



EBLIDA European Bureau of Library, Information
and Documentation Associations

Annual Report

European Bureau of Library,
Information and
Documentation Associations
(EBLIDA)

1 May 2014 - 30 April 2015

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Annual Report 2014 – 2015: Introduction

The Annual Report 2014 – 2015 covers the period from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2015. It is produced by the President, the Executive Committee and Director with input from the Expert Groups and Task Force and approved in its final form by the 23rd Council in May 2015.

The content of the Annual Report refers to activities taking place in the previous year in relation to the Work Programme 2014 - 2015¹. The structure of the report broadly corresponds to the areas defined in the Strategy and the Work Programme.

In May 2013 in Milan, Council members approved the strategy 2013-2016² drafted by the Executive Committee.

The EBLIDA strategy 2013-2016 stated that “by 2016, EBLIDA aims at being identified as the European voice of libraries and information by:

- bridging libraries together;
- pooling resources with other organisations;
- ensuring free access to information through an updated copyright framework and a wealthy information society;
- pursuing the building of a robust, inclusive and sustainable library and information organisation network across Europe”.

The Mission Statement of the EBLIDA Strategy is to serve its members and the broader European library and information community by lobbying for libraries.

EBLIDA lobbies to:

- defend and promote the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals in Europe;
- promote free access to information, education and culture for all citizens in Europe.

EBLIDA takes a pro-active role in following the policy agenda of the European Commission as well as raising issues of interest regarding free access to information with members of the European Parliament.

EBLIDA’s lobbying efforts operate in two ways:

- Influencing European and international institutions and organisations;
- Providing support to national member organisations.

Along with its lobbying activities EBLIDA has the following main objectives:

¹ EBLIDA Work Programme 2014-2015 was presented and approved during the Annual Council 2014 and accessible under the Council member area after log in.

² EBLIDA Strategy 2013 – 2016 is accessible at http://www.eblida.org/EBLIDA-Strategy_2013-2016_approved.pdf

- to foster consultation between its members on matters of common concern;
- to act as a channel of communication between its members and other interlocutors, foremost amongst which would be the European Commission, the European Parliament and other institutions of the European Union;
- to act as a representative voice of the library and information science professions in European matters;
- to serve and promote other interests of the library and information science profession, its institutions and its professional workers in Europe.

EBLIDA is committed at European level through its strategic alliances and also aims at encouraging, inspiring and supporting its members' national lobbying actions, providing the necessary alerts and background information for targeted actions, such as the EBLIDA Campaign "The Right to e-Read".

EBLIDA is accountable to its members for the delivery of the strategic goals as agreed by EBLIDA Council members. The development and rationale of the strategy relies heavily on the experience and expertise of EBLIDA's Expert Groups on Information Law, and Culture and the Information Society, and also on the e-Books Task Force.

The responsibility for the strategy lies with the EBLIDA Executive Committee. The EBLIDA Executive Committee is responsible for the delivery of the strategy, implementation, communication, assessment and update.

The EBLIDA Annual Report 2014-2015 shows that the implementation of the strategy is in line with the Annual Work Programme 2014-2015. It gives an overview of the situation of the association and the actions undertaken from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2015.

EBLIDA: Lobbying for Libraries

EBLIDA is the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations.

Facts and figures

- EBLIDA is a non-profit organisation representing national library associations and individual libraries in the European Union and other European countries.
- Founded in 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 in May.
- Employs 2,1 full-time equivalent staff distributed as 1.55 FTE in the secretariat, and 0,55 FTE as contracted services for website and communication.
- Annual budget of 162,373 Euro (2014 expenditure).
- Executive Committee comprises 10 representatives from full member organisations.
- EBLIDA President, Klaus-Peter Böttger is Director of the Public Library of Essen.
- The policy areas are led by the Expert Group for Information Law, the Expert Group on Culture and Information Society and the E-Books Task Force on e-Books.
- EBLIDA is a member of Culture Action Europe and Copyright for Creativity.
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- European Union, Interest Representative Register ID: 32997432484-79

People

President:

Mr Klaus-Peter Böttger, Germany.

BID – Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (Federal Union of German Library and Information Associations)

Vice President

Ms Glòria Pérez Salmerón, Spain.

FESABID (Spanish Federation of Archives, Libraries, Documentation and Museum Associations).

Substitute: Ms Margarita Taladriz, FESABID, Spain.

Treasurer:

Ms Erna Winters, The Netherlands.

VOB - Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheken (Netherlands Public Library Association).

Substitute: Marian Koren, VOB, Netherlands.

Members of the Executive Committee (in alphabetical order):

Mr Guy Daines, UK.

CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals).

Substitute: Ms Annie Mauger, CILIP, UK.

Ms Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson, Sweden.

Svensk Biblioteksforening (Swedish Library Association)

Mr Georgios Glossiotis, Greece.

EEB, Enosis Ellenon Bibliothekarion (Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists)

Substitute: Ms Christina Kyriakopoulou, EEB, Greece.

Ms Lone Knakkegaard, Denmark.

Danmarks Biblioteksforening (Danish Library Association).

Substitute: Hellen Niegaard, DLA, Denmark.

Mr Gerald Leitner, Austria.

BVÖ, Büchereiverband Österreichs (Austrian Library Association)

N.B.: Chair of the EBLIDA eBooks Task Force

Substitute: Ms Christa Muller, VOB, Austria.

Ms Maria Jose Moura, Portugal.

BAD (Association of Portuguese Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists).

Substitute: Mr Bruno Duarte Eiras, BAD, Portugal.

Mr Aldo Pirola, Italy.

AIB - Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (Association of Italian Libraries).

Substitute: Ms Guiseppina Carrera, AIB, Italy.

Ms Leena Toivonen, Finland.

Suomen Tieteellinen Kirjastoseura R.Y. (Finnish Research Library Association).

Substitute: Ms Susanne Holmlund, Finland, Finlands svenska biblioteksörening (Finland's Swedish Library Association).

People (continuation)

Expert groups

Chair of Expert Group on Information Law:

Ms Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson, Swedish Library Association, Sweden.

Chair of Expert Group on Culture and Information Society:

Mr Aldo Pirola, Association of Italian Libraries, Italy.

Task Force

Chair of the Task Force on eBooks:

Mr Gerald Leitner, Austria.

BVÖ, Büchereiverband Österreichs (Austrian Library Association).

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1. Mission Activities

1a) Lobbying and Monitoring

Over the past two years, EBLIDA has increased its visibility in Brussels by organising more meetings with MEPs and Commission staff, participating in and/or organising events with MEP on library issues (breakfast debate, public and closed hearings), organising advocacy events in Brussels for librarians and coordinating work with Brussels-based organisations.

This action pays off since EBLIDA is increasingly being consulted with by journalists, event organisers, MEPs and Commission staff for issues related to libraries and for facts and figures.

Though an important focus is put on the copyright issue and in recent years on the question of e-lending, other issues related to culture and information society such as literacy are of fundamental importance in themselves, and also help to put libraries on the political agenda.

i) Copyright and Other Legal Issues

Although 2014 was a transition year on the political field with the election of the new European Parliament in May and the appointment of new Commissioners in November 2014, copyright remained high on the political agenda, especially in light of the result of the copyright consultation organised by the EU Commission in the previous months.

Just before the European elections, and in response to the blockage by the EU of the Library Treaty discussions at WIPO, EBLIDA issued a statement³ on 9th of May (Europe day) underlining the need for the EU Commission to take more than a market-approach and encouraging EU citizens to ask their MEPs to support the “*Right to E-Read*” petition and vote for MEPs that favour a progressive agenda for libraries and archives.

EBLIDA President presented European libraries views on copyright at the *Copyright and Related Rights Conference* in Athens on 6 June 2014, in the framework of the EU Presidency highlighting in particular:

- Voiding of license terms that override member state exceptions & limitations
- Compulsory removal of TPMs for legitimate uses
- A library’s ‘right to acquire’ any work legitimately made available to the public
 - ✓ including digital files
 - ✓ so the exhaustion principle applies = transfer of ownership.
- A mandatory library ‘right to lend’
 - ✓ any work in any format
 - ✓ including to ‘e-lend’ remotely
- Sale of digital content to libraries at reasonable market prices.

EBLIDA co-organised, with IFLA Copyright and other Legal Matters Section (CLM), the satellite meeting *Copyright and Beyond: Libraries in the Public Sphere*, in Strasbourg on 13 and 14 August 2014. This meeting focussed on gaining a better understanding of the effect

³ <http://www.eblida.org/news/europe-day-the-hague-9-may-2014.html>

of changes in the copyright environment on society and access to knowledge, in a time of moving from public to private contract laws and the consequences of trade agreements.



Autumn was also an active period with the nomination of the new Commission and events organised by EBLIDA in Brussels to raise awareness on libraries.

On November 4, EBLIDA organised a free of charge one day advocacy event for its members. In the morning the focus was on understanding the Brussels lobbying bubble with the support of Public Libraries 2020, and in the afternoon the focus was on copyright issues in partnership with BEUC.

The next day, Wednesday 5 November, EBLIDA organised a breakfast debate at the EU Parliament to discuss the role libraries play in the EU of improving access to information and



knowledge in the digital era. The event, hosted by the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Sylvie Guillaume (French, S&D's), was chaired by the EBLIDA Director, Vincent Bonnet and featured speakers including: MEP Julie Ward (UK, S&D's), MEP Julia Reda (Germany, Greens), MEP Georgios Katrougkalos (Greece, GUE/NGL), Klaus-Peter Böttger, EBLIDA President, Susan Reilly, Director, LIBER and Jukka Relander, President of the Finnish Library Association⁴.

EBLIDA attended the Public Hearing “The Future Development of Copyright in Europe” organised jointly by the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) and the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) in the European Parliament in Brussels on 11 November. At this meeting, the creation of the working group on IPR and Copyright Reform was announced, chaired by Jean-Marie Cavada (ALDE, France) as well as the nomination of Julia REDA (Greens, Germany) as rapporteur for the Report on the Assessment of the Implementation of the INFOSOC Directive.

EBLIDA also met with representatives of DG Markt to discuss libraries in the digital environment, and shared facts and figures showing the development of libraries throughout Europe. At the same time EBLIDA President represented the position of libraries at the event “Copyright 2015, Changed Rules for Changed Times?” organised by European Voice in Brussels on 25 November 2014.

On 15 January 2015, the rapporteur Julia Reda published the Draft Report on the Implementation of Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the Harmonisation of Certain Aspects of Copyright and Related Rights in the Information Society⁵.

⁴ A report of this event is accessible at http://www.eblida.org/Newsletter%20folder%20%28uploaded%20files%29/Newsletters-2014/11_Newsletter_November_2014.pdf p. 3 and 4.

⁵ See the report at <http://bit.ly/1Ekqfnv>

In short, this report is the responsibility of the Legal Affairs (JURI) Committee, with appointed rapporteur Julia Read (Greens) and six shadow rapporteurs⁶.

The report is scrutinised by three other committees for opinion:

- ITRE Industry, Research and Energy, rapporteur José BLANCO LÓPEZ (S&D); its opinion was published on the 20 April. See <http://bit.ly/1Pnr6df>.
- IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection, rapporteur Catherine STIHLER (S&D); its opinion was published on the 25 March. See <http://bit.ly/1EzpnhB>.
- CULT Culture and Education, Isabella ADINOLFI (EFFD); on 16 April, the CULT committee didn't reach an agreement on an opinion. Therefore CULT will not publish its opinion.

These opinions may be incorporated into the final report of the JURI Committee that should be voted on the 7 May, before a final vote on the report in plenary session at the European Parliament on the 7 June.

This report caught the attention of a lot of MEPs, Commission staff and stakeholders. It generated and is still generating intense lobbying from a wide range of different players. EBLIDA believes the report is balanced and going in and right direction, though we don't agree on all the propositions and we publicly support the call "for the harmonisation of copyright terms and exceptions across Europe, new exceptions for emerging use cases like audio-visual quotation, e-lending and text and data mining, as well as the adoption of an open norm to "allow for the adaptation to unanticipated new forms of cultural expression" as well as the demand that "exercise of exceptions or limitations [...] should not be hindered by technological measures".

Soon after, EBLIDA participated in 2 days of meetings on 20 and 21 January organised by C4C with the European Commission including Cabinet Commissioner Navracsics (Education, Culture, Youth and Sport), Cabinet Commissioner Bienkowska (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs), Cabinet Vice-President Ansip (Digital Single Market), Cabinet Vice-President Katainen (Jobs, Growth, Investment & Competitiveness), Cabinet Commissioner Oettinger, (Digital Economy & Society), as well as with Directorate General of CNECT and RTD. The goal was to present the recently released C4C Manifesto⁷, as well as for EBLIDA to present its views on copyright reform, highlighting specifically the question surrounding e-lending.

EBLIDA also took part in a closed hearing organised by the IPR and Copyright Reform Working Group in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 12 February 2015 to present the point of views of public libraries on publishing and copyright issues in the digital environment. EBLIDA was represented at this meeting by Frédéric Blin (BNU Strasbourg, and IFLA Governing Board Member) who gave an informative speech⁸.

⁶ For more details on the report and additional information, see <http://bit.ly/1CF7Tvt>

⁷ See <http://copyright4creativity.eu/2015/01/19/c4ccopyrightmanifesto/>

⁸ The text of the speech is accessible at: <http://www.eblida.org/news/follow-up-of-the-meeting-of-the-working-group-on-intellectual-property-rights-and-copyright-reform.html>.

A few days later, on 19 February, EBLIDA President Klaus-Peter Böttger attended a high-level meeting with European Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society Günther H. Oettinger in Brussels on copyright reform. Mr. Böttger called for an update of the European Copyright Acquis to deliver fair access to information for European libraries and their patrons.

Because we believe that copyright reform is one the key issues for the current Parliament and Commission term, the EBLIDA Director closely follows-up on this issue. Mr. Bonnet is attending JURI committee meetings in the European Parliament to report on the discussions, following on the amendments and meets with MEPs to present the views of libraries on the copyright reform. Additionally, Mr. Bonnet is also following-up with CULT Committee to look at further developments on library issues.

At the time of writing this annual report, the discussion surrounding the DRAFT REPORT on the *Implementation of Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the Harmonisation of Certain Aspects of Copyright and Related Rights in the Information Society* is still very much under discussion.

ii) Culture and Information Society

Since February 2014, EBLIDA has been an active partner in the European Literacy Policy Network, ELINET⁹. See more details under 1c) European Project.

Throughout the year, EGCIS members looked at ways to promote the role libraries are playing in literacy development, collect information and checked the EU agenda in relation to literacy issues. Acknowledging the importance of literacy, in particular its recognition by the EU Commission itself in funding a European project such as ELINET, and the fact that an informal network such as *Literacy for all – European Library network*, EGCIS published a position paper *Libraries and Literacy* in March 2015. The statement underlines the fact that *“Libraries must be seen as an essential part of literacy development programmes. It is EBLIDA’s task, as the voice of libraries in Europe and the only European library partner involved in ELINET, to champion the role of libraries and help harness their power in support of literacy development”*.

The importance of literacy and the work achieved in this area both through ELINET and EBLIDA influenced the content of the 2015 EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference and lead to the organising of a workshop on literacy advocacy for libraries. There will be a workshop dedicated to this during the conference.

The development of Culture in the Information Society remains a key priority of EGCIS and EBLIDA. In that context, on 3 June 2014, on behalf of EBLIDA, Klaus-Peter Böttger, EBLIDA President, signed the Declaration for the Inclusion of Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals Post-2015: *The Future We Want Includes Culture*¹⁰.

EBLIDA endorsed the Declaration, acknowledging that *“[...] culture is both a driver and an enabler of sustainable development and that the explicit inclusion of targets and indicators for culture in the Sustainable Development Goals will enable transformative change”*.

⁹ See [1c\) European Project](#), item i.

¹⁰ See <http://www.eblida.org/news/eblida-press-release-the-future-we-want-includes-culture.html>.

EBLIDA believes that culture is necessary for building democratic societies, is key to building a peaceful social existence as well as mutual understanding between different communities and it's an essential aspect of sustainable development.

iii) "The Right to E-Read" Campaign

The "Right to E-Read Paper" was publicly released after the EBLIDA Council meeting at the beginning of June 2014¹¹.

From June to September, the EBLIDA office contacted targeted members with a list of questions to assess the campaign. The assessment process aimed at learning feedback about the status of the campaign in the respective countries and see what actions could be implemented in the last quarter of the year.

Upon collection of the answers, the EBLIDA office issued a report communicated to the Task Force and sent back to the members.

The campaign was not implemented in the same way in all countries but was heavily advertised on social media.

A special article on the "Right to E-Read" campaign was published in the Newsletter of the Libraries for Print Disabled people Section (LPD) of IFLA in June 2014.¹²

EBLIDA Director presented the campaign and the questions surrounding e-lending in a three hour round-table discussion with French booksellers, publishers and librarians at the event *Le prêt de livres numériques en bibliothèque : Pourquoi investir aujourd'hui*¹³ ? organised on June 17, 2014 at ENSSIB (Lyon, France).

The "Right to E-Read" Campaign was highly advertised during the IFLA WLIC in Lyon, where EBLIDA had a booth and distributed campaign materials such as badges, magnets and a few bags along with encouraging attendants to sign up for the petition and exchanging a lot through substantial discussions with visitors.

In October, before the appointment of the new Commissioners, EBLIDA launched an online photo contest to continue to raise awareness on the campaign among librarians with the aim to collect as many signatures as possible for the petition. Though the petition was not as successful as planned with a little over 20,000 signatories at last count, the photo contest caught the attention of more than 15 countries and gave the winners the opportunity to receive free entrance to the conference *Building a Europe of Readers* to be held in Riga (Latvia) on 7 May 2015.

On 15 January 2015, Task Force members met in CILIP offices in London and decided to revamp the "Right to E-Read" paper, make it shorter and focused on the ask from EBLIDA's perspective to be consistent with IFLA's work at WIPO.

¹¹ http://www.eblida.org/News/2014/EBLIDA_E-read_position-paper.pdf

¹² See: <http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/libraries-for-print-disabilities/newsletters/lpd-newsletter-2014-1.pdf>

¹³ The Lending of e-books in libraries: why invest now? (Free translation from the French).

The updated paper was circulated to selected IFLA colleagues from CLM, e-Lending group and Headquarters and is still under review. Although the paper offered a good basis for discussion, it appears that what is necessary now is a more a concrete legal proposition on e-lending to be circulated to MEPs and Commission staff.

The Task Force is also considering the organisation of advocacy sessions and training and the creation of twice a month updates on the e-book market throughout Europe.

1b) Communication and Information

i) External Communication

Since May 2014, EBLIDA's work has been highlighted in several articles and interviews:

- "3 questions à Vincent Bonnet, Directeur d'EBLIDA", in *Archimag*, nr.275, Juin 2014;
- "EBLIDA et la coopération internationale", in *Bibliothèques*, nr74-75, July 2014 ;
- « Trange tider for Europas bibliotek », in *Bibliotekforum*, nr. 5-2014, October 2014;
- "Le droit de lire numérique", in *Bibliothèques*, nr.76. October 2014.

ii) Newsletter

The EBLIDA Newsletter has been opened to the general public and now has 601 subscribers¹⁴ (i.e. an increase of 18% over the year).

It is published 11 times a year every second Thursday of the month.

Since February 2015, the old newsletter in pdf format has been replaced with a new layout and is directly accessible online.

iii) Website¹⁵

The website display has been restructured to make EBLIDA Conferences more visible.

a. "Right to E-Read" webpage

The webpage <http://www.eblida.org/e-read/> is maintained and has been updated with the result of the photo contest. The news room is being fed and linked to a Pinterest wall with updated information on current e-book developments at the European level.

b. Knowledge and Information Centre

The data collected for the Knowledge and Information Centre was checked and edited in November 2014. Data collected in the KIC are used for meetings with the EU Commission and the Parliament for documents related to library and copyright issues.

These data are also used by IFLA in its search to better address copyright issues at WIPO in the European context.

c. Joint EBLIDA-CLM/IFLA Satellite Meeting

The website for IFLA CLM & EBLIDA Satellite Meeting, 13–14 August 2014 in Strasbourg, is archived on the EBLIDA website and accessible through the direct address: <http://www.eblida.org/copyright-and-beyond>.

¹⁴ On 14 April 2015.

¹⁵ EBLIDA home page: <http://www.eblida.org>

iv) Social Media

a. Blog

<http://eblida.tumblr.com/>

Created in February 2014, EBLIDA's Right to E-Read blog is progressively shifting towards a more general blog with information on e-books as well as copyright issues.

This is an online public platform where anybody can post comments.

b. Twitter

<https://twitter.com/Eblida>

Created in April 2011, EBLIDA twitter account is a shared account among team members and interested Executive Committee members.

To date¹⁶, it counts 558 followers and continues to grow.

c. Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Eblida>

The Facebook account is used for posting videos and articles frequently. The page currently has 553 likes¹⁷.

d. Pinterest

<http://www.pinterest.com/eblida/>

Pinterest is used to post pictures and has been used mainly for information related to e-books, e-lending and copyright.

v) Mailing list

EBLIDA maintains several mailing-lists of interest to members, expert groups and task force, the newsletter and the general list EBLIDA-L.

1c) European Projects

i) European Literacy Network (ELINET)

ELINET is a two year project lasting from 1st February 2014 until 31st January 2016 that "[...] *strives to improve literacy policies in all member countries, reduce the number of children, young people and adults with low literacy skills in Europe, and help increase reading skills and reading for pleasure [...]*"¹⁸.

It consists of 78 partner organisations such as education ministries and national agencies, existing literacy networks and national associations, international organisations (like UNESCO), foundations and NGOs, universities, research centres and teacher training institutions, volunteer organisations from 28 European countries¹⁹ (including 24 EU member states) engaged in policy-making and reading promotion in Europe.

¹⁶ Consulted on 14 April 2015.

¹⁷ Consulted on 14 April 2015.

¹⁸ Read more at <http://eli-net.eu/>, consulted 10 February 2015.

¹⁹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

The organisation is distributed in different 8 teams as follow:

Team 1 in charge of Coordination and Cooperation;

Team 2 Children (early childhood and primary school years);

Team 3 in charge of Adolescents;

Team 4 in charge of Adults;

Team 5 in charge of Fundraising Strategies

Team 6 in charge of Communication Platform

Team 7 in charge of Awareness Raising Activities

Team 8 in charge of Indicators of Impact of Awareness Raising Activities.

EBLIDA is a member of team 7, Awareness Raising Activities, and worked mainly on 3 tools:

- Campaign Movie with the objective of:
 - o Raising awareness among intermediaries on the topic, i.e. lack of literacy skills is a problem to be solved in Europe;
 - o Positioning ELINET: the umbrella association to help them solve the issue (campaign slogan is the same as ELINET slogan – wait for the result of the call for this).
- Guidelines for a workshop for intermediaries to recognise literacy problems with the objective of:
 - o a. Producing practical guidelines with which organisations in Europe can organise workshops to raise awareness among intermediaries and their role in literacy problems.
 - o b. Presenting possibilities of organising high quality workshops useful and applicable in all European countries.

And for the workshop, the objective to:

- o Raising awareness among intermediaries on the topic, i.e. lack of literacy skills is a problem to be solved in their direct surroundings;
- o Raising awareness of the own role of intermediaries in the solution of literacy problems;
- o Giving tips on how to recognise literacy problems and what intermediaries can do when they recognise it.
- Elevator pitch training and guidelines for contact with policy makers .

With the objective for the guidelines to:

- o Develop a tool on how to organise an elevator pitch training that can be used and replicated throughout the network
- o Giving ELINET members information on how they can train their colleagues
- o Offering a multiplier effect by not only providing the training itself but also guidelines on how to organise the training

And for the Elevator pitch training:

- o Helping members to be ready when meeting with policy-makers and/or politicians
- o Giving ELINET members the format of an elevator pitch on literacy problems
- o Ensure consistency throughout ELINET members in Europe

1d) Conference, Seminars and Workshops

i) ABF Congress, Paris (France), 19-21 June 2014

EBLIDA Director made the opening speech at the French Library Conference in Paris right after the Minister of Culture speech. He emphasised the public interest mission of libraries that should not be submitted to private interest and private companies interest.

ii) Council of Europe, Baku Conference – First Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation “Creating an enabling environment for digital culture and for empowering citizens”, Baku, Azerbaijan, 4-5 July 2014

EBLIDA Director participated as expert in the session *Bridging gaps: Orientations for moving from pre-digital to digital cultural institutions* where he highlighted the obstacles and opportunities for libraries with this shift.

iii) IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Lyon (France), 16-22 August 2014

EBLIDA was actively represented throughout the whole WLIC of IFLA in Lyon especially at the EBLIDA booth where a drink was organised to celebrate a borderless Europe by sipping Schengen White Wines. The drinks were kindly offered by Mr. Jean-Marie Reading from ALBAD.

iv) Library Advocacy event, les Riches Claires Library, Brussels, Belgium, 04 November 2014;

See chapter **1a) Lobbying and Monitoring**, p.9.

v) EU breakfast, European Parliament, Belgium, 05 November 2014;

See chapter **1a) Lobbying and Monitoring**, p.9.

vi) Conference attendance and other presentations

The President represented EBLIDA at the following events and presented EBLIDA's work:

- Public Libraries 2020, the way forward, Brussels, Belgium, 27-28 May 2014;
- 103 Bibliothekartag, Bremen, Germany, 02-06 June 2014;
- ABF Conference, Paris, France, 21 June 2014;
- LIBER conference, Riga, Latvia, 03-04 July 2014;
- Opening Ceremony of the National Library of Latvia, Riga, Latvia, 29-30 August 2014;
- Advocacy for Libraries Conference, From Branch to Europe - Advocacy and Lobbying, Success and Disappointment, Lisbon, Portugal, 16-17 September 2014;
- 39th Croatian Library Conference, Split, Croatia, 15-17 October 2014;
- LATABA Conference, Riga, Latvia, 22 October 2014;
- Copyright 2015, changed rules for changed times?, European Voice event, Brussels, Belgium, 20 November 2014;
- EUROLIS seminar on e-books, London, United Kingdom, 27 November 2014;
- *Right to E-Read* Campaign, International organisation for Culture, London, United Kingdom, 28 November 2014;
- Round table on Exceptions and Limitations in the Digital Environment with Commissioner Oettinger, Brussels, Belgium, 19 February 2015;
- *Mannheim forum, presentation about the digital world*, Mannheim, Germany, 07 March 2015;

- Copyright meeting, The Hague, The Netherlands, 27 March 2015;
- EBLIDA and digitisation, Cracow, Poland, 15 April 2015.

The Director represented EBLIDA at the following events, as well as those already mentioned in this Annual Report:

- 3rd FEP-EWC Seminar on Remote Access to E-Books, London, United Kingdom, 16 May 2014;
- Public Libraries 2020, The Way Forward, Brussels, Belgium, 27-28 May 2014;
- 103 Bibliothekartag, Bremen, Germany, 02-06 June 2014;
- Strategic meeting on Public Libraries, Brussels, Belgium, 12 June 2014;
- EUROLIB General Assembly, The Hague, The Netherlands, 13 June 2014;
- ELINET Team 7 meeting, London, United Kingdom, 29-30 June 2014;
- E-books and E-lending meeting with FEP, EIBF, EWC, Brussels, Belgium, 01 July 2014;
- Council of Europe, follow-up on Digitisation of Culture, Strasbourg, France, 14-15 September 2014;
- E-books and E-lending meeting with FEP, EIBF, EWC, Brussels, Belgium, 23 September 2014;
- ELINET convening, Höchst, Germany, 05-08 October 2014;
- Frankfurt Book Fair, Frankfurt, Germany, 09 October 2014;
- Presentation Right to e-read, ABD-BVD Forum, Brussels, Belgium, 22 October 2014;
- © in Europe: lobbying at national and European level, Brussels, Belgium, 05 November 2014;
- Cultural Heritage in a Digital Europe, EU Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 11 November 2014;
- Public Hearing The Future Development of Copyright in Europe, Brussels, Belgium, 11 November 2014;
- New co-existence? The future of the making available of e-books, Brussels, Belgium, 02 December 2014;
- Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe, Brussels, Belgium, 04-05 December 2014;
- Digital4EU stakeholder forum, Brussels, Belgium, 24 February 2015;
- ELINET Convening, Budapest, Hungary, 20-22 April 2015.

Other members of EBLIDA's Expert Groups and Task Force represented EBLIDA at the following events:

- Guy Daines (EBLIDA ECGIS):
 - *Beyond the Obvious*, Culture Action Europe General Assembly and Conference, New Castle, United Kingdom, 9-11 October 2014.
- Gerald Leitner (EBLIDA e-books Task Force Chair):
 - *Right to E-Read* campaign, 13th Annual E-Books Conference, University of Strathclyde, Scotland (UK), 5 September 2014;
 - 39th Croatian Library Conference, Split, Croatia, 15-17 October 2014.
- Aldo Pirola (EBLIDA EGCIS):
 - Bibliopride, Lecce, Italy, 4 October 2014;
- Glòria Pérez-Salmerón (EBLIDA Vice President) :

- *Right to E-Read* campaign, COBDCV/ Book Fair, Valencia, Spain, 2 May 2014;
- *Right to E-Read* campaign, SGAE Foundation (Spanish copyright agency manager), Barcelona, Spain;
- *Right to E-Read* campaign, Christ's college, Central Banking, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 19 September 2015.
- Erna Winters (EBLIDA Treasurer):
 - *Copyright for Innovation*, The Hague, The Netherlands, 8 September 2014.
- Uldis Zarins (EGIL member):
 - © in Europe: lobbying at national and European level, Brussels, Belgium, 05 November 2014;
- Frédéric Blin (IFLA Governing Board and special representative of EBLIDA):
 - Public Hearing of the European Parliament Working group in Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Reform, Strasbourg, France, 12 February 2015.

2. Members

2a) EBLIDA Members

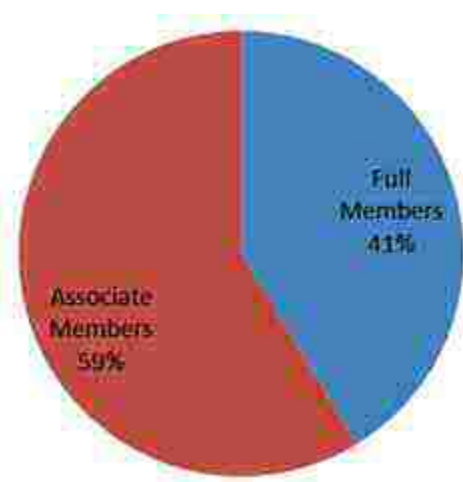
EBLIDA is a membership-based organisation, focussing on library organisations and associations from both EU and non-EU member states.

Over the past year, EBLIDA has noticed a slight decrease in membership that needs to be carefully analysed.

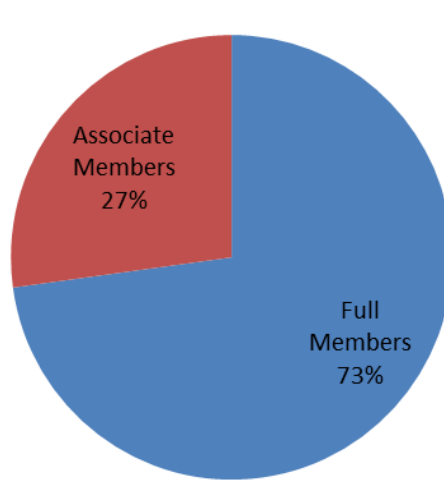
By 30 April 2015, EBLIDA counted 110 members: 46 Full Members, 64 Associate Members as well as 3 Sponsors. Those members are distributed over 37 countries on the European Continent and each European Union Member State is represented by at least one Full Member.

The membership and income structure are displayed in two pie charts below:

Number of paying members by category
2014



Income by membership category
2014



EBLIDA acquired 4 new members since May 2014:

- 2 Full members:

- Koninklijke Bibliotheek²⁰ (The Netherlands)
- EAHIL - European Association for Health Information and Libraries to be approved at the Council 2015 (the Netherlands)
- 2 Associate members:
 - Bergen University College Library (Norway)
 - The National Library of Luxembourg (Luxembourg).

6 cancellations (by request and subject to approval by the Council) effective in 2015 have been received from:

- 4 Full members:
 - VOWB, Vlaams Overlegorgaan inzake Wetenschappelijk Bibliotheekwerk vzw (Belgium);
 - ALCU, Association of Libraries of Czech Universities (AKVS) (Czech Republic);
 - Information - The Icelandic Library and Information Science Association (Iceland);
 - Netherlands Institute for Public Libraries (SIOB) (The Netherlands);
- 2 Associate members:
 - Stichting Bibliotheek.nl (The Netherlands)
 - Koninklijke Bibliotheek (The Netherlands).

No dismissals are proposed by the Executive Committee.

N.B.: Sponsors cannot be accounted as members, so are not displayed on the above pie charts.

2b) Membership fees

For the year 2015, the membership fees were frozen and stayed the same as 2014:

EBLIDA Membership Fees 2015			
Band	ANP Turnover €	Non-Dutch Members Total due	Dutch Members Total due inc. VAT
A: Full member	0 - 25,000	624,55	633,85
B: Full member	25,001 - 100,000	1.523,18	1532,48
C: Full member	100,001 - 250,000	2750,31	2759,61
D: Full member	250,001 - 350,000	3909,26	3918,56
E: Full member	350,001 - 500,000	5006,22	5015,52
F: Full member	500,001 or more	5948,26	5957,56
G: Associate member		519,19	528,49
H: Bronze Sponsor		€ 750	€ 750
I: Silver Sponsor		€ 1600	€ 1600
J: Gold Sponsor		€ 2000	€ 2000

²⁰ Resulting from the merge of the National Library, the Netherlands Institute for Public Libraries and Bibliotheek.nl.

3. Resources and Infrastructure

3a) Council and Conference

The 22nd Annual EBLIDA Council meeting was held on 13 May 2014 in Athens, Greece. The Council meeting welcomed 32 people, 25 of which are members of the Council were present (see annex 1) i.e. 21 representatives of Full Members and 4 representatives of Associate Members which included 11 members of the Executive Committee, 3 Expert Group members and Task Force chairs.

The Athens Council minutes were approved by the Executive Committee during the Madrid meeting in March 2015 for posting to Council members. The minutes have been uploaded on the members web space online to be approved at the 23rd Annual Council meeting in Riga (Latvia) on 07 May 2015.

The 22nd Annual EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference programme was prepared in cooperation with NAPLE and the Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists. The programme of the conference "*Libraries in transition: Changes? Crisis? Chances!*" focused on the consequences of the technological, economic and social changes in European society, as well as on the role, the scope and the existence of European libraries in this context.

E-books, copyright, economic crisis, immigration, multiculturalism – these are all subjects, among others, that play a key role in the development of European Libraries. There were also discussions about the consequences of the economic crisis on libraries (positive or negative), the role of the library in an era of economic crisis and possible solutions libraries could offer to contemporary society. Finally a discussion took place on defining the current opportunities that arise for libraries dealing with changes and the economic crisis concentrating on subjects such as: library policy, the contribution of libraries to economic recovery and development, fundraising models etc.

The conference was attended by more than 120 participants²¹ of which a large number of students interested in library issues.

3b) Executive Committee

The Executive Committee members (listed at the beginning of the Annual Report in the section "People") met at the following meetings:

- 12 May 2014, Athens (Greece).
- 03 November 2014, Brussels (Belgium).
- 12–13 February 2015, Madrid (Spain).

Minutes of these meetings have been shared with EBLIDA Members through the 23rd Council's secure website.

3c) Secretariat

The EBLIDA team comprises of:

²¹ There were 138 registered people.

- Vincent Bonnet, EBLIDA Director (permanent position) is chief representative of EBLIDA externally in hearings, conferences and meetings in Europe and has been taken a stronger participation in the writing of core documents and statements produced by the expert groups and task force.
- Majella Cunnane, EBLIDA Administrative Officer (permanent position) is working on a part time basis of 20 hours per week. Her main tasks lies in the membership monitoring and administrative tasks as well as in running the office. She is bilingual in the English and Dutch languages.
- Sophie Felföldi, EBLIDA Communication Officer, is in charge of managing the EBLIDA communication, maintenance of the website, mailing lists and other communication tools. a free-lancer was renewed for one year as of January 2015 for 15 hours a week. Over the past year, Sophie developed the new format of the Newsletter.

3d) Expert groups

Expert Groups and Task Force provided advice and recommendations to the Executive Committee, President and Director and helped decide on actions on various points related to their area of expertise.

The two Expert Groups and the Task Force met on a regular basis either during formal meeting or via remote online meetings on the following days:

- Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL)
 - London (United Kingdom), 23 October 2014
 - The Hague (The Netherlands), 25 March 2015 and a joint meeting with IFLA-CLM, 26 March 2015.
- Expert Group on Culture and Information Society (EGCIS).
 - Athens (Greece), 13 May 2014;
 - Bremen (Germany), 3 June 2014;
 - Lyon (France), 20 August 2014;
 - Skype call, 14 October 2014;
 - Skype call, 19 December 2014.
- E-Books Task Force
 - London, 15 January 2015.

4. Cooperation with Library Organisations

EBLIDA maintained high-level cooperation with library organisations. Below the stronger ones are highlighted.

4a) IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations)

EBLIDA and IFLA are maintaining strong ties through:

- Coordinating the work between IFLA ask at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the action at European level;
- Organising joint meeting once a year between EGIL and CLM in The Hague to work on common issued related more specifically to copyright;

- Coordinating actions with regard to e-lending and strong links between the IFLA e-lending working group and the EBLIDA E-Books Task Force;
- Organisation and/or support in organising joint events in various environments (e.g. in the European Parliament) on topic of common interest;
- Strong liaison between EBLIDA director and IFLA Deputy Secretary General and Director, Policy & Advocacy.

4b) LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche)

EBLIDA and LIBER have respectively approached the European Commission with different issues in relation to copyright which makes their work complementary to one another. LIBER and EBLIDA also liaise especially on the issues of:

- Copyright reform within the European Union;
- Text and data mining;
- E-lending

The two organisations work in close connection with IFLA on topics of common issues as well as participating in joint events especially in the European Parliament.

4c) NAPLE (National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe)

EBLIDA and NAPLE organised the conference “*Libraries in transition: Changes? Crisis? Chances!*” that took place in Athens on 14 May 2014, and coordinated efforts to organise the conference “*Building a Europe of Readers*” in Riga.

4d) Public Libraries 2020/Foundation Reading and Writing (R&W), Brussels

EBLIDA worked in close cooperation with PL2020 to increase the visibility of public libraries among Brussels policy makers and other EU officials. As mentioned above in the section 1d) Conferences, Seminars and Workshops, this coordinated work result in the organisation of a successful advocacy training day in Brussels on 4 November 2014. EBLIDA and PL 2020 worked together to organise the visit of the public library of Lyon (France) for Ms Sylvie Guillaume, Vice-President of the European Parliament, on 10 April 2015.

4e) Library Association of Latvia (LAL)

This year, EBLIDA developed a new connection with its member Library Association of Latvia, by jointly applying for a grant from PL2020. The project Library Advocacy 4 EU aims at coordinating actions among and for library associations to succeed in putting libraries on the agenda of the EU, notably in organising a 2,5 days library convening in Strasbourg or Brussels and to follow-up with a roadmap of actions on several months.

To date, the result of the grant is not yet know.

5. Cooperation with other organisations

EBLIDA maintains relations with Issues-related stakeholders:

- C4C, Copyright for Creativity of which EBLIDA is a member;
- Europeana;
- FEP (Federation of European Publisher);
- EBF (European Booksellers Federation);
- EWC (European Writers Council).

EBLIDA also maintained cooperation with other organisations such as BEUC (European Consumers' Organisation), EDRI (European Digital Rights), IFRRO (International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations), and others depending on the topic and on the European agenda.

Annual Report 2014 – 2015: Conclusion

The Annual Report 2014 – 2015 reflects on the work achieved between 1 May 2014 and 30 April 2015. The content refers to activities taking place in the previous year in relation to the Work Programme 2014 – 2015, and the implementation of the EBLIDA strategy 2013-2016.

The presence in Brussels over the past year has been substantially strengthened with EBLIDA Director liaising more often with Brussels-based organisations, attending European Parliament Committee meetings and following-up with MEPs and Commission staff.

Activities in relation to copyright are driving an important part of the work complemented by the never-ending discussion on access to digital content (e-books and e-lending) that remains one of the top priority of the actual legislative term.

To a certain extent, activities related to ELINET and awareness raising of Literacy development are taken another important part of work in the daily activities of EBLIDA (between 25 and 30%).

The work of representation as a whole has dramatically increased over the past year, with a total number of days of representation (including also EBLIDA internal meetings, EC, Council and Conference) reaching almost half of the working time of the Director, and a substantial part of the President's time.

Increased visibility and networking opportunities are helping the association in broadening its reputation and reaching out other contacts especially in the political and policy-making area. It is also a way to better understand the political agenda, and better fit libraries offer to the need of politicians.

Although EBLIDA is not the only voice speaking on behalf of libraries in Europe, the story to tell in 2016 should remain the one of a library association actively lobbying at the European level and pooling resources with its partners in order to share and use at its best the expertise to succeed in putting libraries on the agenda.

Over the past years, two staff members have been offered a long term contract which allows EBLIDA continuity and offer greater stability. It helps identifying the association as a reliable partner for politicians and policy-makers, while it also help in organising events in the remit of the European Institutions and get better direct contacts with high-level people. The report testifies to the success of EBLIDA despite limited human and financial resources.

However, the association is still facing a little decrease in membership that is worrying on the long term and need careful consideration and specific action in the next coming months.

Awareness raising activities run through the Right to e-read campaign and the ELINET project as well as coalition building run with C4C, and other library associations are providing the association with the opportunity to increase its visibility and work on development tools to benefit its constituencies.

With a renewed European Parliament and Commission, EBLIDA is constantly building and maintaining connections. At the same time, the development of projects, events and actions with partners, especially from the library community are real asset to strengthen the position of EBLIDA.

- END -