

NAPLE FORUM

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN EUROPE

Brussels, September 23, 2014

Letter of intent

To:

Beletrina - Academic Press
Borstnikov trg 2
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Dear,

With this letter we want to confirm that NAPLE (National Authorities for Public Libraries in Europe), as a network of key players for public libraries in the EU member states and associated states, will support the Re-BOOK project by including it in the NAPLE Forum activities.

On this year's NAPLE meeting in Athens we invited Beletrina - Academic Press from Slovenia to present your project initiative. Indeed you developed an idea which main objective is to connect the European library e-book lending through establishment of a European platform, starting with connecting the public library organisations and e-book publishing organisations in countries from the wider European area and developing a field to cross fertilize the experiences. Beletrina's goal is to expand the dialogue and develop suitable business models and unified European policies which will outline possibilities for successful development of e-book platforms in the future.

In accordance with the project initiative you further developed a project named Re-BOOK and invited all the NAPLE members to participate. The following countries confirmed their participation: BELGIUM, DENMARK, LATVIA, THE NETHERLANDS, LITHUANIA, HUNGARY, SERBIA, MACCEDONIA, MONTENEGRO and SLOVENIA.

The Re-BOOK project aims at exchanging experiences between national and European organisations and institutions that have already established a remote e-book lending service or are establishing/are interested in establishment of such a network. The project also aims at:

- creating a network of organisations to discuss the issue and gather information on the EU situation concerning e-lending in public libraries
- stimulating the interoperability between e-book solutions for public libraries in Europe;
- stimulating publishers and public libraries to connect in order to enhance the use of e-books across member states in the EU;
- creating connected or shared infrastructure which will enable the pan-European use of e-books in public library e-book lending systems;
- analysing and designing appropriate business models and policies including e-books in public libraries based on a study that is going to be conducted by Bibnet from Flanders, Belgium and Bibliotheek.NL from The Netherlands.
- developing common e-lending models which will enable cross border e-lending in Europe;

- searching for a common implementation model for e-lending systems, to make it possible to connect e-book platforms;
- developing business models between public libraries and publishers that stimulates the digitization of recent back catalogues in order to include them in the public library e-book proposition;
- reporting to the EU administration on our experiences to feed back into the discussions in relation to e-book status and taxation, e-lending and the EU copyright reform;
- promoting e-reading (audience development) and broaden the range of e-books in public libraries.

During the project (4 years – from October 2015 to October 2019) the annual conference will be held each year, where each participating country will present their analyses regarding the e-book public lending system in their country.

As NAPLE we do appreciate the efforts of Beletrina to initiate a project which is open to all NAPLE members and which has already been taken up by several members. NAPLE, as a network of key players for public libraries in Europe, can give a unique platform for discussing and promoting the project and its results. Therefore, we believe it would be suitable if the annual RE-BOOK conferences would join with the annual NAPLE conferences, more specifically with the E-book working group of NAPLE. In addition, NAPLE will provide the opportunity for the Re-BOOK partners to participate in the annual NAPLE – EBLIDA conferences, even more extending the outreach of the project.

Noting Beletrina - Academic Press will be responsible for the organizational aspect of the conference, NAPLE from its side will secure the partnership by getting EBLIDA's support for this partnership. The strategic alliance between NAPLE and EBLIDA will this way also benefit the Re-BOOK project. It will be the task of NAPLE and EBLIDA to provide the help of a local partner in the countries where the conferences will be held.

For NAPLE



Jan Braeckman
Chair

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