. Mr Grunden will introduce the Council of Europe/EBLIDA Recommendation on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe.

Kent Oliver, former Director of the Nashville Public Library (USA), will talk about political interference in libraries, aiming to answer some of the most prominent questions: what is happening? Why? What can we learn from this?

Rianne van Melik, Associate Professor of Geography, Planning and Environment at Radboud University in the Netherlands, will present the topic on how libraries implement democracy in their daily work.

Zélia Parreira, EBLIDA Executive Committee Member, Chair of LIBLEG - Expert Group on Library Legislation, will close this first session by inviting us to think about the future of library policies in Europe via the introduction of the Council of Europe / EBLIDA Recommendation on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe.

4. A panel on “Policies for, around and within libraries”
In the afternoon of 18 April, the Conference will focus on policies and libraries. This panel will consist of contributions from Malgorzata Szlendak (European Commission), Andrew Cranfield (Director of the Municipal Library of Toender, Denmark), Kristine Fjord Tolborg, (Director of CHORA 2030, Denmark), and Gwenny Vaemynck (Product Manager Digitale Collecties, Belgium).

Malgorzata Szlendak will present the Council Resolution on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026, focusing on enhancing cultural participation via libraries.

Andrew Cranfield, Director of the Municipal Library of Toender, Denmark, and Kristine Fjord Tolborg, Director of CHORA 2030, Denmark, will then lead a panel on the scope and limits of library certification for SDGs.

The early afternoon ends with a panel by Gwenny Vaemynck, Product Manager Digitale Collecties, Belgium, on e-lending implementation in Belgium.

5. A hands-on approach: workshops 1 to 3

A total of six workshops are available for participants during the EBLIDA Conference on 18 April. The first three will take place simultaneously in the morning, and the remaining in the afternoon. Conference participants: make sure you register to attend!
Workshops 1 to 3 will explore the topic of library power. The relevant background paper for all three is the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on library legislation and policy in Europe.

During WORKSHOP 1, Steven de Waal will explore with participants what makes libraries strong democratic institutions, while looking at the topics of social media, technological innovation, political architecture, public leadership, and the role of public institutions.

Steven de Waal is an expert on civil leadership and a leader himself with vast experience as chairman of multiple boards, including the Public Space Foundation, his current position. He is also an author, keynote speaker and advisor keen on supporting disruptive citizenship, civil leadership and social entrepreneurship.

WORKSHOP 2 will explore the topic of active citizenship with the guidance of Matjaž Gruden and Marie Østergaard. The speakers will work with the participants on what libraries can do to give a voice to minorities and marginalised groups to ensure a cohesive society.

Matjaž Gruden is Director of Democratic Participation at the Council of Europe, a position which greatly benefits from his expertise in the area of education. Matjaž Gruden holds a law degree and has extensive experience as a diplomat, having previously served at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Marie Østergaard is Director of the Public Libraries of Aarhus and oversees Dokk1. She has been a crucial contributor to the development of the Public Libraries of Aarhus, particularly in their actions toward democracy, citizenship and sustainable communities. Marie is a frequent speaker and participant in conferences and other cooperation and partnership initiatives. She is one of the founding members of Public Libraries 2030.

WORKSHOP 3, led by Ulla Wimmer and Katrina Kukaine will allow participants to engage with the topic of socio-economic and security challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and cybersecurity, and the role libraries have in social resilience.

Ulla Wimmer is a researcher at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft, a member of the Steering Group Deutsche Bibliotheksstatistik (DBS) für Öffentliche Bibliotheken, and a member of the expert group on "Leistungsmessung und -vergleich in der DBS" of the Deutschen Bibliotheksverbands. Ulla Wimmer has also produced considerably on the topic of librarianship, including its relation with education and research, library management, and statistics.

Katrina Kukaine is a strategic development specialist at the National Library of Latvia. She
previously worked as the Deputy Head of the National Heritage Board, and has led a series of initiatives toward the development of libraries in Latvia, including the creation of the médiathèque in the French Institute in Riga. Katrina Kukaine is also an author with various publications on the topics cultural heritage and spatial planning.

6. A hands-on approach: workshops 4 to 6

Workshops 4, 5 and 6 will focus on policies.

**WORKSHOP 4**, led by Mairead Owens and Inga Surgunte will explore the implementation of concrete policies and how these uphold SDGs. The relevant background paper for workshop 4 is the Second European Report on Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries: 2023 Update.

Mairead Owens is the Director of the City Library of Dublin, member of the City Council from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, and the EBLIDA Treasurer. She possesses a vast and rich experience having worked as a corporate librarian before taking on a series of jobs in sponsorship, development, and marketing before returning to librarianship in 2002.

Inga Surgunte is the Culture Programme Director at the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO. She is a pillar of the museum community in Latvia, as seen by her work as Project Manager at Eduards Veidenbaums Museum Kalâči, Head of the Sustainable Development Projects at the Latvian Museum Association and Founder of the Association Skaidrs and the CNL Books and Audiences Network Group.

During **WORKSHOP 5**, Spaska Tarandova, Chair of the Global Libraries Foundation, in Bulgaria, and Anna Maria Tammaro will guide the participants on a game about digital literacy and how to use it to empower citizens. The relevant background paper for workshop 5 is the Handbook on comparative e-lending policies in Europe.

Spaska Tarandova is Chair of the Global Libraries Foundation, in Bulgaria. She has a vast experience, having worked in the sector for over 25 years, most of which at Sofia City Library. Spaska Tarandova is engaged with librarianship at international and national levels, having participated in various significant international programmes, and being a member of the Board of the Bulgarian Library and Information Association since 2012.
Anna Maria Tammaro is a Professor in the Department of Cultural Heritage of the University of Parma, Italy. An expert in the internationalisation of the library sector, she has been a member of IFLA’s Governing Board since 2003, and a member of the EUCLID Board since 2005. Throughout her rich career, Anna Maria Tammaro has coordinated a series of workshops, lectures and training at the international and national levels.

WORKSHOP 6, led by Sander van Kempen and Giuseppe Vitiello will present the “EBLIDA Handbook on e-Lending Policies in Europe”, exploring the different e-lending systems and the recommendations provided by the Handbook. The relevant background paper for workshop 6 is the Handbook on comparative e-lending policies in Europe.

Sander van Kempen is a Senior Adviser at the Royal Library of the Netherlands. With a background in ICT, digitisation, and digital inclusion and innovation, he has been working in public libraries since 2011, using his ICT knowledge to improve library services. Sander van Kempen is passionate about the library’s role in promoting reading, freedom, and equity of access to knowledge and information, as seen in his work toward providing libraries and their members with digital tools.

Giuseppe Vitiello has been the Director of EBLIDA since 2019. An expert in library and information science, he has had a rich international career, having previously worked at the European Commission, Council of Europe, ISSN International Centre, EU-ISS and NATO Defence College. Giuseppe Vitiello is the author of over one hundred articles on library and information science and the history of culture.

7. RL:EU Training and Networking Workshop: “EU funding for public libraries”

The last day will end with a workshop on EU funding for public libraries, part of the RL:EU project developed by EBLIDA, PINA and PL2030.

The session will begin with an introduction to the RL:EU project and EU programmes. Katrina Kukaine (Latvia), Valentina Bondesan (Italy), and Zélia Parreira (Portugal) will lead the audience
The workshop will then invite you to consider the creation of your own project proposal to be submitted to the European Commission for funding. In this dynamic session, you will play a game which will guide you through the possibilities for projects and funding.

8. Sponsors

Thank-you to the sponsors, OCLC and MLOL for their commitment and collaboration toward this event!

You will learn more about them on 18 April from 14:15 to 14:30, during the Sponsors’ Corner hosted by Annette Dortmund (OCLC) and Giulio Blasi (MLOL).

9. Major library events in 2023

EBLIDA is promoting major library events in your country in 2023.

If your event is not listed below then please fill in the form here. Thank you!

18-19 April
31st EBLIDA Council & Conference and 2nd EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 Event
Luxembourg

26-27 April
LAI/CILIP Joint Annual Conference 2023
Dundalk, Ireland

27-28 April
Det Bibliotekspolitiske Topmøde 2023 / The Library Policy Summit 2023
Odense, Denmark

02-05 May
Österreichische Bibliothekskongress:
Innsbruck, Austria
https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/bibliothek2023/

04 May
14th Congress of BAD
Faro, Portugal
https://eventos.bad.pt/14congresso/

03-05 May
14th Congress of our Association BAD
Algarve, Portugal
https://eventos.bad.pt/14congresso/

14-16 May
Next Library
Hybrid & Aarhus, Denmark
https://www.nextlibrary.net/

18-19 May
XII Congress of the Estonian Librarians:
"Libraries are the future"
Viimsi, Estonia

23-26 May
111. Bibliothekartag
Hannover, Germany
https://bibliothekartag2023.de/

24-27 May
LIDA, Libraries & Information Institutions in the Digital Age, 2023
Osijek, Croatia
http://lida.ffos.hr/

30 May - 3 June
15th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference
(QQML2023): “Library as a promoter of democracy and active citizenship”
Hybrid& Heraklion, Crete, Greece
http://qqml.org

05-07 June
Finnish Library Association: Kirjastopäivät (Library Days)
Kuopio, Finland
"Radical positive change agents"
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway
https://eahil2023.org/

14-16 June
British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) 2023 Annual Conference:
"Gaining the edge: investing in our skillset"
Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK
https://biall.org.uk/annual-conference/2023-annual-conference-belfast/

27-29 June
10th International Open Science Conference
Online
https://www.open-science-conference.eu/

05-07 July
Liber 2023
Budapest, Hungary
https://liberconference.eu

21-25 August
88th IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC):
"Let's work together, let's library"
Hybrid & Rotterdam, Netherlands
https://2023.ifla.org/

29-30 September
BIC - Biblioteche Innovazione Comunità
Bergamo, Italy
http://www.retedellereti.org

09-12 October
8th European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL)
Krakow, Poland
https://ecil2023.ilconf.org/

02-03 November
Der Schweizer Bibliothekskongress 2023
Zürich, Switzerland
https://www.bibliosuisse.ch/aktivaten/schweizerbibliothekskongress/2023zurich
Please look at the Four good reasons to become EBLIDA member and at the membership fee which varies according to the organisation’s turnover and the status of the organisation wishing to join EBLIDA: Full or Associate Member.

For the registration form please fill out the Membership Enquiry Form or contact the Secretariat: eblida@eblida.org

About the Newsletter

**Responsible for the Newsletter:** Giuseppe Vitiello
[contact him by email: g.vitiello at eblida.org]

**Editors:** Unless otherwise specified, all articles are written by the EBLIDA Secretariat.

Stay informed, **Sign up today!** EBLIDA-LIST is a general mailing list intended to foster communications between EBLIDA, its membership and members of the European library community.