EBLIDA Council Meeting 2000

PULMAN: an EU project proposal with EBLIDA involvement

Rob Davies
Education for Change Ltd.

Introduction

PULMAN, Public Libraries Mobilising Advanced Networks, is a proposal which will be submitted under the current call for proposals of the Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme of the European Union under the EU Fifth RTD Framework Programme (1998-2002). Under the terms of the call, PULMAN is a Thematic Network under Support Measures.

Europe's public libraries have an increasingly important role to play in the implementation of key policies and initiatives such as e-Europe, Jobs in the New Knowledge Economy and Network Europe emerging since the Lisbon Summit in April 2000. Public libraries can also make a vital contribution to the delivery of EU policies in areas such as social inclusion, digital literacy, lifelong learning, citizen participation in civic governance and access to cultural content.

Objectives

The objective of the PULMAN Thematic Network is to strengthen the performance of public libraries in this role by:

- consolidating, packaging and disseminating relevant social and technical standards and guidelines for the professional community in an easily usable format;

- disseminating information on standards and important policy developments affecting public libraries and helping reduce disparities by encouraging the transfer of knowledge about good
practice and important policy developments;

- providing policy support for public libraries and stimulating cross-sectoral strategic development with other cultural institutions at European level.

PULMAN will build on the work of PubliCA, the European Union's Concerted Action for Public Libraries, which culminated in the "Something for Everyone" policy conference, which took place on 14 and 15 October 1999 in Copenhagen. PubliCA's Copenhagen Declaration identified key roles for public libraries in promoting:

- democracy and citizenship
- economic and social development
- lifelong learning
- cultural and linguistic diversity