

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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## Issue No. 1. January 2021



### A Guided Tour of the EBLIDA website. Reaping the benefits of joining EBLIDA

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#### 1. President's Editorial



Dear colleagues,

Did you know that the resources stored on the EBLIDA website can have an immediate impact on your library or library associations, however big or small it is, and help you to advance your projects?

This guided tour of the EBLIDA website is aimed at supporting European libraries in reaping the benefits of joining EBLIDA.

association or your library is pursuing. We are proposing a series of itineraries which will facilitate searches within the EBLIDA website without resorting to Google's serendipitous approach.

#### These itineraries are:

- [Fundraising](#), both at national and international level – The ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027) way;
- Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development in libraries – SDGs and surroundings;
- Library legislation and information law – the library policy-making square;
- EBLIDA approach to libraries – the strategic communication highway; and
- Join EBLIDA, the library hub in Europe - why did EBLIDA members increase by 10 percent in the last three months?

**Fundraising** – The ESIF way is a business travel into the realm of financial opportunities for libraries. After a bird's eye view of all European programmes and funding opportunities which may be relevant for libraries ([EBLIDA Matrix](#)), library travellers will explore EBLIDA resources concerning [ESIF 2021-2027](#) in detail. They will be immersed into the local realities of the [Think the Unthinkable national workshops](#), from where they can pick up ideas, project proposals and best practices for applications by library associations and individual libraries. With its detailed cards, the [SDG-KIC](#) chart will help find the best way to strive for funding opportunities at national level.

**SDGs and surrounding** is a fascinating journey over the vast territories of the European Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. After an overall understanding of the [EBLIDA SDG European House](#) and how it may be useful for libraries, librarians will consult background material such as the [First European report on European libraries and sustainable development](#) and will start reflecting about the thorny issue of [SDG evaluation in libraries](#) – an aspect which may be going to be a prerequisite in all library budgets. Specific sections of the [EBLIDA Matrix](#) will help SDG-oriented library explorers to align their priorities to those of the European Union. In their journey, EBLIDA members will be assisted by the [ELSIA](#) (European Libraries and Sustainable development Implementation and Assessment) Expert Group.

**The Library policy-making square** is a highly trafficked spot where library acts, bills of law and other policies converge under the expert scrutiny of [EGIL](#) (Expert Group on Information Law) and the [LIBLEG](#) (Library Legislation and policy in Europe) working group. With the EBLIDA [statements and policy documents](#) on copyright and other information laws, libraries are trying to regulate the traffic. Towering on main societal trends, the 2000 [EBLIDA-Council of Europe Guidelines on library legislation and policy in Europe](#), now under revision, are the main professional regulator.

**The strategic communication** highway will open you to EBLIDA's new horizons – what will happen in the years to come and who is deciding about European libraries' future destinations. You will be introduced to the [EBLIDA 2019-2022 Strategic Plan](#), adjusted in 2020, and to the EBLIDA Governing bodies [[Executive Committee](#) and [Council](#)].

**EBLIDA is the hub for libraries in Europe**, the place where policies are forged and best practices are exchanged; it is the one-stop shop for SDGs and their implementation in Europe and a window of opportunity for all libraries. The [membership fee](#) to join EBLIDA is scalar for library associations and flat for institutions. You will also understand why [EBLIDA members](#) increased by almost 10 percent in the last three months of 2020.

**Joining EBLIDA** is especially important in 2021, because the European Union just approved a 2021-2027 budget and is renewing all policies and activities. Let's work together to make 2021 the year of library renaissance and to prepare ourselves for the next generation of libraries!

Yours sincerely,

**Ton van Vlimmeren**  
**EBLIDA President**

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## Fundraising, both at national and international level – The ESIF way



There are different ways libraries can participate in European programmes. Some of these programmes are reserved to special networks; some others provide funding only under special conditions. Some programmes of scientific nature have a strong research component. The most comprehensive overview of European programmes and funds which may be

relevant for libraries is to be found in the [EBLIDA Matrix](#).

**EBLIDA, however, selected ESIF 2021-2027 as main area of intervention for European libraries for the following reasons:**

- Unlike many of the programmes directly managed by the European Commission, the R&D requirement in ESIF projects is not essential; therefore, projects can encompass small and poorly equipped libraries as well as big and technologically advanced libraries;
- programmes are administered at national level; therefore there is no need to resort to the construction of complex networks at European level;
- libraries, and in particular public libraries, are strongly connected with local communities; ESI Funds operate at regional or local level and are therefore an ideal framework for their development;
- ESIF normally accounts for one third of the whole EU budget.

### ***How do I get informed?***

EBLIDA is assisting European libraries with having access to the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 in many ways. A specific report is available [[The European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027: Funding Opportunities for Libraries](#)]; it has been translated both in [French](#) and [Italian](#).

In October 2020, through the organisation of three European workshops, EBLIDA launched the “[Think The Unthinkable](#)” strategy, consisting of setting up a post-Covid library agenda meeting sustainable development goals to be funded through European Structural and Investment Funds. EBLIDA Members thought this strategy to be profitable for any type of library and therefore implemented [TTU workshops](#) in several countries.

### ***Whom should I refer to?***

Within EBLIDA, the [ELSIA](#) Expert Committee and the [EBLIDA Secretariat](#) are responsible for the ESIF work.

**Responsible for TTU activities in each EBLIDA member country are:**

- In Italy: [Associazione Italiana Biblioteche](#) e [Rete delle Reti](#)
- In the Netherlands: [VOB](#)

### *How can I participate?*

You can participate with ideas, project proposals to be filed for applications to the Structural Funds. If you are an [EBLIDA member](#), please contact the [EBLIDA Secretariat](#); we will be glad to provide you with a first assessment of your project proposal and the list of contact people (both in ESIF and in the library fields) you can address.

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## 3. SDGs and surroundings - Implementation of the Agenda 2030 in libraries



EBLIDA has developed a vast and ambitious strategy which aims to involve European libraries into the attainment of the European 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### *How do I get informed?*

The point of departure for the SDG journey is the [EBLIDA SDG European House](#), which was created by EBLIDA for its members and is articulated into four major spots: Community, Services, Training and Tools.

A wide community is supporting EBLIDA in its endeavour to attain the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The first circle is the [ELSIA](#) Expert Group, a gathering of experts designated by EBLIDA members which do not only implement the [Think The Unthinkable](#) in their country, but also provide expert advice on policies and lobbying for libraries. Advocacy for libraries in the European 2030 agenda means library participation in national SD plans so that they are mentioned in voluntary SD national reports. [ELSIA](#) is also useful in providing expert advice on the assessment of SDG activities in libraries; a first [report](#) has been published; more is following. In a less decisive way, the [EGIL](#) expert group and the [LIBLEG](#) working group are also supporting SDG activities.

EBLIDA Tools are designed to support EBLIDA members in devising their strategies and acquiring as much information as possible on the European Agenda. The [EBLIDA Matrix](#) is the most detailed information service you can access to identify SDG-oriented EU programmes, indicators and policies. Another tool is the [NewsGuard](#) system, monitoring fake news in the UK, France, Germany and Italy and, for those who are interested, the United States, which is offered free of charge to libraries.

EBLIDA services consist of the didactic material, [policy documents](#) and the charts ([SDG-KIC](#), for instance) prepared by EBLIDA or by other organisations. The [First European report on SDGs in European libraries](#) is a basic service, to be repeated on a yearly basis.

And finally, training and consultancy, which is offered by EBLIDA through the [national TTU workshops](#), with a view to encouraging libraries to participate in the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2021-2027. EBLIDA publications have been, or are being, translated into many languages. A look at the [Publication](#) section of the EBLIDA website will orient readers towards documents in their national language.

If your country is represented in the [ELSIA](#) Expert group, the designated expert will be the ideal point of contact. Otherwise, please refer to the [EBLIDA Secretariat](#).

### ***How can I participate?***

Check into the [KIC](#) chart whether library organisations or libraries in your country are already involved in EBLIDA programmes; contact them for further association into EBLIDA activities. Alternatively, address the [EBLIDA Secretariat](#).

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## **4. Library legislation and information law – the library policy-making square**



EBLIDA is born around the debate surrounding the first EU lending right directive, approved in 1992.

Since then, EBLIDA has been following any EC activity dealing with information law: [the Council Directive 92/100/EEC on rental right and its successor](#), the [2006 Directive](#); the [2001 Directive 2001/29/EC on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright](#) and the [2019 Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market](#), as well as decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union, for instance, the one opposing the [Vereniging Openbare Bibliotheken to the Stichting Leenrecht](#).

Similarly, EBLIDA launched a reflection on library legislation with a view to revising the [2000 Council of Europe-EBLIDA Guidelines on library legislation and policy in Europe](#).

### ***How do I get informed?***

The [EGIL](#) webpage provides access to all documents having been, or being produced by EBLIDA. Plenty of useful documents - Guidelines, Discussion Papers, Appeals – are kept in the EBLIDA Archives and can be re-used for national or local purposes.

“Hard” legislation at national level is only one of the ways library policy unfolds. EBLIDA’s approach focuses on the examination of library needs and how they can be met with bills, policy documents, or other acts of “soft” law. It is essential therefore to consult the 2020 [“Library Legislation and Policy in Europe Interim Report”](#) and the [Background paper to the EBLIDA Conference and Annual Council 2019](#).

### ***Whom should I refer to?***

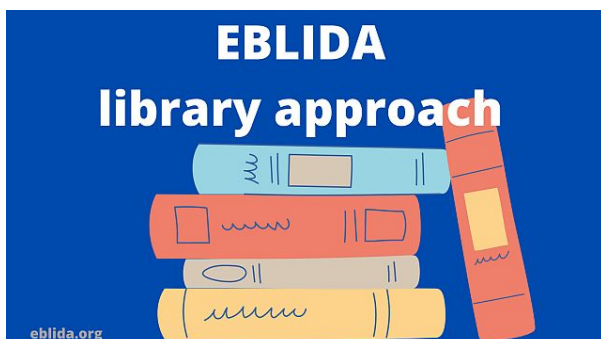
Experts included in [EGIL](#) and the [LIBLEG](#) Working Group may be your point of contact, or the Chairs of the two EBLIDA groups. You can also address the [EBLIDA Secretariat](#).

### ***How can I participate?***

Your contributions are more than welcome. You may contribute by providing papers, articles and

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## 5. The EBLIDA strategic communication highway



EBLIDA Strategic Plan is normally renewed every three years on the occasion of the EBLIDA [Annual Council](#) and is assessed every year. In 2020, for instance, there was the need to adapt the Strategic Plan approved in 2019 in light of the increasing importance of sustainable development as an overall priority for all objectives of the European Commission.

### *How do I get informed?*

An EBLIDA webpage provides you with information on all aspects of the EBLIDA [strategy](#), [membership](#), decision-making bodies [[Executive Committee](#) and [Council](#)] and the [EBLIDA Constitution](#). In particular, you will get acquainted with the EBLIDA [Executive Committee](#), the body that coordinates the activities of the EBLIDA Secretariat, its Chair, the [EBLIDA President](#), and the EBLIDA [Director](#).

### *Whom should I refer to?*

EBLIDA's geographic scope encompasses over 30 European countries. The list of [EBLIDA Members](#) will inform you about the organisations adhering EBLIDA that are present in your country. For more direct questions, please do not hesitate to contact the [EBLIDA Secretariat](#).

### *How can I participate?*

You can participate in EBLIDA actions also as a non-member. Your experience will be unique and we would be very fond of reporting about it in the EBLIDA [Newsletter](#).

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## 6. Join EBLIDA, the library hub in Europe – why did EBLIDA members increase by almost 10 percent in the last three months of 2020?



Joining EBLIDA is easy.

First, 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 willing to join EBLIDA: [Full](#) or [Associate Member](#). Fees are scalar for library associations and flat for Associate

Members.

[eblida@eblida.org](mailto:eblida@eblida.org)

Requests for memberships are received all year long.

EBLIDA [strategy](#), in particular if linked with the ESIF way and SDG surrounding, is proving to be successful. In the last three months, eight Dutch, one French and one Italian new Members decided to join EBLIDA.

[JOIN EBLIDA, JOIN THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY HUB](#)

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## Events and Dates

### January 18

[Knowledge for a Better World: The need for Sustainability and Collaboration in a disruptive age](#)

**Place:** Online event

**Organizer:** NTNU European Conference 2021

### January 18

[Sustainability and libraries - agenda 2030](#)

**Place:** Online event

**Organizer:** FOBID and Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID)

### January 20

[Irish Libraries: Living with Covid-19](#)

**Place:** Online event

**Organizer:** Maynooth University

### January 25

["Think the Unthinkable" Workshop Nederland \(in Dutch\)](#)

*Een post-corona agenda voor bibliotheken; over duurzame ontwikkelingsdoelen en Europese subsidies 2021-2027*

**Registration:** [anymeeting.com/PIID=E050DF88864A3B](https://anymeeting.com/PIID=E050DF88864A3B)

**Place:** Online event

**Organizer:** EBLIDA, VOB

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## About the Newsletter

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**Editors:** Unless otherwise specified, all articles are written by the [EBLIDA Secretariat](#).

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membership and members of the European library community. The goal is to facilitate information exchange as well as professional communication and development within the EBLIDA community. [Subscribe](#) now!



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