



May 2005

EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

Highlights:

§ European cultural and audiovisual heritage and ICT, p.1

§ EBLIDA Annual Council 2005, p. 2

§ New EUROPE DIRECT Information Network, p. 10

Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Strategy for the enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries

This Strategy (2005/C 129/03, p. 3 of 26 May 2005) aims at harmonising enforcement legislation within the EU, and the revision of the Customs Regulation, that provides action against counterfeit or pirated goods at the Community's border. Its objective is to improve enforcement against violations of all kinds of IP (copyright, trademarks, geographical indications, patents, designs).

The internal instruments available to Community right-holders in the case of violations of their rights within the Community or in the case of imports of fake goods into the EU are not usable when these violations occur in third countries.

Most Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and sectors are violated/affected e.g. clothing brands, music and software CDs/DVDs. Within the Community the level of enforcement is different among Member States. Some Member States still need to do more towards improving the current situation and cutting down remaining production and sale of pirated or counterfeit goods.

The Commission considers that the vast majority of the problems affecting holders of the different types of IPR are common and thus, addressed by an integrated strategy.

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Culture

European cultural and audiovisual heritage and ICT

'Our libraries, our films, our historic television and sound records not only need to be preserved; we also need to make better use of them in the fields of culture, education, information and research'

The European Commission announced on 3 May that it is to boost its policy of preserving and exploiting Europe's written and audiovisual heritage. At a time when Internet and digital technologies available are in European citizens' everyday lives 'tapping the potential of our written text, image and sound archives is of major importance in economic terms as much as in cultural terms'.

The Commission plans to issue a communication by July outlining the stakes involved and identifying the obstacles to

using written and audiovisual archives in the EU, which will be accompanied by a proposal for a Recommendation aimed at enlisting all the public players concerned and facilitating public-private partnerships in the task of digitising European heritage.

Some actions to be continued and expanded are: the development of techniques for standardisation and search methods geared towards exploiting written and audiovisual archives in the digital environment; the **PRESTO** and **PRESTOSPACE** actions for audiovisual archives; the proposed Recommendation (currently being adopted) on film heritage; the promotion of standardisation of film catalogues and the interoperability of audiovisual archive databases.

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Lobbying for archives and libraries

EBLIDA Annual Council 2005

The EBLIDA annual Council meeting took place in Cork (Ireland) on 13 and 14 May 2005. More than 40 members attended this relevant event for our organisation which this year featured novelties such as the Discussion Groups on EBLIDA core policy matters.

Besides the members' active participation in the decision-making process concerning EBLIDA future action in lobbying issues and work programme, the EBLIDA Full members exerted their voting rights in order to elect a new Executive Committee and President for the term 2005 - 2007.

The Secretariat wishes to congratulate once more the re-elected President of EBLIDA, Jan Ewout van der Putten (VOB, Netherlands), the Vice-President,

"70 Cents for Culture" Campaign

Emboldened by the official launch of the '70 Cents for Culture' campaign in the European Parliament in Brussels on 15 March, the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) and the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH) have launched a lobbying campaign on several fronts to increase the new EU Culture programme, which will be fixed for the period 2007-2013. This initiative is an extension of the civil society organisations to the EC President Barroso's cultural vision in Europe.

Only 500 million Euros will be dedicated to the next seven-year EU culture programme. This is one of the recommendations resulting from the vote on 10 May 2005 by the European Parliament's Temporary Committee on the EU's general financial framework for 2007-2013 (FINP Committee). This means a meager 17 cents per EU citizen per year. This position is likely to shape

Sue Brown (CILIP, UK) and all the members of the Executive Committee, which accounts for a well represented geographical balance amongst the EBLIDA membership.

Further details of the Council, the Executive Committee members and the voting process can be found on the EBLIDA website at <http://www.eblida.org/eblida/meetings/Council/council05/elections2005-2007.htm>

The Secretariat wishes to thank all the members for their participation and support and looks forward to another two years of intensive cooperation and achievements together with the Executive Committee!

Parliament's negotiating position with the EU Member States. The "70 Cents for Culture" campaign clearly has a higher goal: to increase the current budget tenfold to 70 cents per citizen per year. EFAH and ECF maintain that 70 cents is the minimum required to meet the current needs of the European cultural sector. The next biggest campaign challenge is to build support at Member State level.

EBLIDA, as approved by its members at the Cork annual Council in May 2005, has supported the ECF and EFAH campaign subscribing the campaign's Manifesto.

If you wish to support the "70 cents for Culture" campaign, visit the ECF website at <http://www.eurocult.org/> or follow the "70 Cents for Culture" link at the EFAH website: http://www.efah.org/en/70cents_supp.htm.



Audiovisual

*Co Decision Procedure
First Reading*

Collection and preservation of cinematographic heritage

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004_0171en01.pdf

The European Parliament adopted on 10 May the report by MEP HEGYI (A6-0101/2005) broadly approving the proposal, subject to a number of compromise amendments to avoid a second reading on film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial activities. The proposed

Recommendation (*COM (2004)0171 of 16 March 2004*), now awaiting first reading by Council, is a follow-up to the Commission communication on certain legal aspects relating to cinematographic and other audiovisual works of 26 September 2001 (*published in OJ C 43 on 16 December 2002*).

*David Graham &
Associates Limited (UK)
DG EAC/27/03*

Final report on distribution and production of TV programmes

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/2003/4-5/27-03-finalreport.pdf>

The report "Impact Study of Measures (Community and National) concerning the Promotion of Distribution and Production of TV Programmes provided for under Article 25(a) of the TV without Frontiers (TVwF) Directive' addressed five themes: implementation of Articles 4 and 5 by Member States in national legislation and the additional content requirements that some Member States place on broadcasters; the direct impact of Articles 4 and 5 on TV schedules; and on cultural objectives; their indirect impact on the economic performance of European broadcasters and producers; and the challenges facing Europe's broadcasters and content producers from audience fragmentation, new media and the general move towards digital TV, together with their implications for European audiovisual policy.

The Directive objectives are mostly economic but the Recitals to the legislation do make reference to the creation of new outlets for the creative works of employees in the cultural field and the protection of lesser used languages in the EU. Its provisions do not affect "the independence of cultural developments in the Member States and the preservation of cultural diversity in the Community". According to the report, Member States have taken advantage of their freedom to pursue national cultural objectives by applying additional requirements e.g. specific language requirements, investment. The report states that Articles 4 and 5 have increased the proportion of European works and independent productions broadcast by channels in the EU, thus contributed to the cultural objective.

Athena Web, a new EU portal for audiovisual scientific information

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/press/2005/pr1905en.cfm>

The launch of Athena Web will take place at the European Research and Innovation Conference and Expo in Paris on 4 June.

innovative functionalities designed for the exclusive use of science communication professionals.

The three-day event, the first of its kind in Europe, will present exhibitions on the most spectacular science and technology advances and will provide ample opportunities for networking and debate between scientists, science communicators and the public.

Athena Web aims at valorising existing science programming from all sources (broadcasters, independent producers, research organisations, industry) in Europe; facilitating the development, production and circulation of new science TV programmes as well as of new co-productions, ideas and resources; improving circulation and visibility of science and research news; and enhancing networking between scientists and communication professionals.

Launched in close coordination with European science TV professionals and research organisations, Athena Web is a robust, user-friendly platform with

Consumer Protection

Article 29 Data Protection Working Party, Work Programme 2005

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/fsj/privacy/docs/wpdocs/2005/wp109_en.pdf

The work programme of the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party was adopted on 14 April (see WP 109 at the link above). As regards the application and interpretation of the **Data Protection Directive**, it is envisaged a contribution to the follow-up to the work programme for a better implementation; the Working Party will contribute to consciousness raising of data

protection in the EU.

Moreover, the Working Party will report on the implementation of the decisions on **standard contractual clauses** and some technical issues e.g. eGovernment; Intellectual Property Rights; enforcement issues, spam, cookies, spy ware; Copyright enforcement issues and email services.

Cooperation with Third Countries

Cooperation agreement with Andorra

The Competitiveness Council adopted on 10 May a Decision approving the Cooperation Agreement between the EC and the Principality of Andorra to strengthen EU relations with Andorra, which are at present governed by a 1990 Agreement establishing a Customs Union. This Agreement extends

cooperation to a number of specific sectors e.g. environment, **communications, information, culture, education, training and youth**, social and health questions, trans-European networks, transport and regional policy.

Council Conclusions on Millennium Goals

On 24 May, External Relations ministers discussed the financing of the actions implemented to achieve the **Millennium Development Goals** established in 2000 and adopted conclusions on the EU position for the UN summit in New York in September.

combat environmental degradation.

The EU is committed to the implementation of the objectives contained in the Commission's Communication on Policy Coherence for Development dealing with e.g. Trade, social dimension of globalisation, Migration, **Research** and innovation, **Information society** and will strengthen its support to access to basic services (health, **education**, sustainable energy ...) and to

Moreover, the Commission brought in its communication - under preparation - on the revision of the 2000 Development Policy Statement which aims at determining whether Community development policy should retain the fight against poverty as its central objective or should take the acceleration of globalisation, the new priorities of the enlarged EU and developments within the international community more into account. The Commission plans to adopt it at the end of June; adoption by the Council is scheduled for 21 November 2005.

EU Ministerial Meetings with Latin American counterparts

During May, the EU held Ministerial meetings with its various Latin American partners in Luxembourg. The meeting between the **Rio Group and the EU** enabled an evaluation of the relations between the two regions. The **Andean Community** Ministers stressed the importance of involving civil society in the regional integration process. After

ratification of the cooperation agreement (2003), the relations between the **EU and the Republics of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama** will be reinforced. Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the **EU-Chile** Association Agreement on 1 March 2005. The Parties intend to extend policy dialogue to social, youth, culture, and information society areas.

Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Strategy for the enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries

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Proposed actions to address the problem are:

1. Identifying the priority countries
2. Multilateral/Bilateral agreements
3. Political dialogue
4. Incentives/Technical cooperation
5. Dispute Settlement/Sanctions
6. Creation of public-private partnerships
7. Awareness raising/drawing on experience
8. Institutional cooperation

Different Commission DGs are competent as regards the distinct aspects of IPR enforcement e.g. DG Trade, DG Internal Market (MARKT), DG Agriculture (AGRI), DG Taxation and Customs Union (TAXUD), DG Justice and Home Affairs (JAI), DG Development (DEV) and DG External Relations (RELEX) and DG Enterprise (ENTR).

Culture

Education and Culture, Subsidies and Preliminary Draft Budget 2006

On 23 May, the Budgets Committee of the European Parliament considered the working documents on Preliminary Draft Budget (PDB) 2006, **Education and Culture and Subsidies (former A-30)** [budget 2006, Section III – Commission] by Rapporteur MEP Pittella, which aims at presenting the new system of grants and

subsidies financed from the Community budget and at giving an overview of the proposals included in the PDB for 2006 concerning subsidies.

In 2006 (last year of the financial perspective), the subsidies of former chapter A-30 will continue to be financed mainly under heading 5 of the Financial Perspective.

Promoting bodies active at European level in the field of culture

Grants may be awarded to *European Bureau of Lesser-Used Languages* and the *MERCATOR network centres*. For the first time in 2006, other grants are subject to calls for proposals. The financial framework for 2004-2006 is of € 19 million, out of which €

5, 51 million remain available to be allocated during the budget procedure.

The Commission PDB proposes to allocate the full reference amount available and leaves no margin to be allocated during the 2006 budget procedure.

Education and Culture

Most of the budget lines of Title 15 (education and culture) belong to heading 3 of the financial perspective. However, there are also some in heading 4 e.g. *European Training Foundation* (15 03 03) and in heading 7 e.g. *PHARE* contribution to the European Training Foundation (15 03 02). The budget lines concerning administrative expenditure (except former B-A lines) plus all ex A-30 lines (grants) fall under heading 5 of the financial perspective. Expenditure under Title 15 goes to multi-annual programmes which will be terminated in 2006. They will have to be renegotiated if the political authority considers useful to continue them. The same applies to the former A-30 grants.

The 2006 budget shall contribute to the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy and be a bridging budget to the new generation of programmes 2007-2013 [Chapter 15 04, heading *Culture and language* earmarks however a difference of -4, 8% between PDB 2005 and PDB 2006).

The Rapporteur recommends the Committee on Budgets to develop pilot actions e.g. mobility in education, reinforcing the Youth programme. According to the Rapporteur, Parliament could consider the possibility of increasing the available amounts foreseen at this stage for SOCRATES and YOUTH programmes.

Culture

Promoting active European citizenship (civic participation)

From 2006, several organisations e.g. *International European Movement* will need to participate in a call for proposals to receive a grant. The financial reference amount for 2004-2006 is of € 72 million, out of which € 21, 95 million remain available for the 2006 budget procedure. The Commission proposes to allocate the full remaining reference amount and thus leaves no margin to be allocated during the 2006 budget procedure. € 64.612.000 is the amount available for 2006.

In several programmes e.g. **youth, culture, civic participation**, a decreasing budget profile has been chosen for 2006 (amount is

smaller than in two previous years). The Commission has introduced administrative expenditure in the PDB for 2006 under financial envelopes for subsidies by entering contribution of € 650.000 to the *Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture* subsidy for programmes of heading 5 (budget line 15 01 04 32).

Calls for proposals will be in wider use for subsidies in the 2006 budget. Due to their extension and the set reference amounts remaining available for 2006 subsidies, the decision on subsidies in the budget procedure should be easier than in previous years.

Budget evaluation of EU Activities

http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/evaluation/Internal_network/internalnetwork_en.htm

The European Commission has set up evaluation functions which coordinate the evaluation activities and carry out evaluation studies within the individual departments.

The evaluation functions work together in the framework of the Commission Evaluation Network, which is coordinated by the DG for Budget.

DG Education and Culture

Contact Mr S Rogers, tel.: +32 2 296 80 16

It contains all evaluation and impact assessment reports published since 1999 in the fields of active citizenship, culture (Culture 2000), education (Leonardo da Vinci, Socrates, and TEMPUS), languages, sport, vocational training and Youth, as well as the EU agencies CEDEFOP and the ETF (European Training Foundation). It also covers calls for tender, annual evaluation reviews and multi-annual evaluation plans.

[culture/evalreports/index_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education/culture/evalreports/index_en.htm) (Culture 2000);

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education/culture/evalreports/culture/2004/culture2007_xant/culture2007xant_en.pdf (Culture 2007);

“Citizens for Europe” programme (2007-2013) [most recent evaluation report, *April 2005*]

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education/culture/evalreports/index_en.htm#civilsocietyHeader.

For further information visit

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education>

European cultural and audiovisual heritage and ICT

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€ 36 million will be earmarked for research projects in this area under a new action (see call for proposals under the **IST programme** published in *OJ no 2005/C 116/10, p. 22 of 18 May 2005*), including the development of search engines for the general public. The Commission wishes to see the budget for this sector further

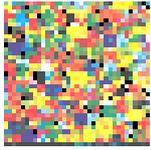
increased as of 2007 (FP7).

Moreover, € 60 million will go to digitisation of and access to content within the **eContent plus programme** (2005-2008) which will support action to network archives in Europe (closing date end June 2005).

UNESCO Preliminary Draft Convention on the protection of Cultural Diversity

<http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php>

[URL_ID=25926&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php?URL_ID=25926&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)



Last March, the UNESCO Director General submitted to the Member States a Preliminary Report summarising the various milestones since the beginning of the process in 2003.

The third session of the intergovernmental meeting of experts on the Preliminary Draft Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions was held at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) from 25 May to 4 June 2005 mainly to complete the remaining works (Recommendation and final report).

The Preliminary Report contains two preliminary draft conventions.

The first, which is a “composite” text, reflects the current state of progress and shows what has been done as well as what remains to be done (Appendix 1). It is in three parts, at different stages of completion: Part I: results of the Work of the Drafting Committee (Articles 1 to 11, with the

exception of Article 8); Part II: results from the Informal Working Group on Section III.2 (new Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15); and Part III: Plenary Session Comments on the Remainder of the Text (Article 8, former Article 15, former Article 13 and Article 19, Articles 20 to 34 and Annexes). The Preamble was not examined in Plenary Session, but is being kept in its original version.

The second preliminary draft convention, which is the consolidated text by the Chairman of the Plenary (Appendix 2) promised in Paragraph 45, will be sent to the Member States as soon as possible.

The 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference is planned for 3 to 21 October 2005; there is no agenda available as yet.

Moreover, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on working towards the Convention last April. It is now awaiting publication in the Official Journal.

Shaping an International Centre on Creative Industries

From 18 to 20 April, the **Bahia Forum**, an initiative of Gilberto Gil, Brazil Culture Minister, met in Salvador de Bahia for the creation of an international centre for creative industries (see agenda in Portuguese and English) at http://www.cultura.gov.br/upload/Bahia%20Forum%20Agenda-1_1113244715.pdf).

The contribution at this point, itself of a non-governmental nature, and organisations that are members of the UN which have ties with the subject e.g. UNCTAD, ILO, UNESCO, WIPO, UNDP and BID will shape the future of the project.

‘Launching the International Centre for Creative Industries’ (session 4) examined the structure and modalities of operation of the Centre, which is intended to be a flexible and innovative organisation, operating as a knowledge bank and clearinghouse for

programmes and activities on creative industries. It will be located in Brazil and serviced by a small international secretariat; its activities will be overseen by a Governing Body and an Advisory Committee. It will also address issues related to the allocation of human and financial resources for the Centre and possible modalities of contributions from governments and partner organisations.

A Working Group is to review the various modalities of organisation, financing and governance for the Centre and will make specific recommendations regarding the future Plan of Action for its inauguration in 2006. The working group will draft the **Bahia Declaration** (follow-up and implementation).

Education

Education Ministers and Commission agree on the *Bergen Communiqué*

[http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/Docs/00-Main doc/050520_Bergen_Communique.pdf](http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/Docs/00-Main%20doc/050520_Bergen_Communique.pdf)

On 19 and 20 May in Bergen (Norway), 45 Ministers responsible for higher education and the European Commission met at a conference on the Bologna process for a mid-term review and for setting goals and priorities towards 2010 and concluded with the adoption of the **Bergen Communiqué**. Ministers also welcomed Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine as new participating countries in the Bologna Process.

Ministers called for the Follow-up Group to continue and widen the stocktaking process and report in time for the next Ministerial Conference in London in 2007; stocktaking should be based on the appropriate methodology and continue in the fields of the degree system, quality assurance and recognition of degrees and study periods.

Progress needs to be moved towards implementation of the standards and guidelines for quality assurance as proposed in the ENQA report and of the national frameworks for qualifications; the awarding

and recognition of joint degrees, including at the doctorate level; creating opportunities for flexible learning paths in higher education, including procedures for the recognition of prior learning. The Follow-up Group will also consider the appropriate arrangements needed to support the continuing development beyond 2010.

Visit <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/> for further information on the conference.

In June, the Commission will start a broad consultation on the future scenario for a **European Qualifications Framework, with Credits for Lifelong Learning**. Moreover, it will examine how to re-launch the idea of a **European Doctorate Label** which would be awarded to doctoral programmes. As regards **Quality Assurance**, the Commission is supporting sector-led projects to establish European Quality Labels in Engineering and Chemistry. A few more comparable fields of study should follow these examples.

140 Erasmus Mundus students gather in Brussels

On 12 May, Commissioner FIGEL welcomed 140 students from 52 third countries currently taking part in the first Erasmus Mundus promotion at a seminar in Brussels. Erasmus Mundus was launched last autumn, with 14 Masters Courses being selected for the academic year 2004-2005; next autumn some 36 Masters Courses are expected to be operational and about 800 students will take part in the programme (more than 100 Master Courses are targeted

for the final year of the first phase in 2008).

The seminar gave students the opportunity to exchange views on their first months in EU universities and launched the Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association. A summary of students' and coordinators' feedback on the programme was also presented as well as proposals for improvement. Visit http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html.

World Skills Competition 2005 in Helsinki

"Master your skills, master your future"

Almost 700 competitors from 39 countries gathered in Helsinki from 25 to 29 May to take part at an event which focussed on technical, vocational and educational training. It included a conference, an exhibition and a contest for young professionals – World Skills Competition.

In the World Skills Competition, young people under 23 years of age from all over the world compete in the skills of their vocational fields (39 official competition skills in the fields of technology, industry, and services).

<http://www.ef.eu.int/>

<http://www.wsc2005helsinki.com/>

Education

eLearning for growth, jobs and an inclusive society

<http://www.elearningconference.org/index.htm>

A multi-annual, multi-stakeholder drive to build digital competence at home, school and the workplace was launched by Commissioners Reding and FIGEL at a conference entitled “*Towards a learning society*”, on 19 May in Brussels. The joint initiative aims at continuing the dialogue, build-upon the results so far and help set strategic priorities for further work.

Its conclusions will provide direction for the schedule of work outlined by the Commissioners:

§ reinforcing dialogue to provide policy

guidance and identify key actions for thought on eLearning-related themes in **2005**;

§ sharing best practices and evaluating results in **2006**;

§ launching EU-funded projects to provide digital competence/key skills under the future Integrated Lifelong Learning, FP7 and Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP) Programmes in **2007**;

§ Launching eInclusion, a European initiative promoting social inclusion by digital means in **2008**.

New integrated programme for Lifelong Learning under preparation

The European Commission announced in its Communication on the *Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 (COM (2004)0487)* an integrated programme for **lifelong learning** under Heading 1a. Competitiveness for growth and employment. The total expenditure proposed for Education and Training represents approximately 10% of this heading.

The proposed an action programme in the field of lifelong learning (*COM (2004)0474 of 14 July 2004*) consists of: a new integrated programme comprising four specific Sectoral programmes: COMENIUS, ERASMUS, LEONARDO DA VINCI and GRUNDTVIG; a transversal programme comprising four key activities e.g. eLearning, Jean Monnet programme. The proposed programme is to be adopted under the Co

decision procedure, which means a significant change for LEONARDO DA VINCI (consultation procedure under the current legal basis).

In its draft opinion, the Budgets Committee (MEP TRUPEL) recognises that administrative and financial procedures have been improved but are still excessively burdensome and slow. The Commission proposal has reduced the EU target for the COMENIUS programme; the ERASMUS individual mobility grant (€ 150 per month) has not been changed since 1993; the budgetary allocation to mobility actions is still very modest; the ERASMUS MUNDUS Programme will be incorporated into the integrated programme from 2009, thus an appropriate margin should be left available under Heading 1a.

Enlargement

PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD, General Report on Pre-accession Assistance in 2003

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/pdf/report_pre_acc_2003_en.pdf

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/pdf/report_pre_acc_2003_amex_en.pdf

COM (2005)0178 of 2 May 2005

This is the fourth report on the three pre-accession instruments and their coordination in accordance with *Article 13 of Council Regulation (EC) no 1266/991*. In 2003, an increased emphasis was put on creating the

administrative capacity required for a successful implementation of the *acquis* and participation in present or future European Community programmes as of membership, in line with the positive accession negotiations in Copenhagen 2002.

Enlargement

Annual Work Programme for Grants 2005 for Enlargement

The Annual Work Programme for grants 2005 for Enlargement and the list of grant schemes planned/proposed can be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/work_pgr_2005/index.htm.

It will be implemented through the publication of call for proposals either managed by DG Enlargement directly or by the de-concentrated EC Delegations in the acceding states and candidate countries or by means of direct award of grants. The basic act, the objectives, the schedule of the calls for proposals and of grants to be awarded directly with the indicative amount, the

budget lines and the expected results are specified in the list.

In 2005, the measures are directed at programmes in favour of the acceding states **Bulgaria** and **Romania** in view of their envisaged accession date (2007) and programmes covering pre-accession assistance for the candidate countries **Croatia** and **Turkey**. Civil society and SME-related issues to be implemented in these countries are the main areas of the 2005 programme. A list of projects and annex can be found at the link above.

EU Information Policy

New *EUROPE DIRECT* Information Network

There are now 393 EUROPE DIRECT relays spread throughout cities and rural areas across the enlarged EU replacing the previous Info-Points Europe and the CARREFOURS. In 2004, EUROPE DIRECT was used by almost 80,000 EU citizens, an increase of around 60% in comparison to 2003. Currently, some 10, 000 to 12, 000 enquiries are answered per month.

Each relay can be allocated an operating grant of between € 12, 000 and € 24, 000 via the entity which houses it (usually a local authority, chamber of commerce or NGO) and which is contractually linked to the Commission. The share-out of money was based on an average of the geographical area of each Member State and its population as

reflected in the number of seats each holds in Parliament to ensure the best possible geographical spread of relays across the EU, including its remote and sparsely populated regions.

The Commission launched an open call for proposals last year, via its Representations in the EU-15 and government agencies in the new Member States, to select the entities capable of housing the new relay network. The agencies and the Representations have signed four-year framework agreements until 2008 with these so-called "host structures" to ensure a degree of permanence in the network. Each year, the host will sign an operating grant agreement with the Commission to obtain its annual funding.

400 new local information relays launched across the enlarged Union

http://europa.eu.int/comm/relays/index_en.htm

General information on the EU is within easy reach through an extensive network of information centres and contact points set up by the Union for the public. Contact can be made via the EUROPE DIRECT Information Network relays; the three national information centres in Paris, Lisbon and Rome, set up in cooperation with the national authorities; students can also obtain special access to more than 700 European

Documentation Centres at universities and research institutes in member states and other countries; and Team Europe, a network of independent conference speakers specialised in European affairs.

The Commission's Representations in the Member States can also provide further information.

EU Information Policy

Public access to Council documents

On 23 May, the General Affairs Council adopted its annual report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) no 1049//2001 regarding public access to the documents of the European institutions in 2004. The report reviews the complaints lodged with the European Ombudsman, the judgments given by the European courts pursuant to Regulation (EC) no 1049/2001 and the cases brought before the Court of First Instance relating to access to Council documents. It also sets out the regulatory, administrative and practical adjustments that the Council made to comply with the Regulation.

The report shows that 59, 4% of the Council documents produced in 2004 e.g. 68, 966 of

the 116, 181 new documents listed in the register (<http://register.consilium.eu.int>), were directly accessible to the public upon their circulation. In February this year the register mentioned 583, 713 documents, of which 61, 6% of the documents listed were public (available either in downloadable form or merely on request). 295, 002 different users logged on via the Internet to the Council's public register in 2004, an increase of 62, 7% in the number of users of the register in one year, whereas the total number of visits increased by 19, 2% (around 2, 500 visits a day). During 2004, the Council received 2, 160 applications for public access concerning 12, 907 documents, and granted total or partial access to 85, 7% of the documents requested.

Implementing the information and communication strategy for the EU

Parliament adopted on 12 May a non-binding report by MEP HERRERO (*A6-0111/2005*) on the EU's information and communication strategy with 398 votes in favour, 54 against and 55 abstentions.

The Commission is called upon to hold an "ideas competition" which would enable original proposals to be brought together on the best ways of putting the European message across. Parliament also believes that greater financial resources should be allocated to Euro barometer, to enable it to

compile much fuller and more rigorous reports. Lastly, Parliament notes that the PRINCE Programme has traditionally been based on partnership between the Commission and the Member States. It stresses the need for parliamentary involvement in the determination of PRINCE priorities and believes that MEPs should be fully involved in events organised.

The resolution is now awaiting publication in the Official Journal.

EU Research and Development

Statistics and indicators on Women and Science

The Women and Science Unit together with the Statistical Correspondents of the Helsinki Group on Women and Science and Eurostat have collected data on women scientists since 2003.

Consolidated statistical information from the cross-national perspective for all available years since 1990 on a variety of themes is available at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/women/wssi/index_en.html.

Keep abreast of developments in EU next research Framework Programme (FP7) at **EUROPA**,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.cfm

CORDIS, <http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/>

Information Society

WSIS and UNESCO, "Cultural Diversity in Knowledge Societies"

"*Cultural Diversity in Knowledge Societies*" is one of UNESCO's thematic meetings in preparation for the second meeting of the World Summit on the Information Society (*Tunis, Tunisia, 16-18 November 2005*). UNESCO held a three-day meeting on the subject in St Petersburg, Russia, from 17 to 19 May which aimed at measuring sustainability of Cultural diversity through the opportunities offered by ICT for future knowledge societies. The meeting stressed the current challenges regarding digital divide; development; cultural and linguistic diversity; obstacles to access to ICTs; and difficulties to produce local content (of

particular interest to libraries e.g. ongoing experiences, the Google proposal to digitise full collections of major libraries and publishers' catalogues, copyright protection and other issues on public domain digitalisation).

Its results will be made available at WSIS in Tunis through a Report including recommendations. Further information can be found at

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=17689&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

Review of the Scope of Universal Service

The Commission adopted on 24 May a Communication on the review of the scope of Universal Service (*COM (2005)0203*), which aims at assessing whether the current scope of universal service should be changed or redefined in the light of technological, social and economic developments, taking mobility and data rates into account. It also intends to launch a policy debate on universal service provision, particularly bearing in mind the overall assessment of the EU regulatory package for electronic communications scheduled for 2006.

The associated Commission Staff Working Document [*SEC (2005)0660*] provides supporting analysis and information. The Commission reviews the scope of

universal service periodically, this review being the first under the 2002 EU regulatory framework. Comments on the conclusions and longer-term issues presented in this communication and on the Staff Working Paper should be sent to info-b1@cec.eu.int by 15 July 2005.

Both documents are available at: <http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice> and/or http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/ecom/comm/index_en.htm.

The results will feed into a second Commission Communication in 2005, which will include a summary of the consultation results and the final Commission position on this review.

Accelerating the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/ecom/doc/useful_information/library/communications/reports/switchover/com_2005_0204_f_en_acte.pdf

The Commission adopted on 24 May a Communication to accelerate the switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting (*COM (2005)0204*).

The Commission expects most broadcasting in the EU to be digital by 2010 and proposes a deadline of early 2012 for phasing out traditional analogue terrestrial broadcasting. The Commission also calls for a coordinated approach to making freed-up spectrum available across the EU.

Communication (from digital 'switchover' to analogue 'switch-off') and, in the light of Member States' switchover plans published within the framework of the **eEurope action plan**, and a recent opinion of the **Radio Spectrum Policy Group**.

The Commission services working paper associated to the Communication addresses best practice with regard to consumer information strategies, financing aspects, capacity aspects in networks with 'must-carry obligations and the situation of digital radio.

This Communication builds on the 2003

Information Society

Budget evaluation of EU Activities

http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/evaluation/Internal_network/internalnetwork_en.htm

DG Information Society

Contact Mr P Johnston, tel.: +32 2 296 34 60

It contains evaluations of Information Society activities, Information Society

Technology as well as the non-RTD (Research, Technological development and Demonstration) activities and lists calls for project proposals, including a valuable source of documents about evaluation.

The budgetary framework for the EU for 2007-2013

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/misc/84874.pdf

At an informal meeting held on 22 May, General Affairs Ministers held an exchange of views on a revised version of the "negotiating box" submitted by the Presidency to help prepare the financial framework laid down for the EU budget during the period 2007-2013.

For the first time, the document includes indications of the amounts per category of expenditure, and the outline of a proposal concerning the EU's own resources.

In the view of the Presidency, ensuring adequate financing for Heading 3b – other internal policies, a number of other actions concerning in particular **culture, youth, audiovisual matters** and health and consumer protection areas, should result in a level of commitments for 2007-2013 representing no more than 5% annual real

growth compared to 2006.

Ensuring adequate financing for sub-Heading 1a) - competitiveness for growth and employment should result in a level of commitments representing somewhere between 8% and 11% annual real growth compared to 2006 for 2007-2013. It should provide adequate financing for initiatives to contribute to the Lisbon Strategy: RTD, connecting Europe through EU networks, **education and training**, promoting competitiveness in a fully-integrated single market, and the social policy agenda.

The Presidency intends for the European Council to reach agreement on the new financial framework on 16 and 17 June. To do so, it plans to adjust the negotiating box one last time in the light of bilateral talks to be held between 30 May and 9 June.

Internet

Internet usage in the EU-25

(EUROSTAT 62/2005 of 13 May 2005)

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, has released a report presenting the results of surveys of Internet usage by individuals and enterprises for the EU-25 Member States, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Norway and Iceland. As well as Internet use, it covers broadband connections, eCommerce and eGovernment.

In the EU-25, 47% of individuals aged from 16 to 74 - more men than women, and more

young people than old - and 89% enterprises used the Internet during the first quarter of 2004.

The highest levels of Internet usage by individuals in the EU-25 were recorded in Sweden (82%), Denmark (76%) and Finland (70%) and by enterprises in Denmark and Finland (both 97%), Belgium and Sweden (both 96%). Across the EU-25, 53% of enterprises had a broadband connection; the highest levels were recorded in Denmark (80%), Sweden (75%) and Spain (72%).

EBLIDA, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

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Information sources used include

Bulletin Quotidien Europe
Council Press Office Newsroom, <http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1>
European Parliament Press Service http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index_en.htm
RAPID - Press and Communication Service of the European Commission,
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/welcome.htm>
EUR-Lex, <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/>. Since 1 November 2004, EUR-Lex incorporates the CELEX service and provides free access in 20 languages to EU law.
Europa, <http://europa.eu.int/>
Various mailing lists

Calls for Tenders are published in the S series of the OJ as well as in the Tenders Electronic Daily database TED, <http://ted.publications.eu.int/official/> (new dates for the Official Journal Supplement since January 2005). EBLIDA Hot News online provides links to calls and programmes!

Calls are in general published in the C series of the Official Journal (OJ) of the European Communities, which comprises information and notices issued by the institutions of the Union e.g. preparatory legislative documents and questions put by Members of Parliament to the Commission and Council.

The C series is available online via EUR-Lex. Please note that the C E edition of the Official Journal, which is only available online, now publishes the explanatory statement for all Commission proposals.

EBLIDA encourages dissemination of our information. However, we would ask that the source be acknowledged. Documents are available at the EBLIDA Secretariat.

About EBLIDA...

EBLIDA is the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations. We are an independent umbrella association of national library, information, documentation and archive associations and institutions in Europe.

Subjects on which EBLIDA concentrates are European information society issues, including copyright & licensing, culture & education and EU enlargement. We promote unhindered access to information in the digital age and the role of archives and libraries in achieving this goal.