



Draft Minutes Executive Committee meeting Athens 3rd – 4th November 2008

These Minutes have been approved by the EBLIDA Executive Committee.

Chair: Gerald Leitner

Participants: Toby Bainton, Andrew Cranfield, Saara Ihamäki, Karin Åstrøm Iko, Gerald Leitner, Barbara Lison, Jill Martin, Gloria Perez-Salmeron and Aldo Pirola.

1. Opening and announcements

Gerald Leitner (GL) opened the meeting by welcoming EC members to the meeting in Athens and especially to Aldo Pirola (AP) who was attending his first EC meeting and to Marian Koren (MK) who was attending as the substitute for Bas Savenije (BS).

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence from Pernille Drost (PD) Bas Savenije (BS) and Antonio Pina Falcao (AF).

3. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with no further comments.

4. Approval of minutes from the EC Meeting, The Hague 8th May 2008

The minutes from the EC meeting in The Hague were approved with no further comments.

5. The position of EBLIDA director

GL gave the EC a status about the situation concerning the search for a new director. Two candidates had been asked to attend an interview in Vienna on the 22nd of October, but unfortunately it had not been possible to offer the position to either of the candidates.

The selection committee (GL, BS, Jill Martin (JL) and Barbara Lison (BL) had decided, on the suggestion of BS, to try and contact some of the candidates who had applied for the LIBER directorship. Andrew Cranfield has been in contact with one of these and it was decided to try and organize an interview in December in The Hague with this candidate and hopefully one other. The EC members were asked to consider possible candidates in their own countries and email these to AC within the next two weeks.

6. Financial statement



AC presented the half yearly report from the accountants, Bouwer and Officier. The estimation for income received from membership fees is less than the budget for 2008, due to some non-payments and a number of cancellations. On the expenditure side less has been spent on staff salary than calculated giving a surplus in this area. Costs for the process of hiring a new director are higher than anticipated and therefore the estimation for travel is 20.000 EURO. AC did not expect a surplus for the financial year 2008.

GL thanked the treasurer and director for their work in preparing the financial statement.

7. Membership status and membership campaign

AC outlined the situation regarding membership. While the situation for the full members is stable, the situation regarding associate members is less so. Over the last years EBLIDA has lost a number of associate members and this situation should be addressed by the EC.

GL and AC gave an overview of the membership offers sent out in September 2008, saying that Greece, Luxembourg, Slovenia and the Czech Republic have all given positive responses. BL will follow up and attempt to attract membership from Poland and Sara Ihamaki will do the same for Estonia. AC will follow up on Bulgaria and Rumania.

Sara Ihamaki suggested contacting the associate members to determine their reasons for EBLIDA membership, their expectations and the value they place on EBLIDA.

The EC decided that this may be a possible solution for the future, but at the moment it would be better to wait for the full implementation of the EBLIDA strategy for 2007-2010 before pursuing this path.

GL commented that the profile of the associate members was diffuse and it might be difficult to determine common criteria for a membership campaign targeted at this group.

MK suggested that EBLIDA as a European library organization should add value to the European work of its membership, e.g. by giving support to members who wish to put in applications for European projects (in line with one of the focus areas of the EBLIDA knowledge and information centre). MK also suggested looking at members from all the countries who comprise the Council of Europe.

JM said she thought EBLIDA should look for membership from library organizations from the emerging Europe.

Toby Bainton seconded this and suggested that National Libraries might also be a target group for membership.

AP thought there was no real common denominator among the associate members and perhaps there is too little knowledge of EBLIDA in the European library sector. It is important to stress the necessity of a European library policy for Europe and that larger and more wealthy libraries should be invited to join and support this strategy.

Barbara Lison questioned whether it is possible to get the National libraries to join. AC commented that these libraries already have their own organization – the CENL (Conference of European National Librarians) and also that many of the National Libraries are members of

LIBER and it would be necessary to show the relevance of EBLIDA to these types of libraries if we want to encourage them to join EBLIDA.

MK thought that maybe CENL, as an umbrella organization, could join EBLIDA. Members of the EC thought it might be stronger to have the National Libraries as individual members.

The EC decided to initiate a membership campaign targeting a) European library associations from non-EU member states and b) library associations from EU countries who are not members of EBLIDA. These associations should be given the same offer that was given to those associations targeted in the campaign from September 2008. (AC will distribute this letter to the EC members).

8. Discussion of EBLIDA voting structure and voting rights

AC outlined the thinking behind the paper and the various voting models for EBLIDA members. Most of the EC favoured a model giving voting rights to associate members (1 vote pr. Member) while enlarging the number of votes to full members (5 votes pr. Member).

The EC decided that it would make its final decision and recommendation to Council at the next EC meeting in March 2009. AC will contact AF to ask him for his views on voting rights.

AC and BS will coordinate on the issue of a possible change of the statutes and procedural rules for the 2009 Council meeting.

9. Reports from Expert Groups

EGIL

TB reported from the activities of the EGIL, saying that the quiet times in the field of copyright may be over. The Commission's Green Paper on copyright in the Knowledge Economy and the EBLIDA response have been high on the expert group's agenda and EBLIDA has encouraged all its members to submit answers to this important consultation. It seems that the Green Paper is also attracting the attention of the European Parliament with an MEP own initiative report. EBLIDA's response hopes to underline the fact that various parts of the copyright legal framework in Europe are not working too well.

TB also gave a brief overview of some of the other issues of concern for the EGIL, including ACTA and IPRED (both of which are concerned with criminal impunities for IP infringements) and the Commission term extension proposal for sound recordings and performance rights.

The next meeting of the EGIL will be held in Helsinki on the 18th-19th February 2009.

JEGDO

In the absence of BS, AC reported from the most recent meeting of the group, presented the draft mission statement and the division of tasks among the members. These include formulating briefing papers on access, legal deposit of digital materials, web harvesting, resource discovery, digital library networks and national policies for digitization.

The next meeting of the JEGDO will be held in Utrecht in February 2009 (TBC).

ILEG

JM reported from the last meeting of the ILEG. A number of issues for the group to work on have been identified and include the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the Bologna process, CERTIDOC, co-operation with EUCLID, LIS curriculum delivery and ENGCARD (a EU project/template to devise a “passport” for the engineering profession in Europe). A major goal of the expert group should be to bring the discussion about LIS education onto the agenda of library associations and to ensure that these discussions are carried forward at the European level. The next meeting of the ILEG will be held at the Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen on the 24th of February 2009.

Culture & Information Society

BL reported from the meeting of this expert group’s meeting in Milan on the 29th of October. BL presented a proposed mission statement, which had been drafted by BL, AC and Hella Klauser at the IFLA conference in Quebec and discussed and approved at the Milan meeting. It will be important for the group to carry out an analysis of the EU’s policy and goals in the areas of culture and information society and their relevance to the overall agenda of EBLIDA.

Some more specific items were also discussed. The European Commission has proclaimed 2009 as the “European Year of Creativity and Innovation”. BL will draft a proposal for a letter from EBLIDA, to be signed by the President, to the Commission expressing the interest of EBLIDA and the European Library Sector in contributing to the “European Year of Creativity and Innovation”.

AC will investigate the possibility of EBLIDA (or a named person from EBLIDA) to become a friend of the European Cultural Parliament.

BL also suggested that a possible title and topic for the EBLIDA Annual conference in 2010 could be “Libraries – their roles for Culture and the information society in Europe”

Education and LLL

This group has not been established yet. It was agreed that AC will chair this group until May 2009 and try and establish a start-up meeting at the beginning of 2009.

Structure of Expert Groups

GL suggested that all the expert groups formulate mission statements for approval at the next EC meeting and that these be completed by 18th February 2009 for circulation among the EC members. GL also underlined the importance of coordination in the progress of the working groups and for a similar structure in the expert groups. The important goal for the groups should be to gain an overview of the relevant EU policy documents and directives and to have this in place by the next EC meeting.

AC had recently met with Wilma Mossink (EGIL Information coordinator) to work on structure and content for this expert group’s data collection. This work should be finalised by the end of 2008 and hopefully can be used as a framework for the other expert groups.

10. The EBLIDA Knowledge and Information Centre (KIC)



GL and AC gave some information on the status of the KIC and how to proceed with a project proposal for EU funding. There had been some discussions for a proposal under the EU culture programme, but this had not been possible due to the funding mechanisms of the project. Therefore GL suggested that EBLIDA formulate a project proposal for the establishment of the KIC under the Grundtvig programme (http://ec.europa.eu/education/grundtvig/doc868_en.htm) to be submitted in February 2009. GL and AC will formulate a timetable for this work in December 2009.

MK suggested that it would be useful to include other groups, e.g. NAPLE and LIBER for the collection of data.

GL proposed the establishment of a 6th expert group in association with NAPLE to work on the library map of Europe and the task of data collection, which was approved by the EC. This process would also improve the communication between national and European associations. GL will chair this group with AC acting as secretary.

BL pointed out that it is very important to ensure the legitimacy and official acknowledgement of the data that EBLIDA collects and disseminates to its members.

GL asked that the EC members distribute information about how library statistics are collected in their countries including public, academic and special libraries and the frequency of the data collection.

MK informed the EC that she will attend a meeting in Amsterdam on the 7th of November to discuss a proposal for a European wide collaboration on the collection of book and library statistics with representatives from the publishing, library and book seller communities in Europe. MK said that the intention was that these data be brought into the framework of EUROSTAT, which is the highest level of obligation.

The following discussion was positive to the idea of a collaboration with these stakeholders, but that of course it will be necessary to define the cross over between the KIC and this project. GL proposed that EBLIDA join this project, which was supported and agreed upon by the whole EC.

GL suggested that the associations of the EC members act as project partners for the KIC and that the EC members themselves take on the role of steering group for the project, if we are successful. AC, GL and Birgit Stumm will discuss which other partners might be strategic for the delivery of the project.

EC members will confirm their involvement in the KIC project with their respective organisations and inform the EBLIDA secretariat of the decision taken at this level.

11. Cooperation with NAPLE and report from the NAPLE meeting, Vilnius, October 2008

Both GL and AC had attended the annual NAPLE conference and AC had moderated a session on future collaboration between NAPLE and EBLIDA. The overall response was very positive, as both organisations are working on many common issues and can bring different stakeholders together to work for common policy and involvement at the European level. GL and AC will

continue discussions with the NAPLE board on how to cooperate in the future and the specific areas of cooperation.

12. Annual Council meeting and conference, Vienna, May 2009

Following on from discussions held with members of the NAPLE board during IFLA in Quebec, GL proposed that the EBLIDA annual conference should be held in cooperation with NAPLE and the Austrian Library Association, with all organisations being full partners in this project. The EC agreed to this proposal.

GL said that the idea was to have a reduced fee for members of the three organisations and it should be possible to aim for a registration fee for the one day conference of between 70 and 80 EURO. The Council meeting will, as previously, be without a fee for delegates. The EC decided that all conferences which EBLIDA is involved in as a partner will include a minimum of two places without registration fees. This offer will be extended to both NAPLE and the Austrian Library Association.

The proposed full programme for the 6th – 9th May 2009 is as follows:

6th May – 14.00 – 18.00 – Executive Committee meeting

7th May – 9.00 – 12.30 – Meetings of the EBLIDA Expert Groups

7th May 13.30 – 17.30 – EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting

7th May 19.30 – Council dinner

8th May – EBLIDA/BVO/NAPLE Conference
(dinner and /or reception in the evening)

9th May – Library and vineyard tour

13. IFLA/EBLIDA/eIFL copyright conference, Moldova, November 2008

AC gave a status report on this joint conference. At the moment there are 50+ registrations, though most are from Moldova and the region. With speakers from Moldova, the Ukraine, Europe, Chile and the USA the programme will present many perspectives on copyright issues. The conference is financed with funds from the Swedish Development Agency.

14. LIBER/EBLIDA conference on digitisation policy in Europe, 2009

AC reported from the meeting held in London on the 17th of October to discuss a follow-up conference to the one held in Copenhagen in October 2007. AC outlined the proposed programme content. The EC felt that the programme was too focused on the academic and research library community and it is a condition that there be some input from the public library sector if EBLIDA is to participate in the conference. The EC underlined that this is a joint conference of LIBER and EBLIDA and that a road map or strategy from one organisation

should not be an item of the conference. AC will take this forward to the conference steering committee.

MK suggested that FOBID could be involved as a partner for the conference or in a supportive role for the conference. AC will also investigate the precise role of the Royal Library of the Netherlands in the planning of the conference and in what way FOBID might be integrated into the organisation of the conference.

15. European reading campaign – Discussion of a proposal from the DK library association

The Danish Library Association has suggested that EBLIDA, inspired by the campaign of the Austrian Library Association, propose and bring forth a reading campaign at the European level.

JM thought that this was a very broad project for EBLIDA to undertake and various other EC members also expressed concern about the project in relation to the resources of EBLIDA, not least with the planned work for the establishment of the KIC. If EBLIDA were to play a role it might be to help establish a meta-network of campaigns in the nation states, rather than one single reading campaign across Europe.

GL suggested that EBLIDA might stimulate some countries to think about the concept of reading campaigns and maybe to have some informal discussions and reflections about the possibility of European funding for such a project. GL proposed that EBLIDA have some informal contacts with some EBLIDA members in 2009 on this issue and to discuss how to continue with the idea in 2010. (The original email from the Danish Library Association is included in these minutes).

16. Venue next meeting

After some discussion the EC decided that the next meeting would be held in Kiev on 13th – 14th March 2009 (TBC).

17. AOB

GL had recently visited Belgrade and met with various members of the Serbian library community, who expressed an interest in the copyright agenda of the European Union and EBLIDA could investigate the possibility of the EGIL planning a joint copyright conference with the Serbian library association. Maybe it would be a good idea to host a copyright seminar in connection with the EC meeting in the Ukraine. MK said that she thought that these types of activities fit in well with the idea of EBLIDA providing added value to the work of the national library associations.

18. Closure of meeting

GL thanked the members of the EC for their contributions to the meeting and wished everyone safe journeys home.

Copy of email from the Danish Library Association regarding a European reading campaign.

At a meeting in September in The International Committee of The Danish Library Association it was decided to suggest to EBLIDA, that EBLIDA takes the initiative to initiate a common European Reading campaign, inspired by your Austrian campaign.

It would serve at least three purposes:

- to give The European citizens citizens much needed inspiration to read
- to give the European libraries better visibility
- to give EBLIDA a new and more active role

Other European campaigns, initiated by EBLIDA, could follow this one, thus giving EBLIDA new roles and new visibility.

We look forward to your response.

best wishes

Winnie