



European Commission
Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC)
Ms Themis Christophidou, Director-General
Rue Joseph II 70
1049 Brussels

per e-mail: themis.christophidou@ec.europa.eu

Copy to : Ms Sophia Eriksson Waterschout, Director for Youth, Education and Erasmus+

per E-mail: sophia.eriksson@ec.europa.eu

Copy to: Ms Sophie Beernaerts, Head of Unit Erasmus and EU Solidarity Corps

per E-mail: sophie.beernaerts@ec.europa.eu

17 May 2022

Funding programme for displaced Ukrainian librarians via Erasmus +

Dear Ms Christophidou,

Herewith we would like to inform you that EBLIDA, NAPLE and PL2030, three major European library organisations, have sent a letter to EU Commissioner Gabriel, encouraging the European Commission to create funding opportunities out of the Erasmus+ programme for internships and activities of displaced Ukrainian librarians, teachers and other skilled personnel in the Libraries for Refugees network.

As you are aware, **libraries play an essential role in our democratic society as gatekeepers to knowledge and information**. As all European countries are becoming host lands for millions of refugees escaping war in Ukraine, libraries function as **safe and welcoming spaces** for people in despair. It is crucial to leverage their position within the community to provide support and, as far as possible, **services to Ukrainian refugees**. Together, we created the **“Libraries for Refugees” network**, which includes libraries all over Europe **hosting access points providing services for displaced Ukrainians**. The list of the libraries is constantly growing and is displayed on the [Libraries4Refugees](https://libraries4refugees.eu) website. The objective of this initiative is to get a clear understanding of what libraries can offer refugees and promote similar services in other countries.

We would be honoured to assist you with our expertise in the European library field and remain at your disposal should you need more information from our side.

Yours sincerely,

Giuseppe Vitiello, Director of EBLIDA
Stuart Hamilton, President of the board of NAPLE
Ilona Kish, Director of Public Libraries 2030



Who we are

EBLIDA, NAPLE and PL2030 team up for libraries in Europe:

Three major European library organisations, EBLIDA, NAPLE and PL2030, pool resources and efforts to strengthen library work in Europe. This initiative brings together over 60 European library services and 68 national library bodies to create a stronger presence for European libraries.

EBLIDA is the community and networking hub for all library, information and documentation associations and institutions in Europe striving towards a sustainable, democratic and equitable society.

NAPLE is an international non-governmental association pursuing the interests of the national library authorities in Europe. Its main aim is to promote principles and strategies for public library policies.

PL2030 is a Brussels-based organisation working for over seven years to build connections between innovative library practice and build recognition of the contribution of the library sector in EU institutions.

For more information:

EBLIDA:	Giuseppe Vitiello, Director of EBLIDA: G.Vitiello@eblida.org
NAPLE:	Stuart Hamilton, President of the board of NAPLE: shamilton@lgma.ie
PL2030:	Ilona Kish, Director of Public Libraries 2030: ilona@pl2030.eu