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# DIRECTOR, LITHUANIAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

**LITHUANIA**

The Marrakesh Treaty gives libraries the right to convert printed works into accessible

formats (such as braille, audio, large print and digital accessible formats) for print-disabled people without having to ask permission from rightsholders, and to share these

works across borders. By the end of 2019, 88 countries worldwide had joined the treaty.

In September, EIFL co-organized a workshop for a group of neighbouring countries – Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Russia – that have either completed

or are advancing implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty into national law. The workshop focused on practical steps for libraries to take to make full use of their new rights under the treaty.

The Lithuanian Library for the Blind (LAB) hosted the workshop.

“There are 19,000 blind and visually impaired people in Lithuania and they request material in various languages, including Russian and Polish,” said Inga Davidoniene, Director of LAB.

“Since the workshop, we have requested and received 16 publications in accessible formats from Ksiaznica Podlaska library in Poland. We agreed metadata for cataloguing with their librarians, and the transfers were made using the online file transfer service Wetransfer. The workshop gave us the practical knowledge to do this,” said Inga.

**In 2019:** Thailand and Zimbabwe joined the Marrakesh Treaty, bringing the number of EIFL partner countries that have joined the Treaty to 16.

“The workshop helped to create a regional team with one goal – to fully implement the Marrakesh Treaty for the benefit of our users. Now we have a clear vision for the concrete steps to be taken to receive material that we need to serve our users.”

# – INGA DAVIDONIENE



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