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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1. President’s Editorial

Welcome back from your holidays and here we are in September, back to business.

During the EBLIDA Conference in Athens, the Council approved the 2022-2025 EBLIDA Strategic Plan and the 2022-2023 Operational Plan. We are ready to start a new cycle, moving ahead with a new schedule.
So, what will EBLIDA's focus be going forward?

We will move along the three headlines of the 2022-2025 EBLIDA Strategic Plan: EBLIDA’s commitment to a 1) sustainable, 2) democratic and 3) equitable society. This Newsletter issue describes developments in each of the three SP Strands. We also welcome the 2022 edition of the EBLIDA Matrix: a fresh, new approach, for an incredible tool inspiring SDG-oriented project developers.

Relevant information in this Newsletter concerns the EBLIDA “Think The Unthinkable” initiative dealing with a library agenda meeting SDGs to be funded by European Structural Funds. We focus on the partnership agreements the European Commission has signed with EU Member States and, in particular, on the six states whose library associations and networks are part of the EBLIDA “Think The Unthinkable” initiatives: Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands.

An important development has also taken place in the library legislation and policy fields – EBLIDA’s commitment to a democratic society. The Council of Europe has recently proposed EBLIDA to convert the draft Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines into Council of Europe Recommendations. An article in this Newsletter details the advantages of this change and its long-term implications.

The third line of development – EBLIDA’s commitment towards an equitable society – concerns e-lending. We are very pleased to inform our readers that the EBLIDA “First European Overview on E-lending in Public Libraries” will be extended in length, width and depth and will cover other states and relevant issues.

Back at EBLIDA Headquarters, however, there is more than meets the eye. EBLIDA Conferences are events where people meet, exchange professional ideas and promote new projects and initiatives. This issue of the Newsletter also reports about the new pathways EBLIDA is taking, namely Ukraine, with a focus on Swedish library activities towards Ukrainian migrants.

There is good news for the world of libraries with the release of the new IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto and the Green Library Manifesto, issued by CILIP. We also report about the National Library Guidelines on open access requested by the Swedish government to the National Library of Sweden. And finally, a Latvian librarians trip to Finland reminds us that the Finnish library system can be a model for all us all!

The September Newsletter is rich in content and shows that, although 2022 has not yet come to an end, a new year has already started for EBLIDA with the input provided by EBLIDA’s major asset – it’s Members!

Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President
Sustainable Development Goals to be funded through European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027

At the end of July, the European Commission signed a good deal of partnership agreements concerning the allocation of European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027. European Structural Funds are by far the best and richest opportunity for libraries to play a major role in national development policies.

Here are the latest developments in the countries involved in the EBLIDA “Think The Unthinkable” programme. Our partner organisations for each of these countries are indicated in this article so that individual libraries can address EBLIDA national partners to get acquainted with new developments.

**Bulgaria**

In Bulgaria our partner organisation is the Bulgarian Library and Information Association, BLIA.

On the basis of the available documentation, library projects in Bulgaria may be eligible under the PO1: Programme Research, Innovation and Digitization for Smart Transformation, PO4: Human Resource Development Programme, Education Programme, and PO5: Regional Development Programme.

**France**

In France our partner organisations are: ABF, Association des Bibliothécaires Français, and the BPI, Bibliothèque publique d'information.

The managing ESIF authorities in France are French Regions. Therefore, on the EC website, you will not find detailed programmes and initiatives, but only transversal documents which apply to all French regions. A «Document d’appui méthodologique sur l’éligibilité des dépenses cofinancées par les fonds européens pour la période de programmation 2021-2027» is available and illustrates the eligibility criteria for all ESIF projects. More information is available on the regional websites, now being developed.

**Greece**

EBLIDA partner organisation in Greece is EEB/AGLIS, the Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists.

The Agreement between the European Commission and Greece on funding through European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund+ (ESF+), the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund (JTF) and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) has been signed. The document is available in Greek only. Nevertheless, it is worth emphasising that the budgets available for PO 4: Social Europe and PO 5: A Europe close to its citizens, where libraries can find thematics close to their work, amount
The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, partner organisations are FOBID, represented by the EBLIDA President, and The Alignment House. No comprehensive agreement is yet available on the EC website. Nevertheless, the press release suggests the two programmes under which library projects in The Netherlands may be eligible:

Sustainable urban development close to citizens, dedicated to sustainable urban development and integrated investments based on ownership of the local communities in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, the Hague and Utrecht, for example, in the area of energy transition and circular economy. This may be of interest for libraries willing to renovate their internal architectural criteria in order to make them compatible with SDGs;

Support for employment, skills and social inclusion, which gathers all initiatives to be developed under the European Social Fund+ with support to people with difficulties or in the process of finding and keeping a job, training and re-training of workers. The skills that are eligible for funding are of basic, digital and other vocational nature and come across with a broader set of social support measures.

Italy

EBLIDA partner organisations in Italy are the Associazione Italiana Biblioteche and Rete delle Reti.

ESIF in Italy has developed a national programme on culture; however, its focus on “Culture and Tourism” does not leave much room for library development. Much more interesting are the regional sections, where two Italian regions - Emilia-Romagna and Lombardia - have developed a fully fledged programme. In these sections not only are libraries mentioned, but there is a wide array of programmed dedicated to cultural development, which can be of benefit to libraries.

Latvia

No partnership agreement with Latvia has yet been signed.

All available information can be found here (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/partnership-agreements-eu-funds-2021-2027_en)

3. Draft Council of Europe/EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe may turn into Recommendations

After having informed EBLIDA of their intention to proceed to the approval of the draft Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe, the Council of Europe made a proposal to convert the current draft Guidelines into a Council of
The aim of enhancing the value and usefulness of this text.

The difference between the two processes is relevant. The Guidelines would be approved by a specialised Committee – the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Culture and Cultural Heritage. The Recommendation, instead, would be a Council of Europe Recommendation, to be approved by the Committee of Ministers (i.e. the Permanent Representatives of 46 member states, 27 of which are members of the European Union).

There is no doubt that a Recommendation would mean more visibility and impact for libraries. Therefore, EBLIDA gave its preliminary green light, keeping in mind that a Recommendation is not a Manifesto, but a detailed expression of library needs and ambitions.

The precise procedure and timing, however, would need to be checked with the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

4. EBLIDA Matrix updated (2022 edition)!

The EBLIDA Matrix now includes all projects listed in the 2nd EBLIDA Report on Sustainable Development and European Libraries! EBLIDA Matrix is the most comprehensive and richest library tool documenting the European library commitment towards SDGs in Europe. Its most important section – SDG-oriented projects and best practices – has been enriched with input provided by 19 of the 34 countries that are EBLIDA members.

There is a fundamental difference between the IFLA Library Map of the World and the EBLIDA Matrix. While the first tool reports about model case studies, EBLIDA Matrix reports about all running library projects being oriented to SDGs. It is a confirmation that library practices are SDG-based even if, sometimes, librarians are unaware of it.

The EBLIDA Matrix is not a showcase but a practical tool for finding inspiration and funding.
5. E-Lending

After the successful presentation of the First EBLIDA Overview of e-lending in European libraries, EBLIDA is proud that the study is now going to be extended and improved in scope.

We wish to extend the overview to other countries and, in particular, to Finland, Sweden, Ireland and The Netherlands.

With reports from Finland and Sweden, all of Scandinavia will be covered. We are aiming at a Scandinavian Summit on e-lending because, in spite of the fact that Nordic countries are homogeneous in economic and social terms, their e-lending situation shows remarkable differences. We also wish to extend the study to Ireland, in order to have a window open on the Irish book trade.

There is a need to develop the Overview in-width, on aspects such as the role of aggregators, the importance of Public Lending Rights, distinctive licensing models, the measures adopted by public authorities (national and local) and the respective roles of publishers and libraries. Finally, we wish to have a deeper insight on several important objectives, such as the one copy – one user model and of course, the nature and the objectives of the advocacy that European libraries should develop.

More information will be provided in forthcoming Newsletter issues.

6. EBLIDA participation in the conferences organised by library associations in Portugal and Romania

On Tuesday, 20 September, some members of the EBLIDA Executive Committee will discuss national library development in Portugal with a large delegation of Portuguese librarians.

An important guest of this conference will be Mr António Costa Dieb,
President of the Agency of Development and Cohesion, the managing authority of the European Structural and Investment Funds.

A week earlier, on 13th September, Giuseppe Vitiello, EBLIDA Director, will be the key guest of a webinar organised by the Portuguese Library Association.

Europe must be green and digital, and so should European libraries. This is the message the President of ANBPR, the national association of libraries and Librarians, and the Director of the National Library of Romania will launch at the Conference of Romanian libraries in Târgu Jiu on 5-7 October 2022. On 6th October, the EBLIDA Director will address Romanian librarians on SDGs and will inform them about the tremendous opportunities the EBLIDA Think The Unthinkable programme may offer them.

7. IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto

IFLA (International federation of Library Associations and Institutions) released in July 2022 a new version of its seminal Public Library Manifesto. As the previous 1994 version, this Manifesto is bound to shape public library policies all over the world for many years and have a long-term effect on the concept of, and thinking about, public libraries.

A comparison between the 1994 and 2022 versions of the Public Library Manifesto may be revealing, as it shows how contemporary societal trends are impacting on libraries and today’s self-representation of librarians.

In both versions, six sections form the skeleton of the Manifesto: “Preamble”, “Public Library”, “Mission”, “Funding, legislation and networks”, “Operation and management”, and “Implementation”. The 2022 version also includes a “Partnership” section.

The new notion of knowledge societies, “including scientific and local knowledge without commercial, technological or legal barriers” is introduced. Open access has made great strides and impacts on the concept of public library as “publicly accessible space for the production of
Well emphasised in the 2022 version is also the concept of “community”, which was almost absent in the 1994 version, in a two-fold process: libraries should provide services to the communities they serve and, on the other hand, they should diffuse community information.

The two sections “Funding, legislation and networks”, and “Operation and management” have undergone through very little change, although emphasis is now put on statistics and the need for every library to collect data in order to demonstrate its societal benefit to policy makers.

The creation of an additional section named “Partnership” shows that libraries cannot be alone in pursuing their goals, but must create partnerships with user groups, schools, non-governmental organisations, library associations, businesses, and other professionals.

8. Green Libraries Manifesto

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8. Green Libraries Manifesto

CILIP, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, has issued a Green Libraries Manifesto in partnership with Arts Council England, British Library, Libraries Connected and Julie’s Bicycle.

In seven points, this Manifesto encourages libraries to:

1. Bring environmental sustainability to the heart of decision-making;
2. Innovate and evolve;
3. Work with our communities;
4. Use our voice for more impact;
5. Work in partnership;
6. Grow and share our knowledge;
7. Support young people.

The Manifesto can be used:

- as a set of principles underpinning any local strategies, plans and programmes,
- as a development tool in identifying the areas of action and improvement,
- to enable conversations with local communities, library staff and key partners, including setting further detail in line with local needs,
- to promote library values and aspirations,
- as an advocacy document,
- to identify likeminded partners and collaborators,
- to underpin staff development plans.
The overall impression is that Swedish public libraries have adjusted well on short notice, and that Ukrainian-speaking users have access to content and library services, both for children and adults.

**Background**
During 2014–2015, Sweden received around 273,000 refugees, with a peak in 2015 when around 163,000 asylum applications were filed. So far, in 2022, about 45,200 Ukrainians have arrived, with support of the mass influx temporary protection, to Sweden; the number of refugees is still lower than 2014–2015.

In 2015, Swedish public libraries made a rapid adjustment to the services to provide both services and literature to the newly arrived. Since then, most public libraries have as a core mission to meet the needs of newly arrived people, and people on their way to settle into their local community.

**Current situation**
What we have seen during 2022, with the arrival of refugees from Ukraine, is a confirmation of the preparedness from Swedish public libraries to adjust their services and literature to new user groups. A majority of the Swedish municipalities have strategies in their library plans to meet this kind of situation. Most public libraries have on short notice been able to provide new content, physical and digital. The Swedish public libraries share among them information in Ukrainian and Russian.

In municipalities that have welcomed larger groups of Ukrainians, special pop-up activities have been delivered at refugee accommodation centres, or close to a Migration Agency office. In most cases, children and youth have been the primary target group. Mobile libraries have been rerouted to where refugees reside or spend their days.

**The Östersund example**
Flyers, information sheets and other materials have been available, as well as activities and book lending. One example of this kind of service is the public library of Östersund (northern Sweden), where the mobile library makes a stop at the temporary refugee accommodation centre once a month. Books in Ukrainian, English and Russian are provided, as well as information about the library and its activities. In the library, it is possible to engage in language support, conversation and study guidance several times a week.

Most Swedish public libraries have for many years provided this as a core service, whether users are refugees, migrant workers or have arrived in Sweden for any other reason.

In March 2022, the most common action was to give book recommendations and lists of available
towards Swedish users, both about Ukraine as a country and about the conflict. Many activities where connected to source criticism and disinformation connected to the war.

The Malmö example
Malmö public library is one example of how libraries aim to deliver services of high quality. The library made a Q and A to support the staff answering the most common questions from refugees.

Later on, focus has shifted towards integrating the work directed to the newly arrived refugees in everyday work. This includes providing access to book lists and open digital sources, as well as printed books, children’s books etc. in Ukrainian.

The initial problems of buying Ukrainian books have in most cases been solved.

Digital services
On 6 May 2022, the digital library Världens bibliotek (Library of the World) released a Ukrainian bookshelf with e-books in Ukrainian, freely available for everyone in Sweden and Norway. The collection is curated, and includes a mix of adult and children’s books. The digital library is a joint service between Sweden and Norway to provide e-books and sound books in twelve languages.

Early spring 2022 the digital competence platform Digiteket started to develop special content due to the war. To prepare the librarians to give good service to refugees, new articles have been added gradually.

In Sweden library systems with a group of public libraries sharing the same library catalogue are becoming more and more common. Most of these library systems have ready-made search paths with books from Ukrainian authors or about Ukraine in Swedish, which provides easy access to relevant content for the Swedish speaking users. Usually this information is clearly marked on the start page; a Ukrainian flag shows the way to the collection.

Web page at Stockholm public library (2022-08-30).
10. The National Library of Sweden will develop national guidelines for open science

The Swedish government has commissioned the National Library of Sweden (Kungliga biblioteket) to develop national guidelines for open science.

Taking a holistic perspective on open science, the National Library will identify common goals and priorities, map the division of roles and areas of responsibility, and define the needs for support and guidance.

The work will be done in collaboration with national research funders, higher education institutions and organisations of interest.

Open science aims to make science accessible to more people and to increase the opportunities for research to contribute to the development of democratic societies. This involves, for example, open access to research results, data, infrastructures and source code, as well as diversity among researchers. Another perspective is the importance of lifelong learning, of involving marginalised groups, and of open science contributing to promoting an understanding of scientific processes.

The UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, issued in November 2021, highlights the importance of national policies or guidelines in enabling this type of development. Sweden has been working with open access to scientific publications and research data for many years, and open science is a priority for the Swedish government. The National Library and the Swedish Research Council have the task of promoting, monitoring, and coordinating the national work with open access to publications and research data. In addition, the National Library is tasked with mapping and analysing the use of open educational resources and public participation in the research process (citizen science).

A report on the assignment will be submitted to the Swedish government on 15 September 2023.
11. A visit to Finnish libraries

A temple of literature or a centre of leisure and entertainment?

The stereotype of libraries where books are dozing reappears from time to time. Librarians struggle to prove that the library is not a warehouse of books, and librarians’ duties are not limited to wiping the dust off books. Of course, books, magazines are still the main component of the library, but libraries in the capital of Finland mean much more in the life of the Finnish.

A group of librarians and employees of local authorities of the project HOME (Ludza and Jēkabpils from Latvia, and Rokiškis from Lithuania) came back from a study trip to several libraries in Helsinki City. They found out that libraries are different from each other to the point that visitors can choose a library according to their taste.

The Fountain of Knowledge in Pasila Library

With its real fountain in the middle (Fountain of Knowledge), the Pasila Library hosts books in 80 languages! The chief librarian explained the Intelligent Material Management System, meaning that the floating book collection is shared by all libraries in Helsinki. The book, once returned, goes directly to the library where it is needed.

The Oodi Library is a very modern service centre, where it is possible to borrow books, read, have meetings with friends or business partners, play on an Xbox or Play Station, produce an object using a 3D printer, have a party using the kitchen and many more various activities and options for work, studies and leisure. There are three robots working in the sorting line: they bring books from the sorting line to the bookshelves!
Töölö Library is a bright place for the wide scope of users – at the moment of the project HOME group visit, there were babies in prams, toddlers, adults and senior people. The library is proud of the Library Dog, who comes to the library to listen to children reading.

*Project HOME team at Töölö Library*

The location of Iso Omena Library surprised everyone in the group – it works in a large shopping centre with boutiques, cafés, bistros! In addition, the library neighbours a health centre and mental health and addiction centre, and the library visitors are completely contented with these neighbours thus proving the famous tolerance of the Finnish people.

And finally, the National Library of Finland looks like a temple or a sanctuary of literature, which preserves printed national heritage of Finland – here old folios are waiting for curious researchers.

We are very grateful to Mr Antti Sauli – a Project Manager of the Culture and leisure sector of the City of Helsinki, who helped organise the visits to the libraries. The librarians, who we met, are fans of the work they are doing, and the result of their work can be seen practically – none of the libraries was empty. The project HOME team would advise their colleagues to go to Helsinki on an experience exchange trip.

The project “Strengthening families by means of libraries’ cooperation as contribution to socio-economic growth in Ludza municipality, Rokiškis district and Jēkabpils City”; abbreviation – HOME (No LLI-422) is funded by the European Union. Total project size is 229,448.01 EUR. Out of them co-funding of the European Regional Development Fund is 195,030.79 EUR.

More information about the project can be found here…

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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

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**Events and Dates**

**September 6-10**

*18th International Conference on Open Source Systems (OSS) and the 18th International Symposium on Open Collaboration (OpenSym): “Openness in Emergency Situations”*

**Place:** Madrid, Spain  
**Organizer:** OpenSym

**September 7-9**

*7th Kuopio Conference*

**Place:** Vienna, Austria  
**Organizer:** European Print Initiatives Collaboration (EPICo)

**September 19-23**

*9th Annual Conference of the International Council on Archives (ICA) 2022: "Archives": Bridging the Gap”*

**Place:** Rome, Italy  
**Organizer:** International Council on Archives

**September 20-23**

*26th International Conference on Theory & Practice of Digital Libraries (TPDL) 2022*

**Place:** Padua, Italy  
**Organizer:** TPDL

**September 20-21**

*Congress of the Conference of Directors of Academic Libraries of Polish High Schools*

**Place:** Cracow, Poland  
**Organizer:** Uniwersytet Opolski

**September 20-21**

*2022 BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe*

**Place:** Budapest, Hungary  
**Organizer:** BIBFRAME
Gothenburg Book Fair
Place: Gothenburg, Sweden
Organizer: Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre Group

September 26-29
2022 Information Seeking in Context (ISIC) Conference
Place: Berlin, Germany
Organizer: ISIC

September 28-30
World News Media Congress 2022
Place: Zaragoza, Spain
Organizer: World Association of News Publishers

About the Newsletter

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