



Motivation Statement of Candidacy

Candidate for the position of President: 2024-2027

Spaska Tarandova Bulgaria



[1st Term]

Nominated by:

1. Romanian Library Association (ANBPR), Romania
2. Bulgarian Library and Information Association, Bulgaria
3. Luxembourgish Librarians', Archivists' and Documentalists' Association (ALBAD), Luxembourg
4. Croatian Library Association, Croatia
5. Library of the University of Macedonia, Greece
6. Cyprus Association of Librarians – Information Scientists (CALIS), Cyprus

Present Position: Global Libraries – Bulgaria Foundation
Bulgaria

With over 30 years in the library field, I am dedicated to advancing the vital role of libraries as societal pillars. As a second-term member of IFLA's Public Libraries Section and Executive Director of the Global Libraries – Bulgaria Foundation since 2015, I will bring extensive expertise. My managerial experience spans managing national and international projects. Having worked with diverse stakeholders, I possess excellent communication skills crucial for effective advocacy.

Recognizing contemporary challenges, I believe EBLIDA should position European libraries as modern *agora* in the face of growing restrictions on freedom and denial of rights based on populist claims. Libraries can play a pivotal role in democratic development. Leveraging EBLIDA's diverse membership, we can foster literacy, overcome the European digital divide, and advance Sustainable Development Goals.

The evolving media landscape has altered our forms of communication and public relations, making it imperative for EBLIDA to adapt and advocate effectively. As a member of the Bulgarian Library and Information Association, I am deeply engaged in international connections, collaborating with library professionals globally. Over the past decade, I've actively participated in European projects and collaborated with All Digital Network and Public Libraries 2030. I know LIBER, NAPLE, etc. I've established working relationships with

Bulgarian MEPs and contributed to workshops in the European Parliament on topics related to libraries.

My international experience includes participation in the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI) sponsored by the Gates Foundation and the “Librarians of Tomorrow: Communication and Leadership” program at the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Having closely collaborated with the outgoing Director and Secretariat during the previous EBLIDA governance term, I am well-positioned to swiftly adapt to the role of President. My commitment, experience, and network make me a strong candidate to contribute to EBLIDA as a leader of libraries of the future in Europe.