

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. 6. June 2021



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1. Editorial

Dear Colleagues,



Even if, for parochial reasons, I were not compelled to boast about EBLIDA activities, I still would like to claim that this has been an extraordinary year for EBLIDA. It is not just because EBLIDA managed to go through the Covid crisis and to come out the other side stronger and more prosperous – other organisations have been able to do that. And it is not only because the EBLIDA “Think The Unthinkable” initiative has attracted more than 1,000 people in the seven countries where TTU national workshops and conferences, or EBLIDA co-organised meetings, took place. Facts and figures only tell one part of the story.

EBLIDA’s most meaningful result last year has been the ability to build up a tight community, with

demonstrated that. Normally, large audiences attend conferences having a general approach and an attractive theme. The EBLIDA Conference, instead, had a specific scope – European Structural Funds - and an administrative approach – case studies, policies, evaluation. It is certainly not the kind of issue that would fill stadiums. Nevertheless, we had a fully booked conference with a community coalescing in the quest for common values unfolded in a post-Covid library agenda meeting sustainable development goals.



Friday 11th June, the EBLIDA day, started with the Annual Council. Technologies strengthen communication, but also weaken exchange of feelings and experiences. Last Friday, instead, the EBLIDA community managed to share a sense of belonging and our strive towards common goals, well beyond the technological barrier. Many of our partners are now busy preparing library projects within ESI Funds and we hope that many of these projects will be approved and that a great amount of additional funds will make libraries much more relevant in Europe. The real leap forward for libraries, however, is that these projects are being prepared within the wider context of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. They will have to go through the SDG and the ESIF tests – scrutiny which will make both libraries and librarians more modern and visionary.

Before welcoming the members of the newly elected EBLIDA Executive Committee, I would like to address my most sincere thanks to those who left because they already cumulated two terms:



Steen Boarding Andersen
(Denmark)



Ulrika Domellöf Mattson
(Sweden)



(Italy)



Jean-Marie Reding
(Luxembourg)



Alicia Sellés Carot
(Spain)

It has been extremely pleasant to work with them and, as far I am concerned, a source of enrichment and a personal joy.

EBLIDA is now welcoming Valentina Bondesan, Andrew Cranfield, Katrīna Kukaine, Rauha Maarno, Mairead Owens, Zélia Parreira, Elena Sanchez Nogales, as well as the EBLIDA EC members who are starting their 2nd term: Julie Calmus, Hella Klauser and Marina Encheva. This 2021-2024 Executive Committee is well balanced, with all European geographic areas represented, a gender representation which reflects the one present in European libraries, and a mix of competences that can only reinforce EBLIDA's action. They will - in collaboration with EBLIDA members, the experts participating in EBLIDA groups and the Think The Unthinkable coordinators - write EBLIDA's own post-Covid agenda.

To those who are with us today and those who will join us tomorrow: welcome on board!

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President

2. EBLIDA Annual Conference “European Structural Funds and libraries: the win-win approach” (11 June, 3h-5h pm)

With a report published in September 2020, EBLIDA launched the (TTU) strategy, consisting of setting up a post-Covid library agenda meeting sustainable development goals to be funded



through European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027. The first step of this strategy was the organisation of nine workshops: three of them (October 2020) were Europe-oriented and created awareness about the "[Think The Unthinkable](#)" report; the others were organised by various organisations in six different countries: France, The Netherlands, Greece, Latvia, Bulgaria and Italy.

The aim of the 29th Conference "European Structural Funds and libraries : a win-win approach" was:

- To inform EBLIDA Members and the general community of librarians of the TTU strategy and the activities having been ignited by EBLIDA's work;
- To share ESIF-based best practices and SDG-oriented activities in libraries;
- To inspire similar projects and practices in European libraries, both at national and local levels, and connecting them to the EU level;
- In the long term, to raise the status of libraries and make them structurally relevant within the 2030 European agenda on sustainable development.

Stefano Parise, Deputy President, EBLIDA, showed how TTU national workshops have taken a specific approach, meeting the needs of the libraries where they took place and the configuration of ESI Funds and SDGs in each country. He pointed to the fact that the aim of the EBLIDA Conference was to cross fertilize experiences of, and approaches to, TTU in the six countries and to offer the results of this approach to EBLIDA Members and the public as a whole.

Two successful case studies were presented with a view to showing the extreme flexibility, both financial and systemic, of ESI Funds.

The first case, presented by **Guillaume Gast**, Chief of Médiathèque Nord, Strasbourg, was an ERD-funded project aimed at preventing school drop-outs and to subsequently reintegrate young people into school. Its financial dimension was small - 50,000 euro in two years; but the project would never have been undertaken without European grants.

The second case – the [Dutch library programme for the most deprived people](#) – was illustrated by **Theo Kempermann**, Director of the Public Library in Rotterdam. It was an ambitious project focussed on vulnerable elderly citizens and funded by the European Fund Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). The FEAD programme normally supports **food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, but in The Netherlands it was decided that material assistance should go hand in hand with social inclusion measures**, such as guidance and support to lift people out of poverty and integration of the most deprived people into society. The project, funded with a generous 4,5 million euro grant, ran in four major Dutch cities: Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht. 4,500 elderly people were targeted and supported in what are considered basic technological skills, such as the use of a smart phone, communication with governmental agencies and other basic literacy needs.

TTU coordinators in six countries

Spaska Tarandova and **Marina Encheva** in Bulgaria [[Presentation](#)], **Eléonore Clavreul** in France, **Antonios Mourikis** in Greece [[Presentation](#)], **Valentina Bondesan** in Italy,

and their short- and mid-term strategy for the national TTU action. The proceedings of this section of the EBLIDA Conference will be published in the July issue of the EBLIDA Newsletter.

In his contribution – [Monitoring ESIF 2021-2027](#) - Giuseppe Vitiello, EBLIDA Director, made reference to the EBLIDA Sustainable Development House, created in 2020. In only eight months, the EBLIDA community demonstrated that SDGs are not only library stories to be told, but policies to be pursued and assessed through indicators; that there is a European approach to SDGs, which may be funded through ESIF 2021-2027, and that SDGs are not accessory objectives to the library core mission, they are the library mission as well as the new framework for library work. He also introduced the EBLIDA “[ESIF 2021. A Guide for Library Applicants](#)” (see article below) and the future of the TTU action.

Finally, Annalisa Cicerchia [[Presentation](#)] pointed out that evaluation should be a built-in feature inherent to any project and that projects having a cultural scope often neglect or discard this element. Cultural managers and project evaluators may have difficult times when they embark upon an assessment of the project. Between ex ante and ex post evaluation, the best methodology is an on-going evaluation with planned, and also unplanned, objectives constantly assessed. In particular in the case of SDGs, tables expressing the preferred Goal towards which libraries are oriented should always be explicit.

Presentations are available: <http://www.eblida.org/29th-eblida-annual-conference-2021/programme.html>

Recording of the Conference: https://youtu.be/HbnHE7h_Km0

European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 – A Guide for Library Applicants:
<http://www.eblida.org/29th-eblida-annual-conference-2021/eblida-guide.html>

3. EBLIDA Annual Council



This was the second time the Annual Council was held online but the level of participation remained high: more than one third of EBLIDA Members participated in the meeting.

The most important decision was the validation of the EBLIDA elections and the designation of the EBLIDA President and the new Executive Committee Members.

Ton van Vlimmeren was the only candidate presented by no less than 11 associations.

(Italy), **Zéila Parreira** (Portugal), **Julie Calmus** (France), **Katrīna Kukaine** (Latvia), **Elena Sanchez Nogales** (Spain) and **Marina Encheva** (Bulgaria).

As usual, main points on the agenda were : EBLIDA finances, EBLIDA membership, the Annual Report and the Operational Plan and reports from the EBLIDA expert and working groups.

While 2019 was the year of financial adjustments, 2020 has been the year of financial prosperity. Distant work made necessary by the Covid pandemic as well as income generated from increased membership have resulted in good budgetary results for EBLIDA. The membership record is particularly positive, with 15 additional associate members and only one member having cancelled its membership.

Since the last EBLIDA Council meeting in October, the Think The Unthinkable activity has exploded both in quantity and quality. The EBLIDA Conference clearly demonstrated the success of the initiative and its level of penetration, with more than 1,000 librarians been involved in project preparation in six countries. Therefore, the EBLIDA Strategic Plan 2019-2022 is de facto rebalanced, since at the outset there was little expectation that the initiative would raise so much enthusiasm among members and involve so many people. In 2020, an ELSA Working Group focused on the assessment of sustainable development was active. Its successor is the ELSIA (European Libraries and Sustainable Development Implementation and Assessment) Expert Group. Its impulsion will be determinant in reinforcing EBLIDA action in the field.

This does not mean that other EBLIDA activities – library legislation and policy, advocacy, copyright, communication with EBLIDA members and other organisations active at European level – have progressed at a slower pace. Mainly, this action line consisted of discussions taking place within two EBLIDA Groups: EGIL, the Expert Group on Information Law, and LIBLEG, Library Legislation and Policy in Europe.

The three groups – ELSIA, EGIL and LIBLEG - were created in March 2021. In only three months, six meetings were held and two more are going to take place before summer 2021.

Under these conditions, planning has become a complicated business. EBLIDA set up its 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, but adjustments to the Plan were necessary in 2019 and 2020 to accommodate the growing importance of the Agenda 2030 on sustainable development in EBLIDA objectives. It can be said that current developments are streamlining EBLIDA course of action, with two lines being at the forefront of EBLIDA strategy: the Agenda 2030 on sustainable development and library legislation and policy, also including information law.

EBLIDA short-term output includes the publication of the ESIF Guide for Library applicants, which was released on 11th June), the imminent updating of the “A European library agenda for the post-Covid 19 age”, released in May 2020, and the publication of the report “Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries – Second European Report”, after Summer 2021.

Sharing good news - received from our Members during Council:

France:

Le Sénat adopte à l'unanimité la proposition de loi sur les bibliothèques

[The Senate unanimously adopts the proposed law on libraries]:

<https://www.archimag.com/bibliotheque-edition/2021/06/11/senat-adopte-unanimente-proposition-loi-bibliotheques>

Denmark:

Regeringen sætter ny retning for at nå verdensmålene i Danmark

[The government is setting a new direction to achieve SDGs in Denmark]:

4. EBLIDA Executive Committee meeting

The newly formed EBLIDA Executive Committee held a short meeting on 11th June in its new composition.

During the Meeting the EBLIDA EC designated Ms Hella Klauser as Vice President, EBLIDA, and Ms Julie Calmus as Treasurer, EBLIDA.

Here is a short profile of its members:



President

Ton van Vlimmeren

Netherlands

[2nd Term]

[Read more >>>](#)



Vice- President

Hella Klauser

Germany

BID - Bibliothek & Information Deutschland
(Federal Union of German Library and
Information Associations)

[2nd Term]

[Read more >>>](#)



Treasurer

Julie Calmus

France

ABF, Association des Bibliothécaires Français
(French Association of Librarians)

[2nd Term]

[Read more >>>](#)

Valentina Bondensan

Italy

Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (AIB)
(Italian Library Association)

[1st Term]

[Read more >>>](#)

**Andrew Cranfield**

Denmark

Danmarks Biblioteksforening
(Danish Library Association)

[1st Term]

[Read more >>>](#)

**Marina Encheva**

Bulgaria

Българска библиотечно-информационна асоциация
(Bulgarian Library and Information Association - BLIA)

[2ndTerm]

[Read more >>>](#)

**Katrīna Kukaine**

Latvia

Latvijas Nacionālā Bibliotēka
(National Library of Latvia)

[1st Term]

[Read more >>>](#)

**Rauha Maarno**

Finland

Suomen Kirjastoseura
(Finnish Library Association)

[1st Term]

[Read more >>>](#)

Mairead Owens

Ireland

City Library of Dublin

[1st Term]



Zélia Parreira

Portugal

Portuguese Association of Librarians, Archivists, Information and Documentation Professionals (BAD)

[1st Term]

[Read more >>>](#)



Elena Sánchez Nogales

Spain

Federación Española de Sociedades de Archivística, Biblioteconomía, Documentación y Museística/
FESABID - Spanish Federation of Archives, Libraries, Documentation and Museum Associations

[1st Term]

[Read more >>>](#)

5. European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027: Why a Guide for Library Applicants?



The publication, "[ESI Funds 2021-2027 – The EBLIDA Guide for Library Applicants](#)", is a must read for librarians willing to undertake activities which are meeting sustainable development goals in libraries and may be funded through the European Structural Funds.

The Guide has the following objectives:

- To assist EBLIDA Members and libraries as a whole in making the most out of European policies and financial opportunities linked with the implementation of ESIF 2021-2027;
- To be used by EBLIDA Members as background documents for the organisation of national workshops taking place within the EBLIDA "Think The Unthinkable" (TTU) programme, where practical implementations of would-be

ESI-funded projects are discussed.

expands upon regional smart specialisation strategies and the ESIF administrative burden, through the analysis of two cases of ESI-funded projects in France and in Germany. A practical review of SDGs – how to translate library operations into SDGs and how to go from library projects to library policies – is followed by a vademecum on how to prepare SDG/ESI-Funded projects in eight steps, including useful information about platforms, regional maps, websites, reports and other resources.

While some of these steps are self-explanatory – like “3rd Step. Keep in mind the objectives of the EU Work programme”, “7th Step. Get in touch with TTU national coordinator(s)”, “8th Step. Get in touch with the EBLIDA Secretariat, where there is no TTU action” – less obvious are the other steps among EBLIDA members, like the consultation of EBLIDA tools – EBLIDA Matrix, EBLIDA SDG-KIC – and of national tools detailing library policies and activities related to the Agenda 2030. Moreover, the Guide provides reference to EU websites referring to the EU Structural Funds websites.

Finally, the Guide also provides some practical suggestions on setting library indicators for the evaluation of SDG-oriented, ESI-funded projects. TTU strategies in six European countries are also listed and future developments of the Think The Unthinkable strategies in these countries are broadly sketched.

6. EBLIDA President Ton Van Vlimmeren is appointed Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau



EBLIDA, The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, is extremely proud to congratulate our President, Mr. Ton Van Vlimmeren, on having achieved a royal decoration from the Deputy Mayor of Utrecht, Anke Klein, on Friday afternoon last.

Shortly after the EBLIDA Executive Board Meeting on Friday, 4th June, Mr. Van Vlimmeren heard the news that he is appointed Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau.

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



[Deutscher Bibliothekartag 2021](#)

Place: Online event & Brema, Germany

Organizer: VDB and BIB

June 17-19

[66e congrès ABF : Bibliothèques inclusives, bibliothèques solidaires ?](#)

Place: Dunkerque, France

Organizer: Association des bibliothécaires de France (ABF)

June 22

[Icepops 2021 - Decoding copyright and bringing you enlightenment](#)

Place: Cardiff, United Kingdom

Organizer: UK Copyright Literacy

June 28

[DCDC21 - Catalysts for change: transforming our practices, collections, and communities through times of crisis](#)
[Catalysts for change: transforming our practices, collections, and communities through times of crisis](#)

Place: Online event

Organizer: The National Archives, RLUK and Jisc

June 29

[London Book Fair: "Taking Words Further"](#)

Place: London, United Kingdom

Organizer: Reed Exhibitions Ltd.

About the Newsletter

Responsible for the Newsletter: Giuseppe Vitiello

[contact him by email: [g.vitiello at eblida.org](mailto:g.vitiello@eblida.org)]

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

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EBLIDA (European Bureau of Library Information and Documentation Associations) · Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5 · The Hague, 2595 BE · Netherlands

