

EBLIDA-NAPLE 22nd Annual Conference, Athens, TEI, May 14th, 2014

Georgios Glossiotis

President – Association of Greek Librarians and Information Professionals

EC Member of EBLIDA

glossiotis@gmail.com

Every year, EBLIDA in cooperation with the National Authorities of Public Library in Europe (Naple Forum), organises the EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference in a different Member-State of the European Union. This one-day Conference usually brings together up to 120 participants from all over Europe to discuss the most up-to-date issues libraries are facing.

The scale of the Conference provides an ideal networking opportunity between professional librarians and information specialists, Members of the European Parliament, policy makers from the European Commission, the host country as well as local representatives.

As a symbol of the ancient history of Europe, of the cradle of democracy as well as a country that deeply suffered and still suffers from economic turmoil, Greece would offer an interesting background to host the 22nd EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference highlighting the need for a strong network of publicly funded structures to disseminate information for the benefits of all European citizens.

Under the title *Libraries in Transition. Changes? Crisis? Chances!*, EBLIDA, NAPLE and EEBCP want to state that hope is still here for libraries and librarians in the 21st century.

In times that the economic crisis coexists with a political crisis throughout Europe, it is our duty, as Library professionals, to work together for our communities within our communities with solidarity. By solidarity, I want to emphasise that we have to be present, always, no matter how different the conditions are. To paraphrase a famous song by Bob Dylan, I believe that

1

Glossiotis, G. "EBLIDA-NAPLE 22nd Annual Conference, Athens, May 14th, 2014", *Synergasia*, no.1 (2014)

<http://www.goethe.de/synergasia>

Libraries, they are a-changin'. In fact, they've been "a-changin'" for centuries! Libraries and librarians have always been adapting to new environment. This profession is flexible enough to cope with the current depressing situation and reverse it by coming-up with new proposals, ideas and models.

The Conference will focus on the consequences of the technological, economic and social changes in the European society, as well as on the role, the scope and the existence of European libraries. E-books, copyright, economic crisis, immigration, multiculturalism are all subjects, among others, that could play a key role in the development of European Libraries. There will also be 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 they can offer to contemporary societies. Finally a discussion will take place on defining the current chances that arise for libraries dealing with changes and the economic crisis concentrating on subjects such as: libraries' policies, contribution of libraries to the economic recovery and development, fundraising models etc.

We are building a great programme that is going to be available soon at: <http://eblida2014.eebep.gr/>.

The 22nd EBLIDA-NAPLE Annual Conference will be held on May 14th, 2014. It is under the umbrella of EBLIDA, organised by the Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists and hosted by the Technological Educational Institute of Athens – Department of Library Science and Information Systems.