

# **EBLIDA Institutional matters and membership**



## **Discussion paper**

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# Mission of EBLIDA



## Mission Statement

Taking into account the key role of libraries, archives and information sectors and professionals in:

- securing access for all to the benefits of the information society in all formats formal, informal and non-formal education at all levels, including lifelong learning
- making culture and cultural diversity accessible, and securing their preservation supporting scientific and technical development



**EBLIDA should promote and defend the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals working for the people living in Europe, by:**

- **Lobbying at European level**
- **Encouraging and supporting national organisations lobbying at national level**

Present statutes

Conditions for membership (Chapter IV)



**The association comprises:**

- **Full members**
- **Associate members**

**Full members**

- a. Professional associations in Member States of the European Community engaged on a national representative level in pursuing the interests of library and information science service.**
- b. Other organizations in Member States of the European Community not belonging to category “a” whose members are in majority drawn from member states of the European Community which are deemed eligible for admission by a decision of the Council.**



## **Associate member**

- **Similar associations to those related under “a” and “b” in European States which are not members of the European Community.**
- **Other associations not belonging to categories “a”, “b” or “c” which are deemed eligible by a decision of the Council.**



# Voting rights (Chapter VII)

## The Council

- a. All members shall be entitled to one representative on the Council.
- b. All members are free to choose their representative for each meeting of the Council.
- c. Only full members have a voting right, i.e. one vote per member.**
- d. All members' representatives have access to and right to speak in the council.**



# **Executive Committee (Chapter VIII)**

## **The Executive Committee**

The members of the Executive Committee, with the exception of its chairperson, are full members of the Association.



## **Membership status**

Number of member associations: 42

Number of associate members: 117

## **Budget 2005**

Income from full members: 81.738 Euro

Income from associate members: 48.279

Euro



## **Why is EBLIDA composed this way?**

- **The goals of the “Founding Fathers” in 1992**
  - **the need of a European library lobby to influence European legislation**



## **The Challenges of EBLIDA**

- **To stay focused as a lobby organization**
- **The new EU countries**
  - **new members**

### **Economy**

- **the need to balance ambitions and feasibility**



# Do we need a new membership structure?

- **Associations of Non EU countries as full members?**

## **Pros**

- more members give more strength and better economy

## **Cons**

- may fundamentally change EBLIDA's focus as an EU lobby organization, as EU legislation only applies to member states



- **Voting rights to associate members?**

**Pros**

- **more democratic (when you pay you also should have a say)**
- **may attract more associate members = better economy**



## Cons

- will require a graduation of the number of votes like f.ex. IFLA, because of the big differences in the size of fees between associate members and most of the full members
- makes it less clear that EBLIDA is a political lobby organisation, which in many ways function as an extension of the national associations lobby work
- makes the differences (“the division of labour”) between the various European library associations less clear (LIBER and NAPLES)
- may weaken the involvement of the national associations which is instrumental to the economy of EBLIDA