The EBLIDA Annual Report 2023 – 2024 covers the period from 1 May 2023 to 1 April 2024.
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INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report 2023 – 2024 covers the period from 1 May 2023 to 1 April 2024.

This Annual Report is produced by the President, the Executive Committee and the Director with the support of the Secretariat, input from the Expert and Working Group(s) when applicable, and was approved at the 32nd EBLIDA Annual Council, 8th of April, 2024 in Lisbon.
EBLIDA is a non-profit organisation representing national library associations and individual libraries in the European Union and other European countries.

Founded on 13th June, 1992 to represent library associations at European level.

Represents library associations in all European Union countries.

Represents through its members approximately 70,000+ individual libraries across Europe (of which 65,000 are considered public libraries) and about 100 million users.

Council meets once a year.

Staff are 1 Director full time, 1 Administrative Officer part time, 1 Project Officer full time, and 1 Communications Officer, part time.

Annual budget of 130,000 Euro (2023 expenditure).

Executive Committee comprises 10 representatives 2021-2024. A new Executive Committee will be elected by 8th April 2024.

EBLIDA President, re-elected for a second term in June 2021 at the Annual Council online meeting, is Ton Van Vlimmeren, until 8th April 2024.

The policy areas are led by the Expert Group of Information Law (EGIL), the Expert Group European Libraries and Sustainable Development Implementation and Assessment (ELSIA) and the Working Group on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe (LIBLEG).

EBLIDA is a member of / partners with: IFLA, Copyright for Creativity, and is allied with PL2030 and NAPLE.

Contact details:

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2595 BE Den Haag, The Netherlands.

Telephone: +31 70 31 40 137
Email: eblida@eblida.org
Web: www.eblida.org

European Union, Interest Representative Register ID: 32997432484-79
## PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021-2024

### PRESIDENT

**Ton Van Vlimmeren**

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Hella Klauser**  
BID - Bibliothek & Information Deutschland / Federal Union of German Library and Information Associations, Germany

### TREASURER

**Mairead Owens**  
Dublin City Libraries / Library Association of Ireland, Ireland  
*Substitute: Brendan Teeling*

### MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

- **Valentina Bondesan**  
  CSBNO / Italian Library Association (AIB), Italy  
  *Substitute: Laura Ballestra*

- **Julie Calmus**  
  ABF - Association des Bibliothécaires Français (French Association of Librarians), France  
  *Substitute: Eléonore Clavreul, ABF*

- **Andrew Cranfield,**  
  Helsingør Commune / Danish Library Association, Denmark  
  *Substitute: Steffen Nissen*

- **Marina Encheva**  
  BLIA - Bulgarian Library and Information Association, Bulgaria  
  *Substitute: Spaska Tarandova*

- **Katrina Kukaine**  
  National Library of Latvia / Library Association of Latvia  
  *Substitute: Māra Īēkabsone*

- **Rauha Maarno**  
  Accessibility Library Celia / Finnish Library Association  
  *Substitute: Ville Vaarne*

- **Alicia Sellés Carot**  
  FESABID, Spain
EXPERT GROUPS

EBLIDA expert groups are currently undergoing a transition. Expert Groups are listed below.

ELSIA
European Libraries and Sustainable development Implementation and Assessment Expert Group

EGIL
Expert Group on Information Law

LIBLEG
Expert Group on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe

A working group was created within the EBLIDA Executive Committee in late 2023. The results of the working group are communicated to the new EBLIDA Director, Mikkel Christoffersen.

SECRETARIAT

EBLIDA Head Office
Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5
2595 BE Den Haag
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 70 31 40 137
Email: eblida@eblida.org

Director:

Giuseppe Vitiello
(Director until December 2023)

Mikkel Christoffersen
(Director from February 2024)
Email: Mikkel.Christoffersen@eblida.org

Administrative Officer:
Majella Cunnane
Telephone: +31 70 31 40 137
Email: majella.cunnane@eblida.org

Project Officer:
Inês M. Ferreira
Email: ines.ferreira@eblida.org

Communications Officer:
Sophie Felföldi
Email: sophie.felfoldi@eblida.org
MISSION

EBLIDA’s mission is:

● to promote a sustainable society where citizens in Europe enjoy freedom of expression and free access to information, education and culture;

● to engage libraries in maintaining a high level of democratic participation of all European citizens in the political debate based on verified information in order to reinforce social cohesion, individual accomplishment and economic development;

● to advocate for equitable access to library collections and resources by pursuing a strategy of sustainable copyright.

OBJECTIVES

Taking stock of EBLIDA’s past achievements and Members’ expectations, these are the objectives of the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan:

1. To pursue the facilitation of networking and knowledge sharing between members, focusing on the strategic objectives of sustainability, democratic participation and equal access to information, and

2. To advocate for libraries and their work at a European level and support advocacy at the national and local level.

MEMBERS

EBLIDA is a membership-based organisation, focusing on library organisations and associations from both the EU and non-EU member states. Over the past year, membership numbers have remained stable, at 124 members.

EBLIDA’s membership consists of 40 Full Members and 84 Associate Members distributed over the European Continent.

NEW EBLIDA MEMBERS 2023 – 2024

From May 2023 until April 2024, EBLIDA had acquired 2 new Full Member and 2 new Associate Members

Full Members
Czech Republic, SDRUK
Slovakia, Slovak Librarians and Library Association
Switzerland, Bibliosuisse
EBLIDA MEMBERSHIP FEES 2024 AND 2025

During the EBLIDA Executive Committee (EC) meeting in Toledo, Spain on 25-26 September, the EC reviewed EBLIDA’s membership fees.

During this meeting, the EC decided to propose to our members a small and gradual increase in membership fees for a period of 2 years of 2.5% per year for the years 2024 and 2025. This diverges from the practice that had been established some years ago to align membership fee increases with the annual inflation rate in the Netherlands. The proposed increase in fees of 2.5% per year over 2 years, which is much lower than the 2022 increase in Dutch inflation of 10.2%, would allow our members to absorb this increase into their budgets while also help EBLIDA in creating more financial stability and security.

EBLIDA members voted almost unanimously to agree to the membership fee increase.

EBLIDA membership fees 2023/2024/2025

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023 Fees</th>
<th>2024 Fees</th>
<th>2025 Fees</th>
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<td>Eur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate g</td>
<td>608</td>
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EBLIDA membership fees 2023/2024/2025 Dutch members

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023 Fees</th>
<th>2024 Fees</th>
<th>2025 Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eur</td>
<td>Eur</td>
<td>Eur</td>
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<td>Full Band d</td>
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<td>Full Band e</td>
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<td>Full Band f</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate g</td>
<td>621,95</td>
<td>636,95</td>
<td>652,95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPONSORS

EBLIDA seeks out partnership/incidental sponsorship opportunities. Currently OCLC are EBLIDA’s Silver Sponsor. Incidental sponsorship is also possible for Conferences and other events.

ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

1. Executive Committee activities

Executive Committee Meetings held 2023-2024
- 17-04-2023 In person in Luxembourg
- 30-05-2023 Online
- 25/26-09-2023 In person in Toledo, Spain
- 17-11-2023 Online
- 13-12-2023 Online
- 24-01-2024 Online
- 11-03-2024 Online

Decisions taken by the Executive Committee included the following:

✔ A procedure was approved on how and when to pursue European Projects,
✔ Pursuing the work of the European Commission work plan for culture – priority action: libraries,
✔ Approval of a new online membership matching platform to be created by EBLIDA, E-PANEMA,
✔ EBLIDA website restructuring and new logo,
✔ Evaluation of EBLIDA expert groups,
✔ An increase of EBLIDA membership fees of 2.5% per year over 2 years was put to a vote and approved by members for 2024 and 2025,
✔ The EC approved to work together with an Italian intern, with procedures and conditions to be set out with the intern and a member of the EC,
✔ Director, Giuseppe Vitiello’s contract ended in November 2023,
✔ A new Director was hired, Mikkel Christoffersen with a start date of 1 February 2024,
✔ The EC approved to increase the hours of EBLIDA Project Officer, Ines Ferreira, to full time.

EBLIDA President Activities

EBLIDA President has carried out extensive representation activities for EBLIDA during the past year, including:

- Next Library Conference, Workshop, presentation Aarhus May 14-16
- Bibliocon/German Library conference Hannover May 22-25
- Culture price Bremen Brussels May 31
- Dutch Library Journal Interview June 20
- Ukrainian Library Building Session Rotterdam June 23
- Chapter Bibliotheken und Demokratie, Buch July 23
- IFLA World Library and Information Conference Rotterdam August 18-24
- Symposium PL Bremen/farewell Barbara Lison Bremen September 13
- EC Toledo/ Ministry of Culture Spain Madrid/Toldeo September 24-28
- ILIT Library research project Online October 3
- Iranian International Conference Public Libraries Online October 17
- 11th Nation Library Conference Spain Pamplona October 18
- Conferentie Aan Zee Oostende October 19
- Swiss Library conference BiblioSuisse Zurich November 2-3

2. Secretariat activities

The secretariat carried out the tasks necessary to implement decisions taken above by the EBLIDA Executive Committee.

EBLIDA released 3 more publications, including EBLIDA and the Council of Europe’s Recommendation on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe, approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, thus becoming the Recommendation CM/REC(2023)3 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe. Second was the Handbook on comparative e-lending policies in European Public Libraries, which overhauls current stereotypes about e-lending and lastly, the 2023 update to the Second European Report on SDGs and Libraries.

EBLIDA continues to work together with partners, such as PL2030 on projects (RL:EU) and to coordinate on certain subjects of common interest. The 2nd EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 joint event was held in Luxembourg on 19th of April 2023, with the title “Shaping the future of European libraries together”.

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EBLIDA strengthened its efforts toward EU-funded projects by participating in the following project proposals:

✔ LIBRI, coordinated by Bibliothèques Sans Frontières, and with the partnership of 7 organisations from 6 different countries (it has been approved and is pending the signature of the Grant Agreement)

✔ THIRD SPACE, coordinated by the Alignment House under the leadership of de Bibliotheek AanZet and with the partnership of 6 institutions from 3 different countries (unsuccessful due to technical issues);

✔ SPA4OCEAN, coordinated by CEREMA, in partnership with over 20 research institutions from 7 different countries (it has since been rejected);

✔ EMPOW(H)ER, coordinated by EBLIDA, and with the partnership of 7 organisations from 5 different countries (it has since been rejected)

EBLIDA was also invited to participate in a HORIZON project proposal titled ONOFF, and the Erasmus+ project TELL, but ultimately decided to withdraw its participation due to time constraints. EBLIDA has been invited to participate in projects with increasing frequency, a symptom of its increasing visibility in its work for the library sector and its strategic decision to pursue EU funding.

Regardless of their outcome, EBLIDA’s participation in project proposals has been extremely fruitful in the establishment and development of new connections and networks.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

The monthly EBLIDA newsletter regularly informed all members. In 2022 and until the end of March 2023, EBLIDA Newsletters were released on a monthly basis (except August) and through social media.

The Annual Council is once again held in person this time in Luxembourg on 17th of April, 2023.

The secretariat frequently communicates via email with EBLIDA members’ distribution lists, providing relevant information for the library and information community, shares Press Releases, Consultation documents, Statements and Surveys. These updates inform members about ongoing EBLIDA activities and projects as well.

According to the Constitution, the Council receives information regarding the date, location, and agenda of its meetings two months in advance, allowing members adequate time for preparation. All relevant documents concerning the Council are distributed and made available online, ensuring comprehensive access to necessary information.
ENHANCING COMMUNICATION: INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW WEBSITE & E-PANEMA

**EBLIDA’s new website** was launched in September 2023. It allows for a more intuitive navigation, featuring a modern look with the new EBLIDA logo and a new colour scheme.

The website was designed with two main concerns in mind: user experience, and maintenance. With a sleeker design and friendlier colours, the website is easier to navigate, while having access to information that was previously hard to find. Some information is now also presented in a more dynamic manner, including, for instance, the events calendar, which lists future and past events on libraries in Europe, as well as the EBLIDA members’ page, which now features a map and more detailed information about each member.

Members have the opportunity to comment on articles published or ask questions to foster discussion and engagement.

**EBLIDA’s newest tool, E-PANEMA** is an online partnership matching portal, a repository for all library projects in Europe, and a place where you can find resources for project proposals. It is also the successor of SDG-KIC and the EBLIDA Matrix, as it ties all projects with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

E-PANEMA is aimed at partnership matching for library projects in Europe. It may be used to browse for “new projects” that might be of interest to Members, or for connecting with the project publisher and others who might be interested. By using the search function, potential partners will be able to find and connect to each other.

The tool allows for publishing new, ongoing and completed projects, and also allows progress reports to be uploaded, thus becoming a repository of library projects in Europe. It can be searched for projects by using keywords or filters according to the status of the project, the country or countries or the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) it refers to, and the EU Programme which funded it. E-PANEMA is an exciting new tool to inform and inspire our members to develop new projects or improve existing ones.

For EBLIDA Members this new tool also provides specific features and resources to improve project proposals and thus increase their chances of being successful.

With over 75 users and more than 90 projects already uploaded, E-PANEMA aims to be the reference point for the library community to find partners for projects.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

a) Annual Council;
b) EBLIDA Executive Committee;
c) E-mails;
d) EBLIDA maintains seven permanent mailing lists:

**EBLIDA-List:** (496 Subscribers) General mailing list (moderated) is open to all individuals interested in EBLIDA’s activities. It aims to facilitate communication between EBLIDA, its members and members from the broader European library community.
EBLIDA-EC: Executive Committee Member list (Restricted to EC Members and their substitutes)

EBLIDA-Full-Members and EBLIDA-Associate-Members: Distribution lists (Restricted to EBLIDA Members)

EBLIDA-EGIL: List of the Expert Group on Information Law (Restricted to Expert group members)

EBLIDA-LIBLEG: List of the Working Group on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe (Restricted to working group members)

Marrakesh-Eu: (50 Subscribers) Electronic discussion list for library and visually impaired people's organisations on implementing Marrakesh Treaty legislation in EU Member States.

Three Ad hoc topic-oriented internal mailing lists:

- EBLIDA-Conference
- EBLIDA-Strategy and
- EBLIDA-Communications

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

NEWSLETTER

The EBLIDA Newsletter, edited by the EBLIDA team, serves as an important communication tool relating news about EBLIDA and its related European issues. It is published eleven times a year on every second Thursday of the month (except in August).

The subscribers pool of the newsletter is 1357. Archives of all newsletters are accessible via the website.

SOCIAL MEDIA

EBLIDA uses social media to communicate with its members and with the wider library community in Europe.

Our social media audience is primarily composed of library and information science professionals, students, as well as policymakers, MPs and other government officials interested in the field.

Content:

EBLIDA’s social media content is mostly informative and educational. We share news and updates about EBLIDA and other member and non-member organisations, events, highlights and other relevant news/updates related to the library and information sector in Europe.

Tailored to our audience, we provide relevant information and resources and also share articles, publications and research papers related to library and information science.
Platforms:

EBLIDA is active on several social media platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Flickr.

Additionally, EBLIDA has recently expanded its social media reach by joining Instagram and LinkedIn, where we provide the latest updates about EBLIDA and insights from our European library community.

X (Twitter)

In our commitment to engaging with our audience, we actively maintain a presence on X (Twitter), utilising this platform to elevate the visibility of our association, foster communication, establish connections, and cultivate stronger relationships with partner organisations. As of March 2024, @eblida boasts a following of 3634.

Facebook

Facebook is also a component of our Association's multi-channel communication strategy, enabling us to cross-promote our web content and share resources and events that resonate with our audience. Currently, our Facebook page has garnered a following of 3.2K.

Flickr

In our efforts to enhance our online presence and preserve memories of our members and colleagues, we use Flickr to store, showcase, and share photos from our events. With 51 albums and a total of 3,830 images, we aim to reach a broader audience and immortalise our collective experiences.

YouTube

YouTube serves as a practical platform for sharing video content that directly benefits our members and wider audience. We upload recordings of events, webinars, and interviews covering topics relevant to libraries, information, and digital preservation, among others. Through these videos, we aim to foster engagement within our community and promote our activities.

EBLIDA FINANCES 2023-2024

After a deficit in the EBLIDA financial report of 2022 of € -9,604, this was reversed in 2023 with a result of € 27,500. The main reason for this was the income from project RL:EU, as well as a healthy income from the EBLIDA Conference in Luxembourg in April 2023.

EBLIDA remains mindful of its investment in human resources in 2024.

EBLIDA’s financial accountant from Bouwer and Officier, checks and validates the EBLIDA bookkeeping 2ce a year and EBLIDA is compliant with Dutch fiscal and financial rules and regulations.
EBLIDA COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE

The 31st Annual EBLIDA Council meeting and Conference with the theme “Who is afraid of library power: Empowering citizens for a democratic and sustainable society”, was held in Luxembourg, on 17th to 19th April 2023.

The Conference attracted over 115 registrations from all over the continent.

EBLIDA PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee consists of at least 4 and no more than 10 Full Members of the Association, subject to the decision of the Council and the President of the Association. The current EBLIDA President and Executive Committee members are listed earlier in this document and the term of 2021-2024 will come to an end in April 2024.

The EBLIDA President and EBLIDA Executive Committee members are elected for 3 years by Council members.

EBLIDA transitioned to conducting its elections entirely online in 2021 amidst the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic. Following the success of this approach, the 2024 elections for EBLIDA President and Executive Committee are now being conducted electronically.

Tasks assigned to Executive Committee members according to EBLIDA’s constitution are:

✔ to submit an annual report on activities, as well as the annual budget and accounts of the Association to the Council;
✔ to submit an annual programme of activities to the Council;
✔ to submit the membership structure and the annual membership fee;
✔ to submit decisions on admission to membership in accordance with the Articles 5 sub b and 6 to the Council, in order to obtain an authorised decision or confirmation, respectively, by the Council.

EXPERT GROUPS

Currently, EBLIDA’s expert groups are being evaluated under the leadership of EBLIDA’s new Director.

SECRETARIAT

EBLIDA Secretariat members are listed above on Page 5.

- END -