EBN charter - revision 2025 - draft n°2

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| *Text of the new charter* | *Commentary/Alternatives* |
| EBN charter  The European Bibliodrama Network was founded in 2004 at the European Bibliodrama Congress in Gelnhausen. In this context, a first charter was created. This new EBN Charter was drawn up in 2025. | *The first «Charter of the European Bibliodrama Network EBN» is based on two pillars: standards for Bibliodrama training and forms of cooperation in a Europe-wide Bibliodrama network. The Covid-19 pandemic brought with it completely new needs and forms of international networking. The EBN secretariat intensified its work. This gave rise to the need for a revised EBN Charter.* |
| What is bibliodrama? Bibliodrama is an open-ended interaction process between the individual, the group as a whole and the text (1). An existential and hermeneutic dialogue takes place between the world of the participants and the world of the text. By identifying with people and situations from the text, the participants gain a deeper understanding of the texts and their lives.  There is a verbal and non-verbal exchange between the participants about the cultural and religious background they bring to the process. Varied aesthetic forms of expression fulfil an important function in this process.  The use of Bibliodrama in community life, in religious education, in adult education and in many other settings helps people to understand the fullness of life afresh and to put it into words. | *After 50 years of Bibliodrama practice, do we still need a definition of what Bibliodrama is? Especially as such a definition is difficult because of the openness of the process work. Back in 2004, the editors of the first charter had a very difficult time coming up with a definition that is no longer useful today.*  *This definition of the draft attempts to set a frame of reference.*  1 *3 options:*   1. only biblical texts 2. all sacred writings 3. religious and appropriate non religious writings |
| The value of Bibliodrama within European diversity Bibliodrama fundamentally respects the otherness, diversity and dignity of the other. Bibliodrama is therefore also peace work: people from the most diverse backgrounds deal with existential issues and questions. They respect each other in their diversity and do not try to convince others of their own opinions. We are convinced that Bibliodrama contributes to more peacebuilding in Europe. |  |
| Current challenges for the EBN  * In the 1970s, from the founding period to the turn of the millennium, Bibliodrama was trialled as an intercultural method between different religious denominations, particularly between the Protestant and the Catholic churches. Since the EBN was founded, more and more Christian denominations have joined in. Additionally, in today’s Bibliodrama many experiments are being made within the **interfaith** field. More and more basic research is being done. * The **cultural differences** in dealing with sacred texts, with the human body and with spiritual forms of expression must be carefully considered. * What was no longer conceivable at the beginning of this century has once again become reality: War is being waged in the centre of Europe. We want to consciously utilise the **peace-making** competence of Bibliodrama to overcome strife and discord in Europe. * **The Christian churches** in Europe are in crisis and are undergoing profound change. We are trying to use Bibliodrama to create new homes for spiritual seekers. | *The new charter is also intended to be a programme paper for the coming years.* |
| Structure of the network | *Twenty years ago, when the EBN was founded, a spirit of maximum freedom prevailed among bibliodramatists from five countries, and with it the creation of minimal structures. People spoke of an «open network of people». A secretariat with three members was set up, which was mainly responsible for the annual network meetings («Bibliodrama Congresses», later «European Bibliodrama Workshop») and the website.*  *In the meantime, numerous other countries have joined. National Bibliodrama organisations have been founded in many countries. This means that today it is no longer just a network of individuals, but also of organisations. This organic growth brings with it new coordination tasks.* |
| The idea of a network By «network» we mean a **non-hierarchical** form of organisation. The standards listed below are understood by the members (Bibliodrama leaders and Bibliodrama organisations) as **a self-commitment**; there are no controlling bodies. We want to further develop our Bibliodrama work in collegial counselling and professional exchange beyond the borders of our countries. The network is responsible for the frame of doing Bibliodrama in a European context. |  |
| Regular meetings **European Bibliodrama Workshop** (EBW): We endeavour to ensure that an other member country organises a training course each year. This usually lasts four days. It includes innovative Bibliodrama workshops on the one hand and exchange meetings in the sense of collegial counselling and further development of the network on the other.  There are also other network offerings such as opportunities for online Bibliodrama, interreligious workshops, working groups (which usually meet online) and much more. |  |
| Secretariat The secretariat comprises 5 to 8 people, especially those responsible for past and planned EBWs. This ensures continuity of the annual meetings. The committee is confirmed or supplemented at each EBN meeting during the annual workshop. It has no authoritative function but serves the network.  Tasks:   * + Ensuring annual EBWs   + Maintain the website [www.bibliodrama-ebn.eu](http://www.bibliodrama-ebn.eu) as an information and exchange platform for members   + Coordinate European working groups (interreligious Bibliodrama, EBO...)   + Take care of overarching topics in the network   + Collect financial contributions at the EBW for the operation of the website and to support the participation of individuals in international Bibliodrama workshops   To this end, it meets regularly online (usually every 2 months) and organises itself internally (coordination, minutes, finances, website, etc.). |  |
| Ethical principles and guidelines for leading Bibliodrama Bibliodramatic methods can have powerful effects. They can also be misused to manipulate people. That is why the ethical demands placed on Bibliodrama leaders are high. So members of the EBN do not offer Bibliodrama workshops without following or having completed a qualified Bibliodrama training program or equivalent. They commit themselves to adhere to the following principles and guidelines when leading Bibliodrama:   * **Respect**:  We respect all people regardless of nation, race, religion, gender, appearance and conviction. We show the same respect to all participants and do not try to convince anyone of our own opinions. We do not pass judgement on the statements of other group members. We make sure that participants treat each other with the same respect. * **Equal rights**:  We ensure that all participants are equally involved in the Bibliodrama process, especially in the interpretation of the text. * **Leadership**:  We do not lead in a directive manner, i.e. we organise the group process in such a way that all participants have a wide range of decision-making options. The leader serves the group with his/her theological, pedagogical, psychological and human competences. In leading Bibliodrama processes, we are more facilitators than leaders. As facilitators we open a room for the group. * **Discretion/confidentiality**:  We protect the intimate space of the participants by creating safe spaces. We make sure that any conflicts that arise are discussed within the group, but not outside of it. * **Globe**: People and human beings live in a concrete world reality, which they always bring into the group work. We organise Bibliodrama processes in such a way that they are always open to the environment, major world events and political reality. * **Process-orientation**:  We design Bibliodrama as a text-, group- and individual-orientated process. * **Holistic approach**: We cultivate a didactic approach that takes into account the mind-soul-body unity of the human being. * **Spirituality**: We seek to cultivate an attitude of spiritual accompaniment («I walk with you») rather than spiritual guidance («I show you the - right - way»). * **Reflection**: We regularly undergo further training in supervision, collegial counselling and appropriate continuous professional development. | *This section is the core of the new charter. The first charter emphasised the establishment of common training standards.* |
| Structure for Bibliodrama training Training in the 9 basic attitudes listed in section 5 above is part of every Bibliodrama training programme.  The «Common concept for further training to lead Bibliodrama» of the first EBN Charter of 2004 continues to provide very good guidelines for the organisation of training courses. However, these must now be increasingly adapted to national circumstances. For example, the requirements for participation in a Bibliodrama course must be defined differently.  The quality assurance of the courses continues to be promoted through international exchange among the trainers. Networking within the EBN is also helpful in this respect, in the absence of a quality control body.  A training programme that wishes to rely on the EBN must fulfil the following minimum structural requirements:   * + It must cover a total period of at least 1 ½ years and comprise at least 200 teaching hours over this period.   + The training will take place in a continuous learning group.   + The course leaders will be trained Bibliodrama leaders with additional adult education expertise.   + The course will include elements of self-awareness, practising leadership in the learning group and the application of what has been learnt in the participants' practical field.   + The course will include peer counselling and/or supervision in small groups. | *This was the core of the charter in 2004. It was intended to define a certain quality standard for Bibliodrama work throughout Europe. At that time, a conscious decision was made against a European Bibliodrama certificate. Quality was to be guaranteed through transnational exchange and mutual counselling.*  *Since then, new training programmes have been launched in many other countries. It has become apparent that these need to be increasingly adapted at national level.*  *Furthermore, minimum requirements need to be defined.* |

*Revised by Helene Isborn and Bruno Fluder 17/12/2024 after the premeeting in Krzyzowa 08/08/2024 and accepted by the secretariat EBN 30/11/2024*