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.

The voice of Libraries in Europe - Lobbying for Libraries
www.eblida.org

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1. President’s Editorial

Neutrality is not an option for libraries; they have a vision, a mission, and goals.

Look at all the websites of libraries to read how they want to strive for a better world. They work with communities and open new directions.

Through target selection, they orient their projects towards precise social objectives; they choose the public they serve – often with special attention for people who have no means to access knowledge and for those left behind.

They are actors in society in the broadest sense of the word, although they are not linked to any political party. This makes the difference between the ideological library – a link in the propaganda...
meet in respect, a place where people meet, nurture dialogue, create opinions and mutual understanding. A place where people dare to be different because they are accepted and respected and not condemned.

This and other themes are at the core of the 31st EBLIDA Conference and 2nd EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 Event, which takes place in Luxembourg National Library, on 18-19 April 2023. A rich program balancing theoretical issues and careful attention for library practices, voices from the civil society and input provided by (library) professionals, panel sessions and moments of 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 over people, underline diversity and create pre-requisites for the integration of minorities. In all their endeavors – from lifelong learning to digital literacy, from social cohesion to cultural heritage - they give a concrete meaning to a common European identity.

We call it: the “soft power” of libraries - a gentle but persistent way to disseminate our pledge towards a sustainable, democratic and equitable society. We need stronger libraries if we want a Europe that is stronger, cohesive and closer to its citizens.

This is the legacy the 31st EBLIDA Conference and Annual Council and 2nd EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 event wish to transmit to European libraries and librarians.

Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President

2. Save the date:
31st EBLIDA Annual Council and Conference and
2nd EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 Event
17-19 April 2023

LIBRARIES IN LUXEMBOURG – an overview
47% of the total population of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (645,000 inhabitants) is not Luxembourgish. The official languages of the Grand Duchy are: the national language, Luxembourgish (Lëtzebuergesch), as well as foreign languages, German and French.

Since the Eastern enlargement of the European Union in 2004, English is more and more frequently used. This diversity has of course an impact on the production of the books and periodicals, as well as on library collections and services.
In public libraries, especially parents and their heavy readers, their children, are borrowing books, because it's too expensive to buy enough books for them in private. Regarding adults, the country's wealth allows the expansion of private libraries. The percentage of persons (50% in 2006) that confirmed to possess more than 100 books in their family library is one of the highest in the European Union. Only 5% claim that they do not have any books at home at all.

Scientific libraries in general have small collections. Currently only 13 libraries have more than 50,000 volumes. According to the law of August 10, 1912, the establishment of school libraries in elementary education is mandatory. Since the Act of June 25, 2004, this commitment exists for secondary school libraries too.

Since the national elections of 2004, the Archivists and Documentalists (ALBAD) is regularly very successful in lobbying to put libraries on the governmental agenda. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Culture did not consult with qualified librarians about library legislation. A reform of the first library law of June 24, 2010, on public libraries is intended since 2018, but, compared to other positive cultural actions, is representing no priority.

As a small country, the Grand Duchy was and is influenced by trends in librarianship from neighbouring countries. They are always implemented with a certain delay. Fully qualified librarians are rare and have to study abroad, especially in Germany and Belgium.

New library buildings, open to the public, are the University Library in Esch/Belval (inaugurated the 22.09.2018) and the National Library of Luxembourg (30.09.2019).

During the Covid-19-lockdown in December 2020 all generally accessible libraries had to close their doors while bookshops were allowed to open. This perhaps helps to understand the importance of libraries in Luxembourgish society.

Jean-Marie Reding
ALBAD Vice-President
ALBAD Past President 2003-2016
EBLIDA-Treasurer 2016-2021

3. EBLIDA involved in an Erasmus project!
EBLIDA is involved in a project coordinated by PL2030 and managed by PiNA. A substantial grant has been allocated to the project by the Erasmus Agency in Belgium. PL2030 is the well-known organisation originated through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which connects libraries with cross-border initiatives and innovative projects aiming to tackle the global issues that citizens are facing today.

PL2030 multiplies the impact of these projects through targeted advocacy.

Association for Culture and Education PiNA works towards regional, national and international social development by contributing to the strengthening of the education sector and the building up of an inclusive and democratic environment. PiNA is a Europe Direct Information Centre, a Eurodesk regional partner, a regional NGO HUB and a national CERV info point, and a youth centre with the status of operating in the public interest in the field of youth.

Together with these two organisations, EBLIDA will:

- improve the participation of public community libraries as adult learning centres into EU funding programmes in such a way that increasing international partnerships and harmonisation of practices and objectives doubles within 2 years;
- empower public libraries with the tools to find partners and develop sustainable project proposals.

More information will follow in the next Newsletter issue!

4. EBLIDA is looking for would-be partners in projects oriented to displaced Ukrainian communities

The war in Ukraine will not come to an end any time soon; it will take months, even years, before the Ukrainian migration will be able to flow back to Ukraine.

According to UNCHR statistics, an estimated 8 million people fled the country, with major settlements in Poland (more than 1.2 million), Romania (989,357), Hungary (1,041,762), Moldova (549,333), Slovakia (140,000 people), Austria (150,000), Bulgaria (91,903...
whom over a third are children), Finland (137,385), Germany (239,000), Italy (137,385), Latvia (31,960), Lithuania (53,700), Portugal (33,106).

There are two fields in which EBLIDA would like to provide help:

1. Circulation of Ukrainian books throughout Europe,
2. Expert library networked system as a way to meet educational and cultural needs of Ukrainian migrants.

1. The educational and cultural needs of Ukrainian children and adult migrants are now only very partially met through book acquisitions provided by local agencies and/or donors through their local networks. Apart from the difficulty of transporting books in a country devastated by war, this modality of distribution results in expensive and ineffective book distribution. We would like to propose an alternative sound, sustainable and effective way to circulate Ukrainian books among refugees.

2. Based on the experience of libraries having successfully worked with migrants, EBLIDA would like to work on the transfer of know-how throughout Europe, thus making the most of expertise already available in the libraries of EU countries.

We are looking for your advice and welcome any partner willing to participate in these initiatives.

Please contact: g.vitiello@ebilda.org

5. Restructuring the EBLIDA website

An Internal EBLIDA Working Group, chaired by Hella Klauser, Vice-President of EBLIDA, issued a document with guidelines on EBLIDA Communication which would:
- influence politicians, increase their understanding that libraries are an important service worth funding (especially on our focus topics sustainable development, democracy and equal access to information);
- produce up-to-date, relevant and reliable information for members / non members;
- create high-quality, easy to understand content supporting the brand development of libraries in Europe;
- connect European libraries to current social debate - library's role in the changing society;
- share communication with library associations - strengthen efforts, network libraries;
- increase the number of followers; support membership increase.

We are partially addressing these issues through the project of restructuring the EBLIDA website. The current website is no longer meeting EBLIDA’s ambition to create interaction among members and provide ad hoc services for them. An
6. EBLIDA Executive Committee Meeting  
Évora, Portugal  
9-21st September 2022

On the 19-20th September, the EBLIDA Executive Committee had its regular meeting in Évora, Portugal.

The meeting was followed by a Conference of Portuguese librarians, which was attended by nearly 60 professionals.

The objective of the Conference was to present EBLIDA's organisation and the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. Ton van Vlimmeren, Giuseppe Vitiello and Zélia Parreira introduced EBLIDA work and Portuguese professionals were encouraged to use the resources made available by EBLIDA to improve work in local libraries, in particular resources linked with Sustainable Development Goals and library legislation and policy.

One of the topics that aroused big interest was libraries' access to European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027. The Portuguese members of EBLIDA will translate “The European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027: Funding Opportunities for Libraries” into Portuguese, to favour the research and use of this report.

The next day, on 21st September, EBLIDA and the General Directorate of Libraries, Archives and Books had a meeting in Lisbon with representatives from the regional authorities across the country – in Portugal: Intermunicipal Communities. The meeting’s objective was to arrange new forms of cooperation to the benefit of libraries.

We also had time for leisure: a dinner at the medieval village of Monsaraz, near Évora, a guided tour through the historical centre of the city, including the old Muslim and Jewish quarters. And, of course, a visit to the National Library of Portugal and to an extraordinary experience of community
7. EBLIDA in Europe
5-7 October: Târgu Jiu, Romania and
25-26 October: Milan, Italy

With the ambitious title of “Green and Digital Libraries”, Romanian librarians meet in Târgu Jiu in a conference where all prominent leaders of Romanian libraries will be given a voice and speak to the wide community of Romanian library professionals.

The Directors of the National Library and the most important municipal libraries as well as the Presidents of the Progress Foundation, the Future Communities Association, Mediawise Society, will speak during the Conference.

Giuseppe Vitiello, EBLIDA Director, will have the opportunity to illustrate EBLIDA’s commitment towards a sustainable, democratic and equitable society.

Library services in Milan are being rethought also in light of the new central library project called BEIC - European Library of Information and Culture. The City of Milan is taking this opportunity to organise the Etats Généraux of Italian libraries to develop its internal reflection with an eye to similar library projects now running in other parts of Italy and Europe.

Changing scenarios affecting libraries will be analysed also in relation to other already existing library architectures (Oodi, Helsinki, and LocHal, Tilburg) and the projects of two libraries under construction (the BEIC in Milan and the new Central Library in Rotterdam).

During the second day, a library policy document, the Milan Charter for Libraries, will be presented and signed by the administrators of the main Italian cities, in the presence of the
8. EBLIDA & Aarhus partnership: NEXT Library 14–16 May 2023

EBLIDA and Aarhus Public Libraries have once more, signed a partnership agreement concerning the International Next Library Festival 2023, to be held from 14 to 16 May in Aarhus, Denmark.

Library innovators from all over the world are invited to join next year’s Festival and we hope to see many old friends and make some new friends! Next Library 2023 is currently in the process of becoming a hybrid festival so it will be possible for people all around the world to tune in on the conversation.

Partner for Next Library 2023

www.nextlibrary.net

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

Events and Dates

October 5-7
"Bibliopublica" Conference: Green and digital libraries
October 13  
**Knowledge Management Conference**  
**Place:** London, UK  
**Organizer:** Engage

October 17-18  
**International Indexing Conference 2022: Continental Connections**  
**Place:** Berlin, Germany / Hybrid  
**Organizer:** Society of Indexers

October 18  
**International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM) Autumn Conference 2022**  
**Place:** Frankfurt, Germany  
**Organizer:** International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM)

October 19-23  
**Frankfurt Book Fair / Frankfurter Buchmesse**  
**Place:** Frankfurt, Germany  
**Organizer:** Frankfurter Buchmesse

October 25-26  
**Stati Generali delle biblioteche**  
**Place:** Milan, Italy  
**Organizer:** Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (AIB), Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani (ANCI)

October 26-28  
**1st International Conference of FAIR Digital Objects "Turning the Internet into a meaningful data space"**  
**Place:** Leiden, The Netherlands  
**Organizer:** FAIRDO

October 27-30  
**Helsinki Book Fair**  
**Place:** Helsinki, Finland  
**Organizer:** Messukeskus Helsinki, Expo and Convention Centre

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**About the Newsletter**

**Responsible for the Newsletter:** Giuseppe Vitiello  
[contact him by email: g.vitiello at eblida.org]  
**Editors:** Unless otherwise specified, all articles are written by the EBLIDA Secretariat.
intended to foster communications between EBLIDA, its membership and members of the European library community.