



SUOMI - FINLAND



#europe4libraries2019

Responses:

[Centre Party](#)
[Left Alliance](#)

Centre Party

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 primary responsibility for libraries remains with the member states. In the Nordic countries, there is a very strong tradition for publicly maintained libraries that are accessible for everyone, open and free. The Centre party is strongly committed to these principles.

Libraries consistently rank top for the most used and liked public services. When libraries are popular, it is easier to provide them sufficient resources for their constant development.

For example, the new Helsinki Central Oodi Library has been an instant hit: it is architecturally well-designed and logistically excellent. A nation that is prepared to invest in libraries is a nation with a 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?

Libraries should be flexible: alongside the ever valuable and loanable collections of books, they should plan ahead. Finnish public libraries are increasingly acquiring e-books, offering different kinds of digital services ranging from it-workshops for senior citizens to 3D-printing and reading education assistance dogs.

Some of the novel services cost money, some are practically free and can be organised with a bit of new thinking.

Libraries already have a very good reputation in many European countries. They must maintain it and ensure that new digitally savvy generations find them as well!

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?

This a huge challenge, not in terms of principle but resource-wise.



Finland is currently working on the implementation of open science principles. The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies is coordinating this work in collaboration with stakeholders across the whole society. Open availability of publicly funded science should be a coordinated effort in every member state and across the EU.

In the EU context, Open Data and Public Sector Information [directive](#) has been approved in January 2019 and should be swiftly implemented.

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?

This is a crucial question that is related to the very much wider discussion of preserving and remembering in a digital age. Millions of documents are not digitalised. They remain in oblivion even if they are physically existent and preserved. Because resources are always limited, the selection of what is to be digitalised with public funds is important. This equally applies to the presentation of the digitalised material. Not everybody knows about the *Europeana* portal, for example, although it already contains over 50 million items.

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 and their treasures are part of our common cultural heritage that helps in SDG implementation. They should be, as already stated, mainly publicly funded, open, well-located and well-resourced, truly accessible places.

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?

This is best done by ensuring that the EU and European states honour their commitments in implementing the SDGs, in this case in reducing inequality, making sure cities and communities are sustainable and that we have strong organisations.

Libraries help to reach each of these goals, creating a virtuous cycle of learning, awareness raising and positive political action for a more democratic world.

Tyrants always burn the books first.



Left Alliance

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 Left Alliance supports publicly funded libraries and encourage all European countries to invest in their libraries and develop them as a source of education, culture and democracy for all citizens. Library staff should be highly educated and access to library should be basic service comparable to schools or health care.

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?

Libraries are not just places to borrow and restore books. They should be seen as vivid uncommercial spaces for every citizen to develop their skills and seek for the newest information. Libraries should always be free of charge.

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?

EU should ensure implementation of relevant legislation – in particular the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market, as well as the Orphan Works Directive and provisions implementing the Marrakesh Treaty – in a way which supports these goals.

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 publicly funded, free of charge for users and accessible to everyone.

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 should be recognized as access to information and life long learning and this should be a criteria of development funding

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?

Europe and EU should take an influencer role and discuss on the issue at global level.