

LIBRARIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

MANIFESTO FOR THE 2024 EU ELECTIONS

A USERS' GUIDE

EU policy matters to libraries in Europe. Libraries pick-up on and reflect EU policy priorities such as the green transition, digital upskilling and fostering democracy in their programmes and activities. In turn, they can benefit from accessing EU funding, resources and tools. Relating your own activities to EU policy priorities can also help you to improve your communication with local policy makers and stakeholders. Communicating a shared vision of the European library sector will make our network stronger!

The Manifesto is phase 1. Phase 2 will start after the summer break and you will hear a lot more about that at a later date.

We want the Manifesto to be a tool available to library associations, libraries and library and information workers across the European Union in their advocacy work. The people who are elected to the European Parliament in June will be taking decisions that affect libraries, and so it matters that they understand why our work matters, and what we need to fulfil our missions.

We can best do this by engaging with them early!

As an election, it's not certain already who is going to be in the Parliament next time, although it seems likely that fewer than half of the current MEPs will return, and a number of high-profile figures are retiring.

So here are a few ideas of what you can do with the Manifesto:

- Produce a version in your own language (if not already covered) and share it on your website and media channels
- Share it with the main political parties in your country. You can even ask them to set out how far they support the five key asks, and what they plan to do about it
- If you can access lists of candidates for the main parties, see if you know anyone who is friendly to libraries, or perhaps in a connected field - an academic, teacher, community leader - and get in touch. Ask them what they think about the points raised in the Manifesto
- If you get enough responses, share these on your websites! Even if you don't, this will have been an opportunity to engage with politicians and parties
- You can also use the manifesto in your communication with policy makers and stakeholders at local and national level and show that you are part of a strong European network.