The President's Editorial

Dear colleagues,

We are back from holidays - if they could be called holidays – and are cautiously opening our libraries with a careful and thorough implementation of sanitation plans and one-way corridors, trying to comply with the measures regulating returned books in a 1.5-metre library.

EBLIDA components and constitutional bodies were not locked down and we can now see the benefits of the work carried out last Spring.

A series of events is planned, organised by EBLIDA or with significant EBLIDA participation.

EBLIDA 28th Annual Council Meeting

We start with the Annual Council on 30th October, the most important EBLIDA gathering which takes place every year, normally in a face to face get together as part of our Annual Council and Conference, but this year, due to Covid, as with most events, we have had to change our plans: all EBLIDA Members are therefore invited to give their word on EBLIDA’s current work, its development and prospects. The Annual Council will be held online and invitations will be sent out soon.
online Workshops which are specifically dedicated to the Think The Unthinkable (TTU) Report. This report aggregates the three documents which are at the basis of the current EBLIDA strategy. We call on libraries to think the unthinkable: to implement a post-Covid agenda based on the socially inclusive library and the digital library, which meets sustainable development goals. This agenda may funded through the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027. The three workshops will be carried out on 13th, 14th and 16th October. Registrations for the online events are already open and we expect that similar workshops on a national basis can be organised during Winter 2020-2021.

We are also reporting on EBLIDA non-institutional activities, all of them concerning TTU. We start with an online meeting with a group of Dutch libraries on 10th September and continue with the Stelline Conference in Milan on 15-16 September. On this occasion, a whole session (16th in the morning) will be dedicated to the work carried out by EBLIDA. In Milan, with the TTU as background paper, various speakers will be presenting different aspects of the EBLIDA work on sustainable development. An article is included in this Newsletter.

The alliance between EBLIDA and NewsGuard in the fight against fake news has drawn the interest of several organisations in Europe. ASviS, the Italian organisation monitoring the implementation of SDGs in Italy, is organising a national event on “Tolerance and inclusion towards sustainable transition” (Rome, 2nd October). On that occasion, EBLIDA is invited to showcase how European libraries are fighting fake news and to present the background to the EBLIDA-NewsGuard alliance. The same talk will be held in the online Lecture Series on 30th October, which is organised by the IFLA News Media section, joint with FAIFE, CLM, and the Digital Humanities SIG.

This is only the beginning of a new series of events and reports. On 21st September, the EBLIDA Executive Committee will also focus its attention on the ELSA (European Libraries and Sustainable Assessment) report and decisions will be made on how to continue the excellent work carried out by the ELSA Working Group. A paper on copyright will also be commented on.

We would also like to remind you that a Call for the reinforcement of the European cultural and educational dimension was sent on 6 August 2020 by EBLIDA together with IFLA, LIBER, NAPLE, Public Libraries 2030 and SPARC Europe. This Call was strongly objecting to the possibility that the European Council may proceed to make cuts to important programmes such as Erasmus+ or Creative Europe. Moreover, EBLIDA made its members aware of the EC Urban Agenda, and in particular on Action 13: Raise awareness for public libraries and their new tasks on a European and National Level. The City of Berlin circulated a questionnaire in order to reinforce Action 13 on the EC Urban Agenda.

Many things are boiling over and we will be pleased to make our members aware of further developments. We are moving ahead and look for future targets!

Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA Workshops: “Think the Unthinkable
A post Covid-19 European Library Agenda meeting Sustainable Development Goals and funded through the European Structural and Investment Funds (2021-2027)
13, 14 and 16 October 2020

The European Union has fully adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is investing an incredible amount of money in sustainable development, as never before. All EU programmes and actions are being adapted to meet SDGs. Are EBLIDA Members on the right track to sustainable development?

Sustainable development is an opportunity to raise the status of libraries in all European countries and to revitalise them with new and refreshing activities. In other words, this is the moment to think the unthinkable.

EBLIDA workshops on 13, 14 and 16 October 2020 are based on the TTU Report, which includes topics such as library activities during the Covid-19 crisis that are likely to continue, best SDG practices in European libraries, and funding opportunities through the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2021-2027. Contributors to the workshop are the Members of the EBLIDA Executive Committee. They will expand upon the impact of Covid 19 on libraries, on future investments in libraries and ways of funding them.

All libraries may be potential recipients of ESI Funds. Non-EU libraries included in the Council of Europe geographic area, too, may benefit from ESI Funds through the EU Interreg programmes. This is the reason why we hope that EBLIDA Members can replicate these workshops and organise TTU webinars at national level. National workshops are being organised, for instance, in Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands and other countries on request.

We wish to strengthen our forces towards common objectives and transition to a post-Covid library age. Each workshop will be divided into three parts.

The first part is dedicated to the post-Covid 19 library. Activities run by libraries during the Covid-19 crisis branched into two different directions: a socially inclusive library, when libraries organised the production of face masks, food distribution together with book deliveries, community calls for people left behind or marginalised. The digital library also boomed, in particular in public libraries: where books were not delivered, they were replaced by e-books.

The EBLIDA First European report on Sustainable development and European libraries will be the focus of the second contribution. The lively participation of European libraries in the implementation of SDGs is a sign that libraries can go one step further in advocacy and that, beyond stories, their 2030 Agenda can explore a more advanced narrative of policies and indicators. As Wimmer rightly points out, there is a need to go beyond grassroots involvement and enthusiasm and to start with well-defined policies – and some states have already started to do.
Members on how to access ESI Funds. ESI Funds are the way in which cutting-edge EU programmes are applied on a national basis. ESI funds are European, but they are “given back” to Member States (and also neighbouring States through the Interreg programmes), in order to pursue cohesion objectives. Relevant ESI Funds for libraries are the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and the ESF+ (European Social Fund Plus).

Join us!
October 13, 14 and 16
14:30 - 16:45 (CET)


Joint EBLIDA - Municipality of Milan International Session at the Stelline Conference in Milan
16 September 2020

Some of you have already seen both the picture and the article about the Stelline Conference, the most important annual library conference in Italy. This year, the international session is co-organised by EBLIDA and the City of Milan and is devoted to Sustainable Development in European libraries.

The Conference should have taken place on 12th-13th March, but was postponed to 15th-16th September because of the Covid-19 lockdown in Italy. The International session originally planned on 13th March, is now taking place on 16th September with a changed programme, new speakers and very practical objectives.

During the Conference, EBLIDA will be doing more than presenting the tools and the services made available within the EBLIDA SDG European House: the EBLIDA Matrix, the alliance between EBLIDA and NewsGuard, the work provided by the EBLIDA ELSA Working Group. The Conference will be an occasion to present EBLIDA’s ambition to implement a Europe-wide post Covid-19 European Library Agenda meeting Sustainable Development Goals and funded through the European Structural and Investment Funds (2021-2027). It is an invitation to Italian libraries to “Think the Unthinkable.”

Stefano Parise, EBLIDA Vice President and Director of the Milan library system, starts introducing the 2019-2022 EBLIDA Strategic Plan, EBLIDA first steps in creating the EBLIDA Matrix, the alliance with NewsGuard and the TTU perspective. He will also give appropriate background information to the EBLIDA First European report on sustainable development and libraries.

Ulla Wimmer, researcher at the Alexander-von Humboldt Universität, describes the policy perspectives raised by the Agenda 2030 and possible strategies going from a top-down approach to bottom-up activism. She points to the danger of a grassroots perspective and an activism with
from an intermediate administrative levels of an institution or community.

Marjolein Oomes, researcher at the Royal Library of the Netherlands, shows the impact of public reading on children and their parents in the Netherlands when they resort to the reading products developed by Boekstart (Bookstart). She differentiates between outputs (how many libraries distributed Bookstart products with a reach of more than 200,000 children) and outcomes both for children (higher scores in tests and better vocabulary) and for their parents (more positive attitude towards visiting and increased visits to libraries).

Christophe Evans, Head of the Research Department of the Bibliothèque Publique d’Information in Paris, will provide a few examples of SDG assessment in libraries. He is pointing out that sometimes data is already there -at hand- or not so difficult to produce or to develop. The way in which data is highlighted and interpreted may reveal other realities in libraries.

Giuseppe Vitiello, EBLIDA Director, expands upon the many opportunities offered by the 2021-2027 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the possibility of using them to fund SDG-oriented library projects. He describes ESIF structure, smart specialisation strategies and to whom librarians should address to in order to embark upon new library directions.

Virginia Padovese, Analyst at NewsGuard, presents NewsGuard’s fight against fake news, disinformation and misinformation. NewsGuard provides credibility ratings and detailed “Nutrition Label” reviews for the news and information websites that account for 90% of online engagement with news in each country in which it operates. In the case of fake news, other indicators may be needed, which take into account methodologies provided by library impact studies, SDG policies at European level and UN/Eurostat/NGO indicators where inclusive societies are evaluated for sustainable development (SDG 16.10).

Thomas Kaarsted, SDU Library, Deputy Director, is speaking on Citizen Science projects at the University of Southern Denmark. As a central SDG partner, the Library has participated in a number of projects, such as “Campus Odense Active Living”, an outdoor living lab on 80 HA land around the university (SDG3 and SDG11), “Bring your own device”, about recycling of electronic waste (SDG 12), and “The mapping and testing of climate lakes”, where citizens collect water samples from the more than +1.500 lakes in Denmark in order to monitor the impact on the environment (SDG4 and SDG13).

Clara Ortega, Spanish Ministry of Culture, and Alicia Selles Carot, President FESABID, speak about the three most important SDG actions in the area of libraries undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and Sport:

- The “Libraries and 2030 Agenda” Working Group, setting up the strategy for SDGs in library networks and systems;
- Equality as a transversal pillar;
- A Support plan for rural areas to reduce inequalities.

The SDG library plan is carried out by the Library Cooperation Council, an inter-administrative collegial body which coordinates library-related cooperation in Spain.

Ton van Vlimmeren, Director, Public Library Utrecht and EBLIDA President, reports about the new services related to the Covid emergence, which include centralised access to Covid-19 related health information produced by governmental authorities; Covid-19 support service - 'Community Call' delivered via phone, text, email and through platforms; use of social media to offer story time, through Facebook groups and YouTube profiles, or also for library exchange and (re-)use of digital products; advanced social services for the elderly and vulnerable on lockdown, such as phone calls, storytelling, also food delivery where necessary; the provision of face masks for healthcare workers through 3D printers.
During the Conference mention will also be made of the 2012 Jagodina municipality (Serbia) project, where half the population lives in villages and 70% of the economy is agricultural. The Agrolib project revitalised five rural libraries and endowed them with modern technologies and services aiming to link farmers with the State, farmers among themselves and farmers with potential sellers and buyers of agricultural products, machinery and services (SDG 2).

EBLIDA Matrix – European Union SDG policies / indicators and library policies for SDGs 13, 14 and 15

We continue our reviews of SDGs.

Previous newsletters have dealt with SDGs 1 and 2 (September 2019 Newsletter), SDGs 3 and 4 (October 2019 Newsletter), SDGs 5 and 6 (November 2019 Newsletter), SDG 7 and 8 (December 2019 Newsletter), SDG 9 and 10 (February 2020 Newsletter) and SDG 11 and 12 (March 2020 Newsletter).

For more details, please see the EBLIDA Matrix.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 13 targets strengthening resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries by integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. Education and awareness-raising are also fundamental in implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, whose goal is, among others, to mobilize $100 billion annually from all sources to address the needs of developing countries.

The EU 2030 climate and energy framework is expressed in its long-term vision “A Clean Planet for all”, which sets out three key targets for 2030: at least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 1990 levels, at least 27% share for renewable energy and at least 27% improvement in energy efficiency. It is worth remembering that Europe has taken a leading role in this context by engaging in international negotiations, pursuing the goals of the Paris Agreement and supporting climate initiatives around the world.

Indicators concern “Climate-related economic losses” and “Population covered by
as the contribution to the international 100bn USD commitment on climate related expenditure.

**How can European libraries be relevant in the Europe 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

EU action is expressed by the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP), which identifies three key objectives: a) to protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital; b) to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; c) to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.

Other activities are embedded in the Circular Economy package and its EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy, which establishes a programme of action with a common EU target for recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035 and a common EU target for recycling 70% of packaging waste by 2030.

In urgent and exceptional circumstances, such as the sudden influx of refugees in Europe, the European Union can fund emergency humanitarian support for people in need within the EU territory. The emergency support within the European Union, adopted in March 2016, aims to preserve life, prevent and alleviate human suffering and maintain human dignity.

Freedom of expression is a sacred principle in libraries; therefore, those who deny climate change may be listened to in libraries, but should also have a hard life: climate change has become an emergency also because of them. Awareness activities and campaigns / exhibitions promoting good practices should awaken people’s consciousness and accelerate the attainment of SDG 13. Cooperation between citizens and universities through public libraries would reverse the current consideration that climate emergency is something alongside and ahead of us, and not within us and now.

One of the most popular standards applied in sustainability is the ISO standard 14001:2004: Environmental management systems — requirements with guidance for use, a standard that is successfully applied in many aspects of SDGs. The University Library of Huelva set up an ISO standard compliant system designed to manage processes and procedures related to environmental aspects. It was applied to all library activities and services having an impact on the environment.

**Focus on SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources**

EU Member States share four main marine regions: the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and the North-East Atlantic Ocean. Targets envisaged by the UN programme apply to these seas and include, by 2020: sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal and unregulated fishing as well to minimise
all levels and sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism and increasing scientific knowledge and research capacity for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

Eurostat indicators concern “Surface of marine sites designated under NATURA 2000” and “Assessed fish stocks exceeding fishing mortality” as well as ocean acidity. Another indicator valid for EU is “the EU Bathing sites with excellent water quality”.

**How can European libraries be relevant in the Europe 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020. The European Commission programmes include the *Environment Action Programme*, which has strongly reduced air, water and soil pollution. Also fundamental are the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) and information & communication technologies in the ESI Funds (ERDF) through investment in digital literacy, education and training also contributes to human capital development.

In addition, the *EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy*, the international Convention on Biological Diversity and, Blue Growth are all EU programmes relevant for SDG 14. The EU assigns an Ecolabel to products and services meeting high environmental standards throughout their life-cycle.

Rivers, lakes and the sea are a source of transportation and power over which our cities were born and libraries can document well these riches. Access to information related to life below water may educate people in how to have a sustainable relationship with their water environment.

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**About the Newsletter**

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**Editors:** Unless otherwise specified, all articles are written by the EBLIDA Secretariat.
Events and Dates
September & October 2020

September 15-17
Open Access Days 2020 - Ways, Actors, Effects
Place: Online event
Organizer: Organizing Committee

September 15-16
Convegno: Biblioteche e sviluppo sostenibile: azioni, strategie, indicatori, impatto
Place: Milan, Italy
Organizer: Municipality of Milan & EBLIDA

September 22-25
The Fourteenth International Conference on Research Challenges in Information Science
Place: Online Event
Organizer: Organizing Committee

September 24-27
Göteborg Book Fair 2020
Place: Online streaming service
Organizer: Organizing Committee

October 2
Festival dello Sviluppo Sostenibile: “Tolerance and inclusion towards sustainable transition”
Place: Rome, Italy
Organizer: ASviS

October 13
EBLIDA Online Workshop 2020: "Think the Unthinkable" (no.1)
Registration: https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?
PIID=EF54D883864A3F
Place: Online event
Organizer: EBLIDA
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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. The goal is to