



EIFL STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017

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INTRODUCTION

Access to knowledge is fundamental to education and research. It can break the cycle of poverty, improve employability and health, and promote sustainable development. Digital technology has revolutionized opportunities to disseminate information, to communicate and to learn.

However, billions of people in developing and transition countries cannot benefit from the new opportunities due to factors such as the high cost of e-resources, legal barriers to accessing and using information, and poor telecommunications infrastructure.

Effective libraries can provide quality information services to people in every field, including healthcare, engineering, agriculture and education. Well-resourced libraries can provide free or affordable access to computers, the Internet and e-resources. Well-informed librarians can advocate for important public policy goals in support of access to knowledge.

To meet the needs of citizens in developing and transition countries, libraries need modern technology, up-to-date content, well-informed staff and a supportive legal environment.

To continue its role supporting access to knowledge in developing and transition countries, the EIFL Strategic Plan sets out EIFL's strategic directions and goals for 2014-2017.

The Strategic Plan will guide the governance and the entire activities of EIFL as an organisation. In the process of creating this plan, EIFL has developed a new vision statement to guide staff and board members as they develop projects and support initiatives that improve people's lives.

This Strategic Plan covers three years: 2014-2017. The Management Board will evaluate and make recommendations on this strategic plan at the start and end of each year. Each programme manager will be asked to create an "annual operating plan" in which they will describe the specific activities they will undertake to achieve these objectives, as well as the success metrics for each activity listed. Operating plan is not part of the strategic plan, but rather a separate document to implement the plan.

VISION

A world in which every person has the knowledge they need to achieve their full potential.

MISSION

EIFL enables access to knowledge through libraries in developing and transition countries to support sustainable development.

VALUES

In pursuing its strategic directions, EIFL embraces the following core values:

- Practical, sustainable, local solutions
- Collaboration and partnership
- Knowledge sharing
- Innovative approaches

GOALS

To support our overall mission, EIFL's main organizational goals in 2014-2017 will be to:

1. Enable students, scholars and researchers in developing and transition countries to access knowledge for learning and research without legal and financial barriers.
2. Facilitate the development of pilot projects for innovative library services that improve the livelihoods of people.

In 2014-2017, EIFL will work with its members, partners and other relevant strategic organisations to achieve these goals through the following four key programmes: (1) Licensing; (2) Copyright; (3) Open access, and (4) Public Library Innovation.

GOAL 1:

Enable students, scholars and researchers to access knowledge for learning and research without legal and financial barriers.

OBJECTIVE 1

Negotiate highly discounted prices and fair terms of use to increase access to scholarly material that is essential for high quality research, and promote widespread adoption and usage of e-resources across the EIFL network through an extensive series of webinars, training workshops, and other support materials.

OBJECTIVE 2

Provide leadership advocating for national and international copyright law reform that eliminates restrictive copyright laws that create legal barriers to the access and use of resources for education, research and personal development. Support librarians to become advocates of fair access for all.

OBJECTIVE 3

Encourage the free and unrestricted access to research materials by (1) advocating for the adoption of open access policies and mandates by research funding agencies, universities and research organizations, and (2) building the capacity to launch sustainable open access repositories and journals that maximize access and increase visibility and usage of research outputs.

GOAL 2:

Facilitate the development of pilot projects for innovative library services that improve the livelihoods of people.

OBJECTIVE 4

Support public libraries in developing and transition countries to develop and implement innovative and replicable services that meet the changing needs of their local communities and advances sustainable development.

OBJECTIVE 5

Work with EIFL-partner countries and their libraries to initiate pilot programmes and services that employ technologies that enable the creation, discovery and use of content, and that expand access to knowledge for learning, education and research.