



European Toy Library
Network group



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European Toy Library general information



- Founded in 1996 during the Itla conference in Zurich
- First meeting 1998 in Paris
- 21 meetings since then
- Informal group



ETL Purposes



- To spread the idea of Toy Libraries (TL) as a means for bringing play and play material to people.
- To reinforce TL social cultural and educational role e.g. through research on special topics and European facts & figures.
- **To serve as a network and cooperate with national TL organizations, providing opportunities for international exchange of ideas and materials.**
- To organize common presentations at local, national and international events such as the International Conferences organized by the International Toy Library Association.
- To develop and spread communication materials online.

Deversity of Toy Libraries



- TL which main activity is lending toys. (Switzerland, The Netherlands, Belgium)
- TL which provide spaces to play. (Portugal, France, Spain, Greece)
- Ludobus in Italy. A bus full of toys and games comes to squares or public places.
- TL only for children with special needs with play advise from a therapist (Scandinavian countries)



Toy Library Definition



Toy libraries provide resources for play including toys and games, trained staff and dedicated space on a non-commercial basis.

2 days each year



- Plenary discussions
- Working in small groups
- Reports of TL work in the different countries
- World Play Day
- Diner together (the “in between moments” are important as well)
- Visit a Toy Library
- Cultural visit for example (toy) museum (according to the country which host the meeting)



LUDO

A 3D sign with the word "LUDO" in white, hollow letters is mounted on a dark metal track against a window. The window is decorated with various colorful paper cutouts, including hearts, stars, and abstract shapes in shades of red, orange, yellow, and purple. The sign is positioned horizontally across the middle of the frame.

Main topics of last years



- What can TL do for our refugees
- How become attractive for new visitors (adolescents and elderly)
- Digital play
- New ways to stay attractive, how about the tL in 10 years?

refugies



- Few years ago a lot of refugees from the middle east came to Europe
- Support immigration through play and song
- TI can play a role in immigration, making new friends, feeling welcome, learning the new language through play

adolescents



- Involve them on the toy library's work, give them responsibility;
- Organize game nights (board games are usually very interesting for them) and role play games where they can do small projects.
- Offer them activities such as escape rooms and competitions on several areas;
- Exciting and challenging activities seem to be the key to get adolescent enthusiastic with the toy library.

Elderly



- Interaction between generations is very important
- Learning from each other is enriching
- TL can provide in materials especially for the elderly
- TL can organize special events for elderly or for playing without age limit
- Knowledge and communication games were identified as good materials



How will toy libraries look like in 10 years?



- Official support from local or national government, task for TL to promote their work
- More paid staff
- Cooperation between library and toy library
- technology as a play material
- Out of the 4 walls, more activities outside for and with the community
- Working together with other stakeholders



More information you can find on our website

<https://etlgroup.wixsite.com/europeantoylibraries>

