



## EBLIDA Council Meeting 2000

### PULMAN: an EU project proposal with EBLIDA involvement

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#### **Introduction**

PULMAN, Public Libraries Mobilising Advanced Networks, is a proposal which will be submitted under the current call for proposals of the **Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme of the European Union under the EU Fifth RTD Framework Programme (1998-2002)**. Under the terms of the call, PULMAN is a *Thematic Network under Support Measures*.

Europe's public libraries have an increasingly important role to play in the implementation of key policies and initiatives such as **e-Europe, Jobs in the New Knowledge Economy** and **Network Europe** emerging since the Lisbon Summit in April 2000. Public libraries can also make a vital contribution to the delivery of EU policies in areas such as social inclusion, digital literacy, lifelong learning, citizen participation in civic governance and access to cultural content.

#### **Objectives**

The objective of the PULMAN Thematic Network is to strengthen the performance of public libraries in this role by:

- consolidating, packaging and disseminating relevant social and technical standards and guidelines for the professional community in an easily usable format;
- disseminating information on standards and important policy developments affecting public libraries and helping reduce disparities by encouraging the transfer of knowledge about good

practice and important policy developments;

- providing policy support for public libraries and stimulating cross-sectoral strategic development with other cultural institutions at European level.

PULMAN will build on the work of PubliCA, the European Union's Concerted Action for Public Libraries, which culminated in the "*Something for Everyone*" policy conference, which took place on 14 and 15 October 1999 in Copenhagen. PubliCA's Copenhagen Declaration identified key roles for public libraries in promoting:

- democracy and citizenship
- economic and social development
- lifelong learning
- cultural and linguistic diversity