

The BVOe has organised a whole day programme for Public Libraries at the 30th Austrian Librarians Day. The discussion about the project ENTITLE took the form of a workshop.

The Agenda:

- 09:00 – 10:30 Online Service Offers in Public Libraries
(*Christian Hasiewicz, Roswitha Schipfer, Heike Merschitzka*)
- 11:00 – 12:30 “Educational opportunity Library”
(*Silvia Göhring, Thomas Rathgeb, Simone Breit*)
- 13:30 – 15:00 Intercultural Library
(*Susanne Schneehorst, Beate Wegerer, Jana Sommeregger*)
- 15:30 – 17:00 Learning in Libraries: The EU project ENTITLE
(*Gerald Leitner, Jana Sommeregger*)

The detailed agenda is available on the website of the Librarians Day: <http://www.bibliothekartag.at/aktuell/programm.htm> (German).

Three panels for Public Libraries were dealing with Life Long Learning, services for multicultural population and online service offers. The panels were attended by approx. 100 librarians from public and school libraries, stakeholders and experts from the Austrian library association.



The last panel “Learning in Libraries: The EU project ENTITLE” was held by Gerald Leitner (general manager of BVOE) and Jana Sommeregger (BVOE) as a workshop (<http://www.bibliothekartag.at/aktuell/abstract20090916t04o04p05.htm>), dealing with ENTITLE guidelines, country surveys and recommendations. At this workshop about 30 librarian experts from Austrian library associations and big city libraries in Austria took part. It was also attended by representatives of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, and colleagues from Germany.

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After an introduction to ENTITLE and the main milestones of the project we asked the participants to comment and assess the outcomes and usefulness of the project in their daily work.



In general, the participants were interested in the project and in how to further develop educational and training activities resp. how to evaluate life long learning programmes in libraries.

All participants agreed that in future life long learning will be one of the main tasks of libraries. They discussed learning types as well as learning environments and reflected which social role libraries are playing for the “digital natives”. The participants pointed out that best practice examples and the country surveys are very useful to disseminate new concepts.

In general, ENTITLE is now well known among library experts in Austria, the materials (guidelines and recommendations) as well as the country surveys are now well disseminated to stakeholders in Austria. The question is, how we can reach also small rural libraries and how we can help them to develop learning programmes.



Remarks from the participants:

- The workshop was too theoretical – more concrete examples would be helpful
 - All materials from the project should be available in German, too – this will help to introduce ENTITLE also to small libraries in Austria
 - Problem in Austria: no library policy – most of the libraries are small libraries that are run voluntary. Therefore for most libraries hard to use the framework – a very simple tool for analyzing the learning impact would be helpful.
 - Required: financial resources for modern learning tools
 - Required: extensive training for librarians especially in learning service
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- Required: national LLL strategy

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- Missing point: how can very small libraries develop a life long learning programme and how can they evaluate outcomes of learning?
- Main barriers: low political and financial support, high administrative tasks of EU project resp. high effort of resources (stuff, knowledge)
- Advice and best practice examples from more experienced libraries from abroad are welcome – the participants declared the usefulness of ENTITLE's country surveys
- Positive: awareness of the importance of life long learning and library learning services

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