

# EUROPEAN UNION



#europe4libraries2019

## Responses:

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## European Peoples Party

I would like to thank you for sharing with us your manifesto "Europe4Libraries". Access to knowledge and having information are fundamental for our democracy. Libraries in Europe play an important role in providing our citizens with access to culture, research and information. We would like to express our support for your work in presenting ideas on how to strengthen libraries in Europe and ensure citizens' access to them.

After talking with thousands of people from all EU Member States, who like you have shared their concerns and aspirations with us, we are convinced that we need to open a new chapter in the European Union's history. We need to build a Union which is strong, smart and kind.

We need to be ready to take on the challenges and opportunities of building a Europe in which we all feel optimistic about our shared future. It is crucial that Europe comes closer to the people and listens to everyone's concerns. Only together will we be strong enough to build a prosperous and bright future for us all.

You can find more about our 2019 campaign vision [here](#), in [our manifesto](#). Thank you again for your ideas.



## Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

Despite the fact that the field of culture and education remain a national competence, we as the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament are very engaged in promoting and giving more importance in the EU to the field of education and culture. We believe that only through access to education and culture, inspired by and oriented to our shared values that form the basis of our common European identity, that we can develop both critical thinking, openness, inclusion, cohesion, and in a larger term, well-being for everyone in a sustainable Europe.<sup>1</sup>

We recognize the multiple role played by libraries. Indeed, more than 65.000 libraries in the European Union are playing a key role in the promotion of citizenship, through the empowerment of citizens and the promotion of public common space and common goods. Libraries are also key actors in the field of education by providing life-long learning opportunities, digital literacy and skills, and equal opportunities to all. Finally yet importantly, they play a crucial role in the Digital society, closing the digital gap between citizens.

We are willing to work together with libraries to raise awareness and help citizens of all ages in acquiring the knowledge and skills to become media, digital and information literate; to promote education and lifelong learning; access to information and educational, cultural and digital inclusion.

Hand in hand with the European libraries, we want to continue thus to fight against poverty and inequalities, fight in favour of equality, developing research and preserving our common heritage. In a time of scepticism, we believe that through our brave, visionary and forward-looking political activism and our standing together we can achieve the best results for all Europeans.

### ***1) How will you ensure that Europe enables its libraries to offer everyone access to the information they need, in particular as concerns education, employment, health and democratic participation?***

We as the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament believe that libraries function as gateways to knowledge and inclusion in local communities in a quite unique way.

That is why we support political projects involving libraries and giving priority to quality education, employment prospects, and a greater civic participation of European citizens.

We believe that the EU should further support capacity building in the libraries sector and improve the European network of libraries. This should be done through sustainable funding and policy support for libraries at the EU level, particularly through the new generation of EU programmes.

We consider that libraries promote integrated regional development by supporting innovation and regional ICT connectivity. Furthermore, libraries can help maintaining our identity and languages. Therefore, a stronger role of libraries in economic, social and territorial cohesion is key in creating

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<sup>1</sup> See our policy report on Sustainable Equality:  
[https://www.progressivesociety.eu/sites/default/files/2018-11/S%26D\\_ProgressiveSociety-SustainableEquality\\_FINAL\\_SPREADS.pdf](https://www.progressivesociety.eu/sites/default/files/2018-11/S%26D_ProgressiveSociety-SustainableEquality_FINAL_SPREADS.pdf)



more inclusive local communities whilst opening them up to a more global network through sharing of information. We believe that this contribution should be reflected and supported by the European Regional Development + Cohesion Funds, as well as by the European Territorial Cooperation (INTERREG) Programme (the latter supported by the ERDF and external financing mechanisms).

By our vote on 28 March 2019, we ensured that media literacy and support for quality information is one of the new priorities of the cross sectoral strand of the new Creative Europe programme.

The new Erasmus + programme will continue to support informal and non-formal learning, in particular in the context of a lifelong learning and with a view of improving accessibility and outreach of the programme, following intense effort of our political group in the drafting of the new priorities.

It is worth mentioning that we have argued consistently for an open and transparent approach to public access to EU documentation, and, in that regard, have sought - during the last two legislatures - to ensure a meaningful revision of rules regarding public access to documents of the European Parliament, Council and Commission.

In the draft regulation on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund for the years 2021 to 2027 we seek to foster objectives, such as integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, sports, etc. By quoting culture, we want to ensure the cultural dimension of modern libraries in open access to everyone.

In April 2019 plenary vote we will support the new proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Rights and Values programme, which we have amended and which will support actions and efforts bringing the European Union closer to its citizens, fostering democratic participation, and promoting civic engagement in the actions of the Union.



## **2) How will you ensure that Europe's libraries provide opportunities for all, throughout their lives, to learn and develop relevant skills in the digital age?**

We as the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament recognise libraries as key players in providing citizens with digital services and making online learning and services available in a safe environment open to all. Therefore, we have recommended in the Report on education in the digital era of November 2018 that these efforts be duly funded under European, national, regional and local schemes, complementary to one another, and that libraries are given greater recognition for their essential role in developing media literacy.

In the future, we will continue to lead in the long-lasting calls for an increased funding available for digital skills across the next generation of MFF programmes.

So far, in the plenary vote of 28 March 2019 on the new Creative Europe programme, an important source of EU funding for libraries, we succeeded in building a majority supporting our call for doubling the financing of the programme in the next Multiannual Financial Framework, our aim being to ensure an increased financing of the actions and projects aiming at providing everyone with access to Europe's cultural resources and scientific records.

We insist also on the need for the European Commission to promote synergies across and to ensure coordination between the programmes, including Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, InvestEU and Digital Europe to maximise the effectiveness of funding for high-quality digital skills development.

Furthermore, we will continue to stress the need to set aside funding through the Digital Europe and Horizon Europe programmes and the European Structural and Investment Funds for the digitisation of libraries and archives, and to increase and improve their use in education and culture for all.

Considering that Internet is a common good and it has to be accessible for all, we will keep on strongly supporting citizens of all ages - in hand with the European libraries - in acquiring the knowledge and transversal skills to become media, digital and information literate.

In a larger term, we as S&D Group in the European Parliament will continue to advocate in favour of universal access to quality inclusive education systems from an early age, with a simultaneous lifelong learning approach, because these are the only ways to reduce and prevent inequalities, social discrimination, and poverty, whilst promoting human dignity, personal and social development, quality employability and true European citizenship.

## **3) How will you ensure that Europe and its libraries lead the world when it comes to Open Science, including achieving its goal of making all publicly funded research openly available by 2020?**

We as the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament have always supported open science approach.

For instance under the programme Horizon Europe we support open science as an approach to the scientific process based on cooperative work and diffusing knowledge. We believe that this approach should be in line with the- open access to scientific publications resulting from research funded under the Horizon Europe programme; and open access to research data, including those underlying scientific publications.



Furthermore, we are in favour of promoting other open science practices and making use of the possibilities offered by the European Open Science Cloud and the European Data Infrastructure.

We call also for a courageous support of the cooperation between teaching and research in the framework of the Horizon Europe programme, including libraries.

***4) How will you ensure that Europe's documentary heritage, as held in libraries, is accessible to all, regardless of income, disability or other factors, now and in the future?***

We as the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament have always been active in promoting Europe's documentary heritage and its accessibility for all.

Our work on the Marrakesh Treaty for instance, which came into force in year 2016, to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled, has been significant in making online print materials available to people with visual impairments.

In the framework of our work on the new Horizon Europe programme, we have called for the use of new technologies to facilitate access and fruition of European cultural heritage through assistive technologies for people with disabilities. Furthermore, we have backed the idea of creating a European Cultural Heritage Cloud under the programme Horizon Europe. Also, under this programme, we supported the creation a special cluster called 'Culture, creativity and inclusive society' as well as the idea of having sufficient funds devoted to research on cultural and creative sectors, including the Union's cultural heritage.

Looking beyond the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, which was a great success of our S&D Group, we support and we will continue to support the European libraries in their efforts to make cultural heritage accessible in the digital age. This includes our support for upgrading the Europeana, Europe's digital platform for cultural heritage, including documentary heritage as held in libraries and funded by the EU as a Digital Service Infrastructure that makes culture widely accessible and provides data, technology, tools and services to Europe's cultural heritage sector and the creative industries. We are in favour of a continued EU funding support for Europeana under Connecting European Facility up to 2020 and under Digital Europe Programme after 2020.

We as the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament will continue to defend the principle that rights relating to cultural heritage including documentary heritage are inherent and that everyone has the right to benefit from cultural heritage and to contribute towards its enrichment, as stated by the 2015 Faro Convention.

These have also been the guiding principles of our negotiation strategy in all trilogue meetings on the copyright directive. Our Group was united and unanimous on all provisions related to the access to digital contents for the purposes of education, research, and cultural heritage. We provided a major contribution to the inter-institutional negotiations in orienting the result towards a fair and future-proof outcome. Recognising the new legitimate uses and ensuring a wide access for libraries and cultural stakeholders were the milestones of our negotiating position. Following the adoption of the directive in March 2019, the priority will have to focus now on the good implementation by the Member States. We are particularly glad to report the good outcome on the parts related to the new exception allowing libraries, together with research and cultural institutions, to proceed with text and data mining on copyright-protected works, to which they can have access. The development of digitisation projects, including on a cross-border dimension and on out-of-commerce works is an important additional feature of the directive together with the possibility of allowing wider exceptions for the digital uses of educational activities in libraries run under the authority of an educational institution.



## **5) How will you ensure that Europe realises the potential of its libraries as factors of success in a comprehensive strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?**

We as the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament believe that culture plays a specific role both as a self-standing pillar of sustainable development and as a key enabler of existing Sustainable Development Goals. Culture is a driver for innovation and behavioural change through the creation of new lifestyles and sustainable development paradigms, and enables community-based or locally rooted approaches, which are necessary for a local understanding of sustainable development. Cultural participation encourages environmentally responsible behaviours, improves physical and mental health and wellbeing and facilitates and promotes intercultural dialogue, respect for others and social integration of minorities, improves school attendance and performance rates of young people, therefore contributing to and facilitating the achievement of many existing Sustainable Development Goals.

We support and promote this approach in Europe and beyond, particular through the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument regulation, which should make use of the transformative power of culture and education in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the draft regulation on the Common Provisions, we added a horizontal article 6a where we underlined the importance of UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Union's promotion of the aim of preserving, protecting and improving the quality of environment and combatting climate change. The same idea is repeated in the draft regulation on the European Regional Development and on the Cohesion Funds with an additional requirement that their objectives are to be pursued in the framework of sustainable development, and by focusing on poverty, inequality and a just transition to a socially and environmentally sustainable economy in a participatory approach in cooperation with relevant public authorities and different partners, which may also include libraries.

It is our view that the EU must therefore engage with libraries in policy-making and supporting their role in a shared partnership toward sustainable development.

We as the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament will continue to support libraries, which we consider key actors in the field of culture and education achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as well as our goals defined in the Sustainable Equality Report <sup>2</sup>, by promoting creativity in education for all ages and bringing cultural activities and content to diverse audiences, thus supporting community development and providing a safe space for intercultural dialogue.

Finally, we will continue to promote the pivotal role of human capital for sustainable development through an interdisciplinary approach to learning processes, as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goal 4 "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all". The approach includes the New Skills Agenda for Europe - formal, non-formal and informal -, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), and a reformed Europass.

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<sup>2</sup> See our policy report on Sustainable Equality: [https://www.progressivesociety.eu/sites/default/files/2018-11/S%26D\\_ProgressiveSociety-SustainableEquality\\_FINAL\\_SPREADS.pdf](https://www.progressivesociety.eu/sites/default/files/2018-11/S%26D_ProgressiveSociety-SustainableEquality_FINAL_SPREADS.pdf)



**6) How will you ensure that Europe's action in the wider world supports, both through development funding and international law, libraries and access to information?**

We as the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament call for a stronger role for the EU on the international scene and for sharing objectives that reward our excellences in the international arena, as stressed by the report Towards an EU Strategy for international cultural relations and as recalled in the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument.

Via our initiative EDUCA, we have had a leading role in ensuring an increase in the EU humanitarian aid budget on education in emergencies crisis. Pressure from our S&D Group has helped to put education in emergencies in the spotlight and it is now being taken seriously at an international level, with an increased financing and a better co-ordination beginning to make a difference. Indeed, education is the most underfunded sector during humanitarian crises. Following our calls, the European Commission has increased the share on this sector from 1% in 2015 to 10% in 2019.

We continue to advocate for a more prominent place of education and culture in the EU external relations, ensuring access to information and to inclusive and equitable quality education for all, and fostering international cultural relations through cultural diplomacy (see for instance our plenary vote on the “Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument” of March 2019).

We will continue to highlight the importance of international mobility of artists and cultural professional, the people-to-people approach, and the role that libraries play on the international scene to facilitate and to foster international exchanges.

Education remains an essential element for the promotion of sustainable development. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals – notably SDG 4 which seeks to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030 – the focus has broadened beyond primary school enrolment rates to encompass secondary and higher education, including training and skills relevant for employment opportunities, and to adopt a comprehensive promotion of learning for all.



## European Conservatives and Reformists

**1) How will you ensure that Europe enables its libraries to offer everyone access to the information they need, in particular as concerns education, employment, health and democratic participation?**

We believe that 5G, digitisation and innovation can greatly improve the services that libraries offer. To that end we support the Digital Single Market agenda, innovation policy, and competitive consumer markets for electronic goods so that libraries can purchase equipment at attractive rates. We have also recently supported the Trilogue agreement on Public Sector Information, which is key to our open data future.

**2) How will you ensure that Europe's libraries provide opportunities for all, throughout their lives, to learn and develop relevant skills in the digital age?**

We have supported the skills component of the Digital Europe's programme and believe that massive open online courses (MOOCs) are a valuable tool for helping people acquire digital skills. We see a scope for libraries being integrated within the framework of the Digital Innovation Hubs and the re-skilling programmes.

**3) How will you ensure that Europe and its libraries lead the world when it comes to Open Science, including achieving its goal of making all publicly funded research openly available by 2020?**

Besides requiring open access to the research it funds through Horizon and its successor programme, the European Commission has consistently supported the European coordination of open access and open science policies and their alignment to the one put forward by the Commission, such as the Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information, which was revised in 2018. The Commission has also supported the interoperability at European level of relevant core infrastructures. Libraries are essential instruments for research; researchers as well as citizens depend on them for access to, dissemination and preservation of research and therefore important agents in the shift towards open science. The European Commission has been steadily supporting their role in this process through financial support and participation in important stakeholder groups such as the Open Science Policy Platform, where the European League of Research Libraries (LIBER) is a member.

**4) How will you ensure that Europe's documentary heritage, as held in libraries, is accessible to all, regardless of income, disability or other factors, now and in the future?**

We support efforts under the new Multiannual Financial Framework, such as the Connecting Europe Facility and the Creative Europe programmes, to increase accessibility of documentary heritage, for example under the Europeana programme.

We also believe that digitisation policies can significantly increase accessibility of Europe's documentary heritage.

**5) How will you ensure that Europe realises the potential of its libraries as factors of success in a comprehensive strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?**

We support EU efforts in multilateral fora to achieve exceptions and limitations to copyright.



**6) How will you ensure that Europe's action in the wider world supports, both through development funding and international law, libraries and access to information?**

We strongly support the Digitisation For Development programme, which aims to promote access to connectivity, digital literacy, and promote the use of digital technologies. We also believe that greater engagement in multilateral fora such as the UN can strengthen the fight for freedom of information.

We also acknowledge the importance of an open internet, free from hacking and disinformation campaigns. To that end we support the inclusion of a cyber dimension in the EU's external policies, for example through a cyber envoy.



## Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

The ALDE group recognises the key role that libraries play, not only as repositories of European knowledge and culture, but also as facilitators of access to information, education and development of skills. In addition, digitalisation and online access can multiply the impact of libraries in those areas.

An ALDE report on 'Education in the digital era', adopted by the European Parliament in December 2018, underlined that libraries already have a key role in making online learning and services available to all, and recommended that libraries are given greater recognition for their essential role in developing media literacy, and provided with funding under European, regional and local schemes, including funding under the European Structural and Investment Funds for the digitalisation of libraries.

In this respect, ALDE strongly supports the establishment of Europeana as the European Digital Library, to make Europe's cultural heritage accessible to all through a single access point. We would favour a stronger and more effective initiatives at EU level to coordinate and integrate efforts to digitise and make cultural material accessible online.

Furthermore, ALDE believes that it is important to make an optimal use of the resources available under some existing EU programmes, particularly Erasmus, to support the training of librarians through exchanges of students and staff.



## European Greens

**1) How will you ensure that Europe enables its libraries to offer everyone access to the information they need, in particular as concerns education, employment, health and democratic participation?**

The European Green Party and the Green Group of the European Parliament defend libraries as places where social, education and cultural needs are to be met. The sustainability of the libraries offer in terms of services should be ensured, and therefore our duty is to promote libraries as much as we can throughout all new regulations. On the on-line accessibility, in the new copyright directive, our Group promoted the idea of access for everyone, and an enlarged possibility for datamining: *(16) The exception or limitation should cover both uses through digital means where the teaching activity is physically provided, including where it takes place outside the premises of the educational establishment, for example in libraries or cultural heritage institutions, as long as the use is made under the responsibility of the educational establishment, and online uses through the educational establishment's secure electronic environment, the access to which should be protected, notably by authentication procedures. The exception or limitation should be understood as covering the specific accessibility needs of persons with a disability in the context of illustration for teaching.*

The **lending of e-books** should fall under the same rules as the lending of physical books (as recognised by the Court of Justice, C-174/15). When Member States (MS) apply the limitation to copyright on public lending, libraries should be able to buy any physical book on the market. Once purchased, they should be able to lend it without restrictions linked to contract terms or other measures of protection which prevent the exercise of exceptions and limitations to copyright. Such provision should also apply to e-books. Moreover, with the objective of ensuring that all citizens of the Union have access to a full selection of books and other resources, all MS should ensure that the limitation to the exclusive public lending right provided in Article 6 of Directive 2006/115/EC is made mandatory:

*Member States shall provide for an exception to the reproduction and rights provided by the InfoSoc Directive, permitting libraries to make reproductions of literary works in order to **facilitate public lending** where the literary works have been legitimately acquired, but are not available in the format or medium required as part of the lending service.*

*Member States, libraries, authors and publishers shall work together to ensure that libraries can acquire and lend on reasonable terms, including remotely, **all commercially available literary works in any format**, including digital, that have legally entered their collections or to which they have legal access. The Commission shall report on progress towards this goal no later than two years after the entry into force of the recently adopted Copyright Directive.*

**2) How will you ensure that Europe's libraries provide opportunities for all, throughout their lives, to learn and develop relevant skills in the digital age?**

There is a need for a concerted EU policy on libraries, but again this goes through common projects, renewed efforts at the level of CULT Committee, to support local, regional and national efforts to maintain a high degree of service in libraries.

EUROPEANA is to be continued and developed, and the EU is the one to insist on the participation of Member States. Media literacy is at the core of the Creative Europe programme and as such, libraries are most concerned by possible funding through innovative projects. We do agree on the manifesto statement, stating the "changing role of the library as a social institution



in the emerging information society", and as such, we support all efforts to improve and foster this role.

**3) How will you ensure that Europe and its libraries lead the world when it comes to Open Science, including achieving its goal of making all publicly funded research openly available by 2020?**

We welcome the fact that the newly adopted Copyright Directive include libraries into the definition of **"research organisations"**, thus allowing them to benefit from the related exceptions and limitations, including Text and Data mining (although our Group is disappointed that the TDM exception is not broad enough).

We are for an opening up of research outcomes as large as possible, and a reduction of the obstacles (financial mostly) posed by the present model used by academic publishers. All research (publicly funded) should be accessible to all.

**4) How will you ensure that Europe's documentary heritage, as held in libraries, is accessible to all, regardless of income, disability or other factors, now and in the future?**

Libraries should be regarded by the EU and by national legislators as cultural heritage institutions achieving a **public service** mission. Each legal provision should take this aspect into account. The work to modernize EUROPEANA will continue with the search for a sustainable financial situation. On disability, the role of libraries is indeed key to the social integration of all persons entering the premises - our Group defended the Marrakesh Treaty (2017) on access to published works for blind and visually impaired persons which should facilitate the availability of texts throughout the Union (i.e. by form of exemption, getting the text free of charge by book publishers).

**5) How will you ensure that Europe realises the potential of its libraries as factors of success in a comprehensive strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?**

Libraries are key to the education, cultural and social sector, that are included in the European Social Fund, as well part of actors in Creative Europe projects. The EGP and the Group are supportive of all actions and projects promoted by libraries, museums, theatres, cinemas as places where social transformation may happen. Furthermore, we actively defend linguistic diversity, everywhere in Europe, and in this perspective, the role of libraries is unique.

**6) How will you ensure that Europe's action in the wider world supports, both through development funding and international law, libraries and access to information?**

In their role as intermediary / "passeurs" of information and access to literature, media services, libraries are the place everywhere in the world where an immediate contact with the local community is possible. New projects started in Europe with a special welcome to refugees, and this type of action can be further promoted through European projects. Regional and international cooperation, partnerships to enhance information and cultural understanding, are the spirit of our endeavours on the cultural and education side. On the international action, we insist therefore on the implementation of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, and the role of libraries are directly connected to "*the creation of conditions conducive to the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions*" (art. 12).