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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Contents:

1. Editorial, by Ton van Vlimmeren
2. Introducing the EBLIDA Annual Conference (Luxembourg, 18 April 2023)
3. Introducing the EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 Event (Luxembourg, 19 April 2023)
4. First session: who and what?
5. Workshops 1, 2 and 3
6. Second session: who and what?
7. Workshops 4, 5 and 6
8. Earthquake in Turkey and Syria
9. Are you willing to help us, so we can support you best?
10. Obituary: Filippou Tsimpoglou, Director of the National Library of Greece
11. Major European library events in 2023

President’s Editorial

Since starting this editorial, we have been absorbing the enormity of the horrific earthquake that has struck Türkiye and Syria last week.

Please read our article (8) about this to find out how you can also help our friends and colleagues in the region.
Two months separate us from the EBLIDA Annual Conference event. We already notice a consistent number of registrations. If you have not already done so, please register here.

Let’s expand upon the message of this event and how the 2023 EBLIDA Conference is going to shape and change library work all over Europe.

There are three reasons for that.

The first is the theme of the conference: library power, whose essence, form and manifestations are of interest to all librarians. By library power we mean the ability to produce an effect on, and exert influence over, communities in order to change things. Libraries can change society and they do so in a soft way; through interaction, dialogue, conversation.

Second, it is because the conference will be a window for the presentation of two important instruments.

The first is the draft Council of Europe / EBLIDA Recommendation on Library Legislation and Policy - we hope that, by 18th April, the word “draft” will be eliminated after approval by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Previous issues of the EBLIDA Newsletter have expanded upon the content of the Recommendation and less on its possible impact. We trust that future library policies and legislations will be shaped by this Council of Europe Recommendation.

The second is the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026, with its action on libraries: “Building bridges: strengthen the multiple role of libraries as gateways and transmitters of cultural works, skills and European values.” The European Commission is looking at the EBLIDA Conference as a key moment for communicating the library programme within the Work Plan for Culture and as an opportunity for consulting the library profession.

Third reason, the programme itself. Apart from Council of Europe and European Union soft law, no less than six workshops will be dedicated to people’s interaction: “Libraries as strong institutions”, “Active citizenship”, “Are libraries well prepared to face socio-economic and security challenges?”, “How can we use SDGs to reinforce library power?”, “Empowering citizens through digital literacy” and “The European e-lending Summit”.

Therefore, the Conference will encompass all major issues now being dealt with by libraries, and in particular by public libraries.

The menu doesn’t end here, however. The following day, 19th April, the EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 event will be a platform for collecting suggestions and ideas to be transmitted to the European Commission. On the same page, the afternoon session will present you with the main financial opportunities provided by the European Commission and how libraries can utilise EU programmes to their advantage.

Finally, on Thursday, 20th of April, you will have time to visit two important, and extraordinary libraries in Luxembourg.

We are offering you here a rich and inspiring programme – it is the best observatory of all what is
2. Introducing the EBLIDA Annual Conference (Luxembourg, 18 April 2023)

The 31st EBLIDA Conference and 2nd EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 Event will take place in Luxembourg, at the National Library, on 18-19 April 2023. A rich program is offered, with a balance of theoretical issues and careful attention to library practices, with a mix of voices from civil society and (library) professionals, panel sessions and plenty of opportunities for interaction.

The bottom line of the conference, and its most resonant message, is that libraries are not self-referential institutions; they do not work in isolation. They reflect the needs of the communities and the people they serve. Democratic values and sustainable development goals inspire the objectives they pursue, the operations they carry out, the methodologies and technologies they adopt. In this way they exert influence on people, underline diversity and create pre-requisites for the integration of minorities. In all of their endeavors – from lifelong learning to digital literacy, from social cohesion to cultural heritage - they give a concrete meaning the common European identity.

This is the essence of library power. Shall we call it “soft power”, a concept that has proved effective in the theory of international relations? This power is not expressed through force and obligation, but in a gentle, but firm pledge towards a sustainable, democratic and equitable society. Is it linked to the more traditional notion of empowering citizens for a democratic and sustainable society? Is it both?
and library-related legislation throughout the Council of Europe Member States. It should be a frame of reference for individual libraries working often in challenging local situations, as well as for regional and municipal administrators willing to restructure local library systems.

There is plenty of evidence that libraries are no longer book repositories. Therefore, what else are they? Libraries are essential players for social inclusion, democracy building, media and information literacy, sustainable development and education and training.

We need stronger libraries if we want a Europe that is stronger, more cohesive and closer to its citizens.

- Conference website
- Registration

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3. Introducing the EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 Event (Luxembourg, 19 April 2023)

The Council of the European Union resolution, issued on 29th November 2022, established a series of priority actions with a view to promoting cultural diversity, with due regard for the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

Library action is included within the framework of the overarching priority “Culture for the people: enhancing cultural participation and the role of culture in society.” The programme intends to start a comprehensive debate and explore fields for strengthening libraries; identifying different dimensions and areas with potential, and exploring funding lines under EU programmes; bringing together policy makers and library professionals; exploring possibilities for training and further activities for professionals.

The joint EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 event aims to transform theory into strategies - what are our action points? What can we do as a sector? What can EBLIDA-PL2030-NAPLE do as a partnership? The joint session should sketch short-mid-long term opportunities for cooperation in the sector around the questions: What is our partnership? What do we do? Who does what?

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We start with a panel including four keynote speakers introducing the Conference. Mr Patrick Engelberg, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe and Mr Matjaž Gruden, Director
Europe, will introduce the issue of democratic participation and how libraries empower citizens.

Are libraries and library directors under siege? In several European countries libraries are confronted with political interference in their profession, collection, and programs. In recent years in the United States, many libraries experience this to the extreme. What is happening? How does this affect libraries and the profession? How do directors stand in the storm?

Mr Kent Oliver will join us from the United States and Ms Rianne van Melik will illustrate how librarians strive for a better society every day.

We end the first session with one of the two soft law instruments presented in the Conference – the Council of Europe Recommendation on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe. The Recommendation, which will be presented by Ms Zélia Parreira, Chair, EBLIDA LIBLEG Working Group, defines libraries as “publicly accessible institutions of a cultural, educational and social nature that serve local, academic, specialised communities and/or society at large.”

5. Workshops 1, 2 and 3 EBLIDA Conference (18th April, 11:00-12:25)

Three workshops will take place during the morning, with a view to translating the theme of the conference - library power - into possible library practices. While the Chair sets the agenda of the workshop, moderates the discussion and draws the conclusions at the end of the workshop, the Testimonial will illustrate a case study, puts forward a reflection or an articulation on one or few of the points on the agenda.

Workshop 1 will deal with “Libraries as strong institutions”. Chair and Testimonial is Mr Steven De Waal, Chair, Public Space Foundation, who will emphasise how libraries’ ability to work on the ground is not only about good and effective management, but is based on transparent policies and working methods. This workshop is in ideal connection with SDG 16.6 – “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels” - and the draft Council of Europe Recommendation Heading: “Freedom of expression, free access to information and democratic
Workshop 2 is about Active citizenship; it will be chaired by Mr Matjaž Gruden and Testimonial is Ms Marie Østergaard, Director DOKK 1 in Aarhus. What does “democracy in libraries” mean? To work with communities is not only about interpreting their needs, but also to give voice to minorities, marginalised groups and people left behind. The emergence of an active citizenship is crucial in creating a cohesive society and consolidating libraries’ role. It is a role traditionally assigned to local communities, and libraries are often successful in integrating them into a more cohesive society.

Workshop 3 asks whether libraries are well prepared to face socio-economic and security challenges? Ms Katrina Kukaine, director R&D, National Library of Latvia, will describe library readiness to react in the face of, and even prevent, unpredictable circumstances. This has been illustrated well by unforeseen crisis such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and/or cybersecurity. This workshop is in ideal connection with the CoE draft Recommendation heading: “Global and local threats and library operations”. The Testimonial will bring example(s) of balanced narratives about the war in Ukraine in libraries and how they showed resilience in resisting adverse opinion and/or cancel culture stories.


On November 29th the Council of the European Union issued a Council resolution on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026. Under priority b) Culture for the people: enhancing cultural participation and the role of culture in society a section is titled: “Building bridges: strengthen the multiple roles of libraries as gateways to and transmitters of cultural works, skills and European values”.

What is the programme about? How will it develop? Ms Malgorzata Szlendak, European Commission, Creative Europe, reports.

We open now to three case studies which illustrate well EBLIDA strategic strands regarding library policies on democracy, SDGs and e-lending. Ms Susana Silvestre, Head of Division, Urban Planning Department in the Lisbon City Council, will illustrate how active citizenship and design thinking are applied in the city of Lisbon; Mr Andrew Cranfield, Director, Municipal Library of Toender, and Ms Kristine Fjord Tolborg, Director of CHORA 2030, will expand upon the scope and limits of library certification for SDGs, and Ms Gwenny Vlaemynck (BE), Product manager Digitale Collecties will report on the implementation of e-lending in Belgium – Flemish community.
7. Workshops 4, 5 and 6
(18th April, 14:15-15:45)

Workshop 4 is about turning SDGs into practice to reinforce library power. With Mairead Owens, Director, City Library of Dublin, and Ms Inga Surgunte, Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, as Testimonial, Workshop 4 will emphasise how SDGs do not consist of pure theory or episodical exhibits; their implementation need concrete policies and indicators through which SDG-oriented projects are assessed.

This workshop reviews methods and techniques now in use in libraries. What policies should be set up? What is the shift from a reactive to a proactive way of pursuing SDGs?

The Testimonial will focus on the policies that libraries, museums and archives are developing towards SDGs with a view to detecting similarities and differences in their approach.

Workshop 5 is about digital literacy. Having as Chair Ms Spaska Tarandova, Chair, Renaissance Foundation. The aim of this workshop is to review trends in this field with an eye on international indicators. Official statistics report about a low level of digital literacy in many countries.

Workshop 6 is the European e-lending Summit. Both the Chair - Mr Sander van Kempen, Senior Adviser, Royal Library of Netherlands - and Testimonial - Mr Giuseppe Vitiello, Director, EBLIDA - will refer to the “EBLIDA Handbook on e-lending policies in Europe”. It is a fact that, even in countries where there are similarities in library systems, like the Nordic countries, e-lending models may be different. A set of recommendations included in the EBLIDA Handbook will be presented at the workshop.

8. Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Just over a week ago, the devastating news about the earthquake in Turkey and Syria hit our headlines, and since then, the enormity of this devastating natural disaster has only deepened in its far reaching consequences.
EBLIDA is in contact with our Turkish colleagues and they ask for help as follows:

In order to support libraries and librarians affected by the earthquake disaster in Türkiye and Syria, an aid campaign was launched in cooperation with the Turkish Librarians Association (TLA), University and Research Librarians Association (UNAK), and Anatolian University Libraries Consortium (ANKOS). If you want to give any financial support to the aid campaign of these three NGOs, you may donate to the bank account number below. To ensure coordination, please write only "EARTHQUAKE" in the explanation part. You also may share this information on your professional network.

**EURO Account:** Ziraat Bankası Yenisehir subesi
**Account Name:** Türk Kütüphaneciler Derneği / Turkish Librarians Association
**IBAN:** TR 40000 1000 471 39775141 5005
**SWIFTCODE:** TCZBTR2AXXX

**USD Account:** Ziraat Bankası Yenisehir subesi
**Account Name:** Türk Kütüphaneciler Derneği / Turkish Librarians Association
**IBAN:** TR 67000 1000 471 39775141 5004
**SWIFTCODE:** TCZBTR2AXXX
**CHIPS:** 409993

In response to the earthquake, EBLIDA President has issued a statement in support of our friends and colleagues in Turkey and Syria.

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

We wish to extend our deepest condolences to our friends and colleagues in Türkiye and Syria, who have lost family and friends to this horrifying tragedy, not to mention the thousands more who are, as of yet, unaccounted for and those who have been wounded, physically and emotionally. Many buildings in both countries, which host a wealth of archaeological, cultural and historical treasures, have sustained severe damage and libraries will be included in this long list.

EBLIDA is in touch with our Turkish members and friends, and we will work together to share information and to do anything we can to help. Our hearts and minds are with those affected and we send strength and wish that hope may be found in the huge efforts that are now being made to provide humanitarian aid to both countries.

We are sure that libraries will, once more, be at the centre of providing help and shelter to those in need. EBLIDA stands ready to provide support in this regard.

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**9. Are you willing to help us, so we can support you best?**

A Europe-wide Questionnaire prepared by PINA, in collaboration with PL2030 and EBLIDA

“Resourcing Libraries” funded by the Erasmus+ programme is a project of PL2030, EBLIDA and PINA focused on building capacity in
Last October, we informed our readers about EBLIDA’s involvement in an Erasmus-funded project coordinated by and managed by PiNA, with the title: “Resourcing Libraries (RL:EU)”.

This will be delivered through a series of webinars on EU initiatives covering: Active citizenship, Sustainability and the European Green Deal, Digitalisation, and Inclusion. Following on from this, mentorship hours and coaching sessions will be delivered to librarians. We want to help libraries realise the opportunities for funding in the EU and understand how to develop a successful project application that grants you funding and long term relationships with other libraries, institutions, and organisations in Europe.

For this reason, we would first like to conduct a survey that will help us understand the current status and assure the support better.

Please, help us and fill in this questionnaire about the status of your library, your competences for EU funding and project management and how we can support you best - it takes around 7 minutes, but helps us and you a lot in the future!

We very much appreciate your help.

10. Obituary: Filippos Tsimpoglou, Director of the National Library of Greece

It is with deep regret that EBLIDA has learned of the passing of Dr Filippos Tsimpoglou, Director General of the National Library of Greece, who died on Thursday 2nd of February.

EBLIDA sends deep condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Tsimpoglou.

Filippos Tsimpoglou worked tirelessly and dedicated his life in the service of the National Library of Dr. Tsimpoglou studied in the Economics Department of the Higher School of Economic and Commercial Sciences (ASOEE) and then completed his doctoral studies in Library-Information Science in the Department of Archeology and Librarianism at the Ionian University.

From 1983 to 1999 he worked at the National Documentation Center / National Research Foundation as responsible for European structural and development programmes.
From 1999 to 2014 he served as Director of the Library of the University of Cyprus. From 2014 until his death he was General Director of the National Library of Greece, during which time he took on the huge task of moving it from the Vallian Palace to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center and, upon its completion, worked tirelessly for a National Library worthy of its name.

During the EBLIDA Conference in Athens in 2022, EBLIDA's director had a long conversation with Filippos at lunch, with talks continuing afterwards in the car. Beyond content, enthusiasm and passion for libraries were the only drivers for our conversations.

11. 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!

**February 21-22**
Researcher to Reader Conference
London, UK / Hybrid
[https://r2rconf.com/](https://r2rconf.com/)

**2-3 March**
The Edge Conference
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
[https://edgeconference.co.uk/programme/](https://edgeconference.co.uk/programme/)

**16-23 March**
Copyright Essentials Training Spring 2023
Online
[https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/CopyrightEssentialsSpring2023](https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/CopyrightEssentialsSpring2023)

**20-23 March**
Access Lab - OpenAthens 2023 Annual Conference
Online
[https://www.openathens.net/access-lab/](https://www.openathens.net/access-lab/)

**18-19 April**
31st EBLIDA Council & Conference and 2nd EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 Event
*Who is afraid of library power? Empowering citizens for a democratic and sustainable society*
Luxembourg
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27-28 April</td>
<td>Danish Library Association</td>
<td>Odense, Denmark</td>
<td><a href="https://db.dk/events/det-bibliotekspolitiske-topmoede-2023/">https://db.dk/events/det-bibliotekspolitiske-topmoede-2023/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>02-05 May</td>
<td>Österreichische Bibliothekskongress: &quot;Arbeitwelten – Realitäten und Visionen&quot;</td>
<td>Innsbruck, Austria</td>
<td><a href="https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/bibliothek2023/">https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/bibliothek2023/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>03-05 May</td>
<td>14th Congress of our Association BAD</td>
<td>Algarve, Portugal</td>
<td><a href="https://eventos.bad.pt/14congresso/">https://eventos.bad.pt/14congresso/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>14-16 May</td>
<td>Next Library</td>
<td>Aarhus, Denmark</td>
<td><a href="https://www.nextlibrary.net/">https://www.nextlibrary.net/</a></td>
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<td>18-19 May</td>
<td>XII Congress of the Estonian Librarians: &quot;Libraries are the future&quot;</td>
<td>Viimsi, Estonia</td>
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<td>30 May - 3 June</td>
<td>15th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference (QQML2023): “Library as a promoter of democracy and active citizenship”</td>
<td>Heraklion, Crete, Greece</td>
<td><a href="http://qqml.org">http://qqml.org</a></td>
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<td>05-07 June</td>
<td>Finnish Library Association: Kirjastopäivät (Library Days)</td>
<td>Kuopio, Finland</td>
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<td>12-16 June</td>
<td>European Association For Health Information And Libraries (Eahil): &quot;Radical positive change agents&quot;</td>
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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
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**Editors:** Unless otherwise specified, all articles are written by the EBLIDA Secretariat.

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EBLIDA-LIST is a general mailing list intended to foster communications between EBLIDA, its membership and members of the European library community.

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