



# Minutes

## Executive Committee meeting

### Reykjavík, Iceland, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007

These Minutes have been approved by the EBLIDA Council.

**Venue: National and University Library of Iceland**

**Chair: Jan-Ewout van der Putten**

**Participants:** Toby Bainton, Andrew Cranfield, Karin Ástrom Iko, Gerald Leitner, Barbara Lison, Jill Martin, Helena Patrício, Bas Savenije, Carla Sotgiu, Disa Svenskberg, Jan-Ewout van der Putten and Finn Vester.

#### **1. Opening and announcements**

The President opened the Executive Committee meeting and bid everyone welcome. The President apologized for his absence at the last EC meeting in Coimbra and thanked Barbara Lison for her excellent work in chairing that meeting.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **3. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

#### **4. Approval Draft Minutes Executive Committee meeting Coimbra 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

The minutes from the March EC meeting were approved. The Director noted that the amendments suggested by Helena Patrício and Finn Vester had been incorporated into the minutes.

#### **5. EBLIDA internal matters**

##### **Announcements**

No announcements.



## Finances and budget 2007

Finn Vester reported that the financial statement and accounts for 2006 were in line with the revised budget for 2006 as approved by Council in Budapest.

At this stage all written off debts had been incorporated into the EBLIDA accounts and now showed a more accurate picture of the financial situation of EBLIDA.

Disa Svenskberg asked if members who had been deleted and wanted to rejoin EBLIDA would have to pay their outstanding debts, to which the president answered that they would.

Finn Vester could further report that EBLIDA has approx. a reserve equal to six months running costs of the organisation.

The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007 were approved by the EC as was the revised budget for 2007.

The President noted that he thought that the Director had put EBLIDA back on the map, but he was worried about the work load.

## Membership Status

The Director reported that only one institution was up for deletion due to arrears and that payments from full members and associate members were proceeding according to plan.

## **6. Annual Report 2006**

The Director presented the Annual Report for EBLIDA 2006.

Carla Sotgiu mentioned the possibility of working more closely with the archives and the Director said that he had tried to contact the Secretary General of ICA (International Council of Archives) twice, but without a response. Karin Åstrom Iko said that she will probably attend the ICA meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 2008 and hopefully establish some useful contacts

Carla Sotgiu reported on some of the common initiatives of libraries and archives that were taking place in Italy.

Gerald Leitner was also positive about the possibility of a closer cooperation between libraries and archives and suggested that EBLIDA could invite a representative from ICA to the next EBLIDA annual Council meeting.

## **7. EBLIDA draft strategy 2007-2010 (final version)**

The EBLIDA draft strategy 2007-2010 incorporating comments from EC members and EBLIDA members was approved.

It was agreed that Gerald Leitner would present the draft strategy to council and that those present would have the opportunity to discuss the strategy in a number of smaller groups on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> May.

## **8. EBLIDA annual work programme 2007**

The Director will present the annual work programme for 2007 to Council. The work programme was approved in its current form by the EC.

## **9. EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting. Programme and elections**

The EC discussed the format for the elections on Saturday. As there was only one candidate for president and 10 candidates for the EC elections as such were not necessary. Helena Patrício felt that members should be allowed to vote. The President explained how this had been done in the past where the number of candidates equalled the number of vacant places. Council was asked if they wanted a secret ballot and if this was not the case then Council approved and elected the candidates without a ballot. Gerald Leitner felt that it was important that the candidates were elected and he felt that the elections should take place on the Saturday morning as announced in the Council agenda, underlining the legitimacy of the candidates and the democratic process. The EC agreed to follow the original timetable for elections.

## **10. Updates on EBLIDA lobby activities**

Toby Bainton reported on the two reports published by the Institute for Information Law (IVI<sup>R</sup>) published at the end of 2006 and in the spring of 2007. The first report focuses on the whole of the copyright acquis and the harmonisation across Europe, while the second report looks in detail at the Copyright Directive from 2001. Both are in many ways critical of the European Commission's initiatives in the area of copyright and outline a number of recommendations for change which EBLIDA is in agreement on. The Director noted that these recommendations should be used to fuel our lobbying activities over the coming years.

Toby Bainton said that many aspects of the European Digital Library (EDL) were still rather vague and that the High Level Expert Group's sub group on copyright had been working to find solutions for orphan works, "out-of-print" material and digitisation for preservation. However these were recommendations that have no binding character and that in the case for digitisation for preservation may necessitate legislative changes in some member states.

IPRED2 (the second enforcement directive) has also been of concern to EBLIDA and other organisations. Together with BEUC (the European Consumer's organisation), EFF (Electronic Frontier Foundation) and FFII (Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure) we formed an alliance earlier in the year to present a common front outlining our opposition to the proposed directive. The Director briefly presented the report that has been formulated by the organisations mentioned above and noted that the lobbying activities should for the moment be at the national level. The vote in the European Parliament at the end of April gives us little real indication of what will happen and the debate now moves to the Council of Ministers.

At the last meeting of the CEG it was agreed to try and formulate a more pro-active strategy for our IPR activities and try and redress the balance of 15 years of upward copyright legislation. This will be discussed on the CEG list-serve and agreed upon at the next CEG meeting in Vienna, November 2007.

#### **11. EBLIDA/LIBER Workshop. “Library Digitisation in Europe”**

The Director presented the draft programme for this workshop for the EC.

#### **12. EBLIDA/EUCLID Conference - “Librarian @2010 - Educating for the future”**

The Director and Helena Patrício updated the EC on the coming conference in Lisbon. At present the review committee is reviewing the received abstracts and will reach their decision by the end of May on which papers to accept.

#### **13. Second draft proposal for regulations governing expert groups and working groups.**

The text was discussed by the EC and approved with a couple of amendments (*and will be distributed separately*)

#### **14. Draft feasibility reports on expert groups on digitisation, professional education and culture.**

The EC discussed the paper by Bas Savenije outlining the terms of reference for an expert group on digitisation and online accessibility (EGDO).

Barbara Lison noted that as libraries are national cultural repositories (cultural heritage and preservation) various aspects of the proposal from the Library Association of Ireland could be encompassed by this expert group.

Carla Sotgiu said that one should be aware of the complexities when discussing digitisation of sound and visual archives, if these are to be included in the work of the EGDO.

The president was of the opinion that the topics suggested in the proposal are closely related to the IPR issues discussed by the CEG and that there was a need for close cooperation and one should be careful not to duplicate discussions.

Toby Bainton concurred with this point of view, but declared that he was in favour of establishing this expert group.

Bas Savenije agreed with Barbara Lison that some aspects of the Irish proposal could be incorporated into the work of the EGDO, while others could not.

Barbara Lison stated that she thought it important that the benefits and work of this expert group should be apparent to the members of EBLIDA.

On the basis of this discussion the EC approved the establishment of an expert group on digitisation and online accessibility and appointed Bas Savenije to chair the expert group.

Following this the EC discussed the paper prepared by Helena Patrício on an expert group on professional education (PEG).

Barbara Lison said that if an expert group is to be established on this issue, then it should also concern itself with LLL (Life Long Learning), and not just be linked to the LIS profession but to society in general. Helena Patrício thought this might be difficult to bring into the framework of the PEG

Carla Sotgiu thought that the issue of LLL might fit in better with an expert group on culture and Karin Åstrom Iko agreed with this.

Finn Vester agreed with Helena that the PEG cannot also concentrate on LLL in a general and broader perspective.

Gerald Leitner did not agree that LLL should be classified as culture; he saw it much more in line with educational aspects.

Barbara Lison did not think it easy to see from Helena's paper the benefits and advantages for EBLIDA members.

Helena Patrício replied that issues of flexibility and mobility within the context of the European Union are of benefit to the profession as a whole. Further more they are good for the image of the profession. By opening up to a broader discussion we can learn about what are the competencies that are essential for librarians and information workers in the knowledge society.

Carla Sotgiu felt that it was important that the library associations lobbied for the librarians themselves.

Jill Martin did not think that LLL should be included in the mandate of the PEG. It was difficult to see the outcomes and what exactly is the role for lobbying here?

Helena Patrício thought that we could be more proactive on this issue and set the agenda. And as such some coordination among member states was needed.

The Director noted that the EUROCADRES project might go some way to fulfilling these needs and it would certainly be worthwhile following the ENGCARD project.

Helena Patricia said that if EBLIDA did nothing in this field, then an important strategic initiative for EBLIDA will be lacking. Karin Åstrom Iko noted that the work of the PEG is regarded as very important for the Swedish Library Association.

Finn Vester suggested that a working group be established to formulate the possible terms of reference for an expert group on professional education.

The President was concerned about the prospect of four expert groups which he did not see as possible within the resources of EBLIDA. However he was in favour of Finn Vester's suggestion.

Barbara Lison suggested that it might be good to have someone from Germany in this group. Disa Svenskberg thought it important that this working group had representatives from different European countries, representing various educational cultures. The President thought that this might be more important for the next stage, if and when a new expert group on professional education is established.

The EC approved the establishment of a working group to formulate terms of reference for an expert group on professional education with Jill Martin to chair this group. This group will report back to the EC at its next meeting in Tallinn. The President thanked the original PEG for all its work and the group is hereby dissolved.

Barbara Lison was convinced that many members would relate better to EBLIDA if cultural issues were on the EBLIDA agenda. Barbara Lison suggested a number of issues which might be of relevance for the organisation – issues of cultural diversity (including libraries as integrators of new citizens), following up on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), heritage issues, Agenda 21 for culture and monitoring and following up on Council activities.

Bas Savenije thought that maybe a range of these issues could be incorporated into next year's annual Council meeting.

Carla Sotgiu thought that one should also lobby for libraries as "physical" places and their importance in this respect.

Gerald Leitner thought that there was a lack of information for cultural projects and perhaps EBLIDA could do something to address this situation.

Disa Svenskberg remarked that culture is a very broad issue and what exactly is the lobbying angle when we talk about culture.

Toby Bainton thought it was important to note the connection between culture and libraries, while Karin Åstrom Iko noted that Swedish members were very interested in culture as a topic for EBLIDA and that the Lisbon strategy was high on the agenda. Jill Martin thought it important to take into account the interests of the members and their opinions on this issue.

The President thought we should look to the work of IFLA on the issues of diversity and to UNESCO to avoid any duplication of efforts.

Disa Svenskberg thought that we have to define the scope of the organisation and its aims and goals in accordance with the resources of the secretariat.

The President suggested that a working group be established to look into which issues regarding culture EBLIDA could focus on. Barbara Lison will continue to chair the group established in Coimbra and Karin Åstrom Iko will replace Jill Martin.

Gerald Leitner mentioned the ENTITLE project which follows on from PULMAN and CALIMERA and which might be of interest to EBLIDA. The Director said that he had sent a letter to Rob Davies who was responsible for the project, indicating our possible interest in the project when we have a clearer idea about the exact content.

## **15. Any Other Business**

Under this point there was a longer discussion about Public Lending Right (PLR) and EBLIDA's position. EBLIDA's position on PLR is unchanged and we do not accept the premise that authors should be remunerated for the loans from public libraries. However EBLIDA does not think that it should comment on the schemes of national governments and how they choose to implement and fund PLR schemes.

To assist the director in preparing the annual EBLIDA yearbook a small editorial team was established consisting of Jan-Ewout van der Putten, Gerald Leitner and the Director.

## **16. Closure of meeting**

The President thanked everybody for their contributions and closed the meeting.