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1. President’s Editorial

Few spectacles in the world can be compared with the view of the sunset from Mount Lycabettus in Athens. This memory, and many more (exciting and fruitful conversations, the pleasure to meet again after two years of online meetings) we take home from the EBLIDA Council and Conference in Athens (14-16 June).

I am satisfied that our Conference title “Library commitments towards a sustainable, democratic
about sustainable development were endowed with proposals of actions and projects in public and university libraries and the ways they could be financed. The concept of libraries as modern agoras was declined in the draft Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines on library legislation and policy in Europe. And how can a society be equal, when digital literacy is low and not attained through a sound and effective e-lending policy?

With well over 100 attendants from more than 25 countries, the diversity of debate during this conference was among the most successful in EBLIDA history. This was due to the clear European approach of speakers and chairs, but also to a series of workshops and table talks which attracted the interest of all participants and raised animated discussions. The presence of NAPLE and PL2030 representatives was instrumental in enhancing discussions; input was coming from various and interesting perspectives – lighthouse libraries and local management agencies. And we can reasonably expect that library advocacy, as it was discussed and promoted within the conference, will generate funding for libraries at local level on a variety of priorities.

During the final session, which I had the honor to chair, panellist’s were asked to report about their impressions - what was their most vivid memory of the conference. I was struck by the variety of highlights. One panellist pointed to the brilliant future of European library cooperation as a result of the joint events organised by EBLIDA, PL2030 and NAPLE. Another panellist reported that the Guidelines on Library legislation and policy in Europe will certainly improve the democratic dimension of libraries. One more emphasised that the figures present in the EBLIDA First Overview on e-lending in Europe represent a fundamental tool for library advocacy, regardless of your country of residence. All panellist’s however, referred to the special dimension of the EBLIDA conferences, which is ideal both for in-depth conversations about specific topics and for closer professional contacts.

I also would like to add that sustainable development is rapidly shaping library administration and policy and new forms of governance and financial rules are coming to light through the diversification of library incomes. This is happening in spite of the war in Ukraine and the fact that
the barbaric attack of the Russian Federation has turned back the clocks of the 2030 agenda on sustainable development.

During the conference, workshops were an important source of inspiration and proposals. EBLIDA is now providing follow-ups to the activities proposed during the workshop on Ukraine and we describe in this Newsletter (see below) the steps undertaken with the Federation of European Publishers and the European Commission in relation to displaced Ukrainians. Ukraine is too important an issue to be neglected; we must continue the momentum we created and even go further.

To continue with our resolve to bring attention to the situation in Ukraine, we asked our members during the Conference to let us know about actions in their countries helping with displaced Ukrainians.

The first of these has been sent to us by the Romanian Library Association, please read below.

My sincere thanks to Ms Bettina Wenzel, Director of the Goethe Institut in Athens and Head of Information Region Southeastern Europe, and Nikoletta Stathopoulou, Head-Librarian, as well as to the other colleagues of the Goethe-Institut for the invaluable support we received during the conference.

Special rewards also go to Anthi Katsirikou, Antonios Mourikis, Argyro Tzormpatzaki and Anthi Baliou of the Hellenic Librarians Associations & Information Scientists: they were formidable fellow travellers and assisted the conference with much good humour and patience.

Following endorsement during the EBLIDA Annual Council meeting, EBLIDA is now embarking upon a new season of opportunities generated from the Strategic Plan 2022-2025. With this new
The EBLIDA President and Secretariat will come back to you in September with another issue of the Newsletter. To all our readers, I wish you an excellent summer and well-deserved rest after the last difficult years.

Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President

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2. Results of the EBLIDA Conference, Session 1 “Library commitment towards sustainable development”

**Professor Despina Anagnostopoulou** and **Anastasia Psallida**, University of Macedonia in Greece, provided the state of the art of the 2030 agenda on sustainable development, with an emphasis on SDGs 4 and 16, also focussing on the targets and indicators reported in European Union reports.

The progress of the sustainable development discourse in the EU is flagrant in spite of adverse events caused by the war.

**Niki Dandolou**, Special Secretary for European Social Funds Programmes at Ministry of Development and Investments in Greece, informed participants on current developments of the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 with a focus on European Social Funds. The partnership agreement between Greece and the European Commission was signed early 2022; Structural Funds may represent a rich window of opportunity for Greek libraries.

**Rauha Maarno**, Director of customer relations, Accessibility Library Celia, Finland showed how both the political context and urban regeneration may make the difference in library development. She also provided some concrete and critical insights on how traditional library development...
Three videos provided concrete examples of SDGs implemented in libraries through projects funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 (Veronica Ceruti, Director library system, city of Bologna, Italy, Guillaume Gast, Head Médiathèque Nord, Strasbourg, France, and Spaska Tarandova, Director Global Libraries Foundation, Bulgaria). After these presentations, participants gathered in three workshops with success stories to be shared.

In the case of workshop 1, “Sustainable development and public libraries”, light was shed on the many projects described by the EBLIDA 2nd European report on sustainable development and libraries.

The success stories of workshop n.2, “Sustainable development and university libraries”, and workshop n. 3, “Sustainable development and fundraising”, were, respectively, those of the Masaryk University Library and of the Italian Rete delle Reti, in collaboration with AIB.

In general, participants suggested a role for EBLIDA to help libraries in their advocacy with governmental representatives on behalf of users. A forum for citizen discussion / citizen-driven design of library pilots and programmes connected to SDGs is much needed and EBLIDA should support library staff in communicating the outcome of the projects they coordinate to policymakers and government representatives.

EBLIDA should also support public and university libraries with information about possible funding channels for SDG projects in libraries. Awareness should be raised on sustainable development (once, a topic which was not seen as directly relevant for library work), has now turned into its opposite thanks to the guides, vademecum and other communication tools EBLIDA published. Librarians do a lot of SDG work in their everyday routine, without realising the connection.
In 2000, the Council of Europe, in collaboration with EBLIDA, drafted the Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe, which proved to be a frame of reference for individual libraries working in often challenging local situations, as well as for regional and municipal administrators willing to restructure local library systems.

Zélia Parreira introduced the draft Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe and their five headlines:

- Freedom of expression, free access to information and democratic participation;
- Libraries within the framework of the European agenda on sustainable development;
- Local and local threats and library operations;
- Digital transformation and the promotion of a sustainable, reliable and inclusive library ecosystem;
- Copyright and the protection of library heritage.

Barbara Schleihagen, Director of the German Library Association, clarified what library legislation and library policy mean. The governance of a library system is, or may be, the result of a savvy combination of legislation and policy. She pointed to the importance of the Guidelines as drivers for change in countries where legislation is lacking or new framework policies have to be adopted.

Knut Skansen, Oslo Municipal Library Director, Norway, introduced the concept of libraries as an “independent meeting place and arena for public discussion and debate” (Norwegian Library Act, 2013). He pointed to the practical application of this law within the Oslo Municipal Library where users are free to set up their own resources through podcast factories and other publishing enterprises.

Dragos-Adrian Neagu, Director at Biblioteca Judeteana "Panait Israti" Braila, President Romanian Library Association, described the process of transforming library policy into library legislation, and how this process has provided momentum for the development of the Romanian library system. He also pointed to the development of democracy and the role played by Romanian libraries in facing the flow of Ukrainian refugees.

Kathrin Merkle, Head of the Culture and Cultural Heritage Division, and Jovana Poznan, Project Officer, Culture and Cultural Heritage Division, Council of Europe, expanded upon the status of
Recommendations with appended Guidelines. This would give much more visibility to the Guidelines and also provide room for a larger impact.

4. Results of the EBLIDA Conference, Session 3 “Library commitment towards equal access to information”

Andrew Cranfield expanded upon the concept of equal access to information and e-lending. He pointed to the importance of digital literacy as an objective common to all libraries.

Giuseppe Vitiello, Director, EBLIDA, showed how fruitful the interaction between copyright and its economic foundation can be. On the basis of the tables presented in the Overview he demonstrated how e-lending is underdeveloped in libraries; they should use the Overview to advocate for libraries in relation to digital literacy at national and European levels.

Valérie Bouissou, Director, Bibliothèque Municipale Nîmes, France, presented the first EBLIDA Overview on e-lending in Europe in a public library perspective. The report clearly shows that,
where aggregators are present, there is a normalising effect on the e-lending market with a reduction of e-lending business models and, to a certain extent, less chaotic practices.

**Mikkel Christoffersen**, Chief Consultant, The Digital Public Library, Denmark, presented the successful model of e-lending in Danish libraries based on cooperation between librarians and publishers. He also stated that practices should be carefully analysed in a European context, as the British market presents characteristics that cannot be easily compared to e-lending features in other European countries.

**Erna Winters**, Managing Director ABC, Huis, The Netherlands, provided additional data on the role of aggregators and the positive role the Royal Library of Netherlands is playing in negotiations with publishers.

5. Progress report: EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 joint action on Ukraine

On 24th February, EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 released a statement condemning the barbaric attack of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Immediately afterwards...
During the workshop held at the EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 joint event on 16th June, many librarians reported about the difficulty experienced in receiving Ukrainian books as roads bordering Ukraine are kept clear for military purposes. Not only don’t they receive the books they have ordered, but they cannot offer interlibrary loan activities as libraries are not adequately supplied. In some cases, libraries are competing with each other to acquire books.

Some participants wondered whether there Ukrainian books are printed out of Ukraine, also on print-on-demand basis (and some library utilities have even offered to do so). Others asked to what extent Ukrainian books in digital form (for instance, for students willing to take their exams online) can circulate through e-lending aggregators. Others participants suggested recruiting Ukrainian personnel, whose digital competencies are high, to improve further online distribution of Ukrainian books.

**EBLIDA raised the issue with the Federation of European Publishers and here is an extract of their response:**

“As for the availability of Ukrainian books, I would recommend that you contact Ukrainian publishers who might print on demand in some of the countries although we just heard that printers are starting to work again in Ukraine. If this is useful we would be delighted to put you in contact with Ukrainian publishers or alternatively if you had a list of books you would want to acquire we could enquire their availability.

For online offers, […] the promoters of YAKABOO – інтернет-магазин книг, подарунків та інтер'єрних товарів. Купити книги в магазині за найкращими цінами в Україні are allowing Ukrainians in exile to access ebooks. […] Different sites providing access to Ukrainian literature is knigi.ua or book-ye.com.ua [http://www.ukrlib.com.ua/books/](http://www.ukrlib.com.ua/books/) If your members are interested to take subscriptions to these services, we can see how to contact them. And when the services are offered for free let’s remember that it means that authors and publishers are not remunerated and that they have simply allowed this because of a truly exception circumstance.”

This is not the only activity EBLIDA developed as a follow up to the Workshop on Ukraine. EBLIDA, NAPLE and PL2030 brought the Ukrainian issue to the attention of the European Commission, in particular within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. What follows is an extract of the European Commission’s answer:

“As a starting point, it is good to note that – already at this moment – libraries and associations of libraries and librarians are eligible as coordinators and partners in several Erasmus+ actions. To provide you with concrete examples, I am attaching to this letter a brief booklet with 10 good practice Erasmus+ projects that feature
In response to the situation in Ukraine, the Commission decided that beneficiary institutions of ongoing Erasmus+ projects in areas such as inclusion, diversity and citizenship are welcome to reallocate part of their existing project funds to activities supporting the education and training challenges related to the refugee crisis. Organisations active in Erasmus+ can, for example, invite teachers, trainers and other relevant experts, including Ukrainians, to join temporarily and support with their expertise relevant activities that support integration. For the detailed modalities of making use of this flexibility that is offered to existing Erasmus+ projects, please contact the National Agency responsible for the implementation of Erasmus+ in your Member State. The list of the National Agencies and their contact details is available here: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/national-agencies.

In addition, I would like to encourage you to mobilise your networks and apply under the upcoming Erasmus+ calls for proposals with projects supporting Ukrainian refugees in an educational context. You might, for example, consider applying under the small-scale partnerships in the fields of vocational education and training, school education, adult education and youth, which has a call closing on 4 October 2022. Prospective applicants are encouraged to include activities linked to the integration of Ukrainian refugees in project proposals under this and other upcoming calls. For more information on the upcoming calls, please contact the Erasmus+ National Agency in your Member State.”

We are currently also looking into solutions to support the Ukrainian cultural and the creative sectors in the short, medium, and long term, both through Creative Europe and through coordination with other Commission services and EU Institutions.

6. Romanian Library Association to support the Ukrainian refugees

Romanian Library Association launched a humanitarian campaign to support Ukrainians, under the circumstances of war and refuge.

The Centre for Professional Development of the Teachers in Cernăuți (Ukraine) sent a humanitarian appeal, on March 21st, 2022 through social media.

The appeal mentioned the need for humanitarian help, in order to support the refugees who came to Cernăuți region, namely: medicines, equipment for doctors, foodstuff, etc. The appeal was signed by Mrs. Rodica Timiș, a volunteer from Cernăuți.
The Romanian Library Association became aware of this appeal and launched immediately a humanitarian campaign, brought to public attention by the President of the Association, Mrs. Adriana Szekely. The Council of the Romanian Library Association agreed to direct an amount of money (1,000 euros) to the Humanitarian help. The President of Suceava branch of the Library Association, our colleague Anișoara Budui (librarian at the University „Ștefan cel Mare” Suceava) was designated to keep in touch with the Ukrainian representatives.

Our colleague spoke on phone with Mrs. Rodica Timiș several times. Mrs. Timiș presented the desperate situation in the hospitals in Kiev and Harkov and the lack of medicines and medical equipment, pharmaceutical products, etc.

As we know, medical materials are expensive and Romanian Library Association is a non-profit organisation, so librarians contacted NGOs and other organisations and humanitarian platforms willing to help. Among them we mention: Platforma națională de sprijin de urgență/The National Platform for Emergency Help, Salvați Copiii/Save Children, pharmaceutical associations. Therefore, a lot of friends joined ABR’s campaign and 650 Ukrainian children were helped, due to this campaign. Children received stationary and sweets. There were sent to Ukraine some medical and pharmaceutical materials with a value of 1,000 euro from ABR.

At the same time, in Romania, many county libraries organised different activities for the refugee children, like: reading in the Ukrainian language, playing in the library or they developed humanitarian campaigns, to support fundraising. Children were invited to the libraries to spend time, learn and make friends with the Romanian children.

Romaninan Library Association is aware that refugees will need further support, therefore, we intend to continue involving more librarians in future campaigns.

Corina Apostoleanu
7. Progress report: Think The Unthinkable in Greece and Italy

EBLIDA has undertaken important advocacy work aimed to focus the attention of European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 policy-makers to libraries. In parallel, EBLIDA also put its competence at the service of the EU Urban Agenda, in particular on Action line 5 focussed on public libraries

(responsible: Berlin Senate for Europe and Culture). Since 2020, an important link has been established between SDGs and Structural Funds through the “Think The Unthinkable” programme (A post-Covid library agenda meeting SDGs to be funded through the Structural Funds 2021-2027). Two reports on SDGs and European libraries were published and two important tools are available on the EBLIDA website: the EBLIDA Matrix and the EBLIDA SDG-KIC.

This work is starting having some impact. The government of Greece signed the ESIF Partnership agreement with the European Commission early 2022 and the opening launch has been planned on 16 June. Greece is also a country which convincingly embarked upon the EBLIDA “Think The Unthinkable” programme. During the Conference, Ms Niki Dandolou provided free consultancy to Greek libraries, explaining the quality and the typology of library projects within ESIF, their constraints, possible timelines and the best way to apply for ESF+.

A terrific series of ten virtual laboratories was also organised by Rete delle Reti in collaboration with EBLIDA and the Italian Library Association.

In the course of the final conference of the EU Urban Agenda on culture (Rome, 20-21 June) the Italian Agency for Territorial Cohesion overtly showed interest in libraries. There is hope that the Italian European Union Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027, which is going to be signed with the European Commission in Autumn 2022, will include libraries as possible beneficiaries of the Funds.

Please look at the Four good reasons to become EBLIDA member and at the membership fee which varies according to the
For the registration form please fill out the [Membership Enquiry Form](https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=e89f2b03e1c5beec6e43581dd&id=62947a86e0) or contact the Secretariat: eblida@eblida.org

### Events and Dates

**July 6-8**  
**LIBER 2022 Annual Conference: Libraries in the Research and Innovation Landscape — Supporting, Partnering, Leading**  
**Place:** Odense, Denmark  
**Organizer:** Liber

**July 7-8**  
**CILIP Conf + Expo**  
**Place:** Liverpool, United Kingdom  
**Organizer:** CILIP

**July 11-15**  
**DCDC22 Virtual Conference: Inclusive Innovation: digital creativity and opportunities**  
**Place:** Online  
**Organizer:** The National Archives, RLUK and Jisc

**July 16**  
**53rd Annual Conference of Hungarian Librarians Association: Sustainability - Responsibility - Shaping Approach**  
**Place:** Kaposvár, Hungary  
**Organizer:** MKE - Magyar Könyvtárosok Egyesülete / Hungarian Librarians Association

**July 26-29**  
**87th IFLA World Library and Information Congress**  
**Place:** Dublin, Ireland  
**Organizer:** IFLA

### About the Newsletter

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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.