



Motivation Statement of Candidacy

Candidate for the position of Executive Committee:
2024-2027



Rauha Maarno
Finland

Suomen Kirjastoseura
(Finnish Library Association, Finland)

[2nd Term]

Present Position: Director of Customer and Public Relations,
Accessibility Library Celia, Finland

a) How will you engage with EBLIDA Executive Committee members, the director and secretariat?

I would like to continue supporting the work with my personal expertise and professional qualities. During my first term on the EBLIDA Executive Committee, I learned a lot about European advocacy and the challenges facing libraries in Europe. I am eager to offer my expertise in NGO work, library advocacy, and accessibility issues to support the EBLIDA's work in the future. In my engagement and interaction, I usually consider how I can best help and support the growth of the organization and the people working in it.

b) What is the role of EBLIDA in today's changing European library community, in your opinion?

The role of EBLIDA is to shape common ground and ideas for the future of libraries in Europe. Today, we especially need this ongoing exchange of ideas because there is a concerning tendency toward inward-looking nationalism in European countries. International collaboration and discussion need to be strengthened.

Additionally, we require powerful advocacy work for libraries at the European level. Fortunately, EBLIDA is not alone in this; it has the capacity to collaborate closely with other actors in the field, such as IFLA and Public Libraries 2030. Furthermore, libraries are at the core of defining and manifesting European values like democracy and equality. EBLIDA can help support library professionals across Europe in working for these values.

c) What relevant international experience do you have to bring to the Executive Committee?

My international experience spans IFLA activities as a member of the Management of Library Associations Section to working on various international projects. I have been involved in development projects in African countries. Additionally, I have experience in multiple partner European-funded projects.