



Portugal

School Libraries Network

since 1996

The School Libraries Network Program

Launched in 1996 by the Ministries of Education and Culture, the School Libraries Network Program was aimed at installing and developing libraries in state schools at every level and give them technical and pedagogical support and consultancy.

In 2013, SLNP covered 100% of basic and secondary schools. The majority of larger primary schools have a school library, others benefit from a library service, assured by SLNP

The intervention in schools includes the adaptation and modernisation of the areas, the acquisition of specific equipment and furniture and development of an adjusted and updated collection, that includes all formats.

After 2013 we bet on:

- > quality of the network
- > quality of educative service with impact in students success
- > adequation to technological and digital issues
- > raising of literacy levels
- > innovative knowledge and citizenship spaces

Gabinete da Rede de Bibliotecas Escolares
Trav. Terras de Sant'Ana, 15.
1250-269 Lisboa, Portugal
T.: [+351] 21 389 5203/5212
rbe@rbe.mec.pt
<http://blogue.rbe.mec.pt/>
<http://www.rbe.mec.pt>



GOVERNO DE PORTUGAL

MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO E CIÊNCIA



REDE DE BIBLIOTECAS ESCOLARES



This procedure allows each school to manage the financial support awarded by the SLN Program, according to specific needs, and to develop, at the same time, its own school library project guided by the following principles:

> organization of the area, considering the front-office, the informal reading, documentation consulting and production

> free access collection supporting the curricula and free individual use

> documentation organization following bibliographic standards and procedures

> management of the library by a school librarian with adequate training

> adequate annual budget

How does it work?

The Ministry of the Education, through the School Libraries Network Office, is, therefore, responsible for the integration of the schools but this process also involves the Regional Departments of Education, and a partnership with Municipalities and Public Libraries. The SLN Office also supervises a group of teachers – the local and inter-municipal coordinators – with training and experience in the management of school libraries, that provide consultancy and technical support, in the field, to school libraries.

School libraries also have a team, coordinated by a teacher librarian. He/she is assisted by teaching and non-teaching staff. Since the launching of the Program, there has been a major concern in promoting in-service and graduated training to the library team and to other teaching staff. Regarding Elementary Education, libraries are installed in schools with a hundred students, approximately. In smaller schools, a library service provides a set of equipment and documents, regularly renewed and expanded through the circulation and loan, among schools.

The School Libraries Network Program is based on local and regional cooperation, with the purpose that, in each municipality, school libraries get together in a network community.

School communities, gathering schools of different levels, are the most important frame of networking principles, since all school libraries of a specific community are coordinated by the school library of the head school.

The School Libraries Supporting Services

School Libraries Supporting Services – named SABE – are created within the Public Libraries to support both local networking and technical support regarding information management and organisation, collection development policy, inter-library circulation and documentation loan, as well as the promotion of reading habits and adequate training of libraries staff.

The articulation with different partnerships – the SLN Office, schools and Public Libraries – also allows the development of several structured projects in the promotion of reading and literacy and provides, at the same time, the creation of a network information management system. An example is the development of a common electronic catalogue.

Expert teams have carried out a set of guidelines to develop and sustain management and quality services in school libraries, namely School Libraries Evaluation Model and National Standards Framework for School Libraries. An external evaluation of School Libraries Network Program was carried out in 2009, by an independent university.

The Program's development is carried out with librarians and information specialists. School Library is an infrastructure of the school, where all literacies and reading habits are developed and improved, preparing students to the major challenge of the Knowledge and Information Society.

