



Motivation Statement of Candidacy

Candidate for the position of Executive Committee:
2024-2027



Liù Palmieri *Italy*

[1st Term]

AIB - Associazione Italiana Biblioteche
(Italian Library Association)

Present Position: Charge of the Special Projects office, Milan
Public Libraries network
City of Milan, Italy

My name is Liù Palmieri, and I'm in charge of the Special Projects office of Milan Public Library Network in Milan, run by the City of Milan, Italy.

I have 15 years of experience as a librarian, working in two different Italian public library networks (Bologna and from 2020 on, Milan).

In Milan I am also the focal point of Milan UNESCO Creative City of Literature, which takes me to connect to several international cities that made literature and culture an effective driver for urban innovation and regeneration.

At a national level, in 2023 I became member of the AIB (*Associazione Italiana Biblioteche*, the Italian Library Association) National Committee on public libraries, that until 2026 will be working on the new Guidelines for the assessment of Italian Public Libraries with a specific focus on assessing their impact through data analysis and promoting equal access and democracy through public libraries.

Libraries as hubs of democracy are also the focus of an international project called *Europe Challenge* (fostered by European Cultural Foundation) that I took part into in 2022 together on behalf of Milan Public Libraries network together with 38 libraries across Europe. That experience gave me more insights and know-how on how important public libraries are to address crucial challenges facing Europe, such as social isolation, inequality, disinformation, and the climate crisis.

This issue also informed *Milan Public Libraries Strategic plan 2023-2026*, which I personally contributed to shape, write and implement.

Moreover, the Europe Challenge community-focused approach to libraries programming inspired me to pursue an international level to promote and support libraries.

I strongly believe that libraries policies must be advocate on an international level that has to be deeply connected with the national and local level, so to shape them in a way that is more effective and meaningfully linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is why I actively worked to launch the so-called *Carta di Milano per le biblioteche*, a policy document based on the IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 2022 and delivered by the City of Milan to be shared by all local Italian administrators and policy makers with the purpose to raise awareness about the crucial role of public libraries and to engage them to actively advocate it at a national level (insofar, the document was signed by more than 40 local administrations in Italy).

I candidate for Eblida's executive committee because I believe that this is the best place to deploy all my experience, national and international connections to advocate at all possible levels what public libraries are: a place of democratic participation and equal access for everyone.

Milan, 20.01.24