



Library Advocacy Summer School

Strategies for Impact

Overview

Public libraries operate in an increasingly complex political and economic environment, where their contribution to democracy, education and social cohesion is not always fully recognised or supported by decision-makers. In this context, advocacy has become a core leadership responsibility. Libraries must compete for attention and resources within policy agendas shaped by sustainability, digital transformation and social inclusion, requiring clear narratives, credible data and a strong understanding of political processes.

Intake : 22-25 June 2026

Location : In presence, in Copenhagen

Language : English

Registration Fee: EUR 475

Participants: 20 selected library and library association directors and professionals.

How to apply: Please send an expression of interest to camilla.dona@eblida.org **by 10 June 2026**

Against this backdrop, **EBLIDA** in collaboration with **The Danish Association of Public Library Managers (BCF)** have developed a Library Advocacy Summer School to strengthen the strategic capacity of **library and library association directors and professionals**. The programme combines high-level perspectives with practical tools, peer exchange and hands-on learning, supporting participants in moving from ad hoc actions to more structured and effective advocacy.

Through contributions at national and European level, workshops on evidence-based lobbying, and direct insights from policymakers, participants will gain the skills to position libraries more effectively, influence policy agendas and secure sustainable support. The Summer School also offers a valuable opportunity to connect with peers across Europe, strengthening both individual leadership capacity and the collective voice of the library sector.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY 1 - Monday 22 June

Time	Activity
13:30 - 14:00	Welcome and Programme Presentation BCF & EBLIDA
14:00 - 15:00	The work of BCF: advocating for public libraries in Denmark at national level BCF Board
15:00 - 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 - 16:15	The work of EBLIDA: advocating for libraries in Europe and the European Library Associations Network (ELAN) Andrew Cranfield, EBLIDA Director
16:15 - 17:15	Advocacy Game and participant introductions
17:15 - 17:30	Wrap-Up
19:00	Dinner (self-paid) Location TBD

DAY 2 - Tuesday 23 June

Time	Activity
09:30 - 10:00	Arrival and Coffee
10:00 - 11:00	Thematic keynote: What do we understand by advocacy?
11:00 - 12:00	World Café: advocacy practices in participants' home environments
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 17:00	Workshop 1 : Advocacy work in practice Meryem van Gelder, Adviseur Public Affairs, The Association of Public Libraries (Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheken - VOB) and Andrew Cranfield, EBLIDA Director

DAY 3 - Wednesday 24 June

Time	Activity
09:30 - 10:00	Arrival and Coffee
10:00 - 11:00	The political perspective: what convinces decision-makers? Local Danish politician, tbc
11:00 - 12:00	Advocacy at the Danish Library Association Michel Steen Hansen, Director, The Danish Library Association
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 16:30	Workshop 2 : Using survey data for advocacy work Francis De Bonnaire, Founder & Sr. Project Manager at Sento Group
19:30	Advocacy dinner (included in the registration fee)

DAY 4 - Thursday 25 June

Time	Activity
09:30 - 10:00	Arrival and Coffee
10:00 - 11:00	The Danish Institute for Cultural Analysis: strengthening the sector Esben Danielsen, Director, The Danish Institute for Cultural Analysis
11:00 - 12:00	A Cultural Alliance : Advocating Together Rasmus Kyed Jakobsen, Head of Development and Membership, The Danish Cultural Alliance
12:00 - 12:30	Wrap-up and farewell. Keeping the network alive!
12:30-13:00	Light lunch
13:00 - 17:00	Library visits (optional)

VENUE

Gentofte Main Library - Gentofte Bibliotekerne

Ahlmanns Allé 6

2900 Hellerup - Copenhagen



Located just north of Copenhagen, Gentofte Library was designed by the famous architect Henning Larsen and was completed in 1985. Today it welcomes 800,000 visitors annually and serves as the central library for the Capital Region of Denmark. Known for its dynamic calendar of events, the library acts as a cultural cornerstone of the community.



THE ORGANISERS

EBLIDA (The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations) is an independent umbrella association of library, information, documentation associations and institutions in Europe. It advocates for the role of libraries in areas such as democracy, access to information, culture, education, digital transformation and sustainability, while engaging with EU institutions and coordinating sector-wide action.

BCF (the Danish Association of Public Library Managers) represents Danish public library managers, supporting advocacy and strategic dialogue with local and national stakeholders. It works to strengthen the role of libraries in society and connects Danish experience with broader European initiatives through its membership in EBLIDA.