



# Motivation Statement of Candidacy

Candidate for the position of Executive Committee:  
2024-2027



**Jessica Jacobs**  
**Belgium**

*[1<sup>st</sup> Term]*

Vlaamse Vereniging voor Bibliotheek-,  
Archief- en Documentatiewezen (VVBAD)  
(Flemish Association for Libraries, Archives  
and Documentation Centres)

Present Position: Director VVBAD (Flemish Association for Library, Archive and Documentation) Belgium

With this writing, I would like to motivate my candidature for the EBLIDA Executive Committee.

Living not far from Brussels, I find myself at the heart of the European Union. As director of the Flemish Association for Library, Archive and Documentation, I have experience with advocating, keeping in touch with stakeholders, looking for cooperation with other organisations and community building.

To support the work of EBLIDA, I look forward to engaging in advocating on a European level. I am especially impressed by the work of EBLIDA concerning recommendations in library legislation in Europe and the work focused on the role of libraries in sustainable development. I am in charge of a small team (4 FTE) that has shown to work very efficient, and we are able to make a difference for our members. Every two years, we organise a congress with over 1,000 information professionals attending.

I am very interested in the developments in our sector on a European and international level. As a student I took part in the European Youth Parliament in Bialystok, which convinced me of the importance of the European Union. I think lobbying for the library community on a European level is tremendously important, because the challenges we face are larger than local communities can handle. I believe libraries in Europe are defenders of democracy and they should be supported in playing this important role.

I obtained a master's degree in Slavic and Eastern European studies, which means I am

specialised in Russian and Polish language, politics, history and society. This is an interesting background to have a better understanding of several countries in Europe. I also attended several international conferences organised by EBLIDA and IFLA.

Thank you for considering my candidature and I am looking forward to being a part of EBLIDA Executive Committee.