

Paolo Buoso

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Candidate for the IGeLU Steering Committee (2026–2028)

I am Deputy Head of the University Library at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, where my work covers library systems, discovery services, electronic resources, and research information management. My professional focus is on improving library services through collaboration, innovation, and the effective use of shared technologies.

Founded in the late 1990s, the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano is a small and strongly international university, and my library reflects that profile. The library also manages services on behalf of other research libraries in the region, an arrangement built on shared infrastructures and on cooperation across institutions. Exchange with other institutions and shared solutions are therefore part of everyday work.

My institution has worked with Alma since 2013 and uses Primo, Leganto, and Esploro alongside it, having taken part in early adopter programmes for Alma, Leganto, and Esploro. Over these years I have worked closely with these products, which has given me a close understanding of both the strategic and the operational challenges facing academic and research libraries, including what it means to implement and test new solutions at an early stage.

I attended my first IGeLU Conference in Zurich in 2012, have been a member of the IGeLU Alma and Leganto working groups, the ITALE Leganto WG and have served on the IGeLU Conference Planning Committee for Prague, Singapore, the two online editions of 2020 and 2021, Cardiff, Leuven, and Copenhagen. Elected to the IGeLU Steering Committee in 2024, during my term I have supported the user community, represented member interests, taken part in governance activities, and helped strengthen collaboration between libraries and the vendor. I have contributed to conference planning, community engagement, and discussions on product development priorities, including the organisation of the IGeLU Conference in Siena and Taipei, where I helped coordinate programme development. Within the Steering Committee I also serve as Product Liaison for Esploro and Leganto and contribute to the association's communication through social media.

Beyond IGeLU, I am coordinator of the National Commission for University and Research Libraries (CNUR) within the Italian Library Association (AIB), a role that has deepened my experience in strategic planning, advocacy, and community engagement at national level. In it, I led a national survey on data and positioning of Italian academic libraries within institutions, creating a shared evidence base to support benchmarking and cooperation in the sector.

In a second term on the Steering Committee I would work to facilitate listening between the community and the vendor, so that innovation, quality, and interoperability between systems continue to be shaped by what libraries actually need and ask for. I would also work to make the exchange of information within the community easier, to advocate for continued support of the diverse requirements and practices of member institutions, particularly in teaching and research solutions, and to support the organisation of the IGeLU conferences.

I would be honoured to continue this work in a second term.