

CENL Executive Committee Meeting (30)

20 April 2022, 13:00-15:05 CET

Videoconference via GoToMeeting

Attendees

Frank Scholze (FS), CENL Chair
Janne Andresoo (JA), CENL Vice-Chair
Karin Grönvall (KG), EC Treasurer
Sara Lammens (SL), EC Member (from 13:30)
Hans Petschar (HP), EC Member
Ivanka Stricevic (IS), EC Member
Susanne Oehlschläger (SO), CENL Secretary

In attendance

Ophélie Ramonatxo (OR), BNF
Julijana Nadj-Guttandin (JN), CENL Secretariat, minutes

Excused

Laurence Engel (LE), EC Member

1. Approval of agenda

Paper 01

Approved.

2. Minutes from last AGM and EC meetings

Paper 02,A / Paper 02,B / Paper 02,C

The minutes from the last AGM meeting in Brussels are for information only. It is for the Board of Directors at the next AGM meeting in Ankara to vote on the minutes.

The minutes of the previous EC meetings held on 12 January 2022 and on 25 March 2022 are both approved of without further comments or correction.

LE's question concerning a presentation of CENL's new secretariat is moved to the EC meeting in May.

3. Matters and actions arising from minutes

Paper 03

Action item 02 (January 2017): SO informs that some of the papers, that were missing from previous AGMs are still available at the DNB, and the secretariat will add them to the CENL archive in the members' area of the CENL homepage.

Action item 14 (January 2020): Concerning data protection issues SO is in contact with specialists at the German National Library.

Action item 09 (September 2021): The financial audit for last year will be finalized soon and the colleagues from the British Library will send it to FS to sign.

Action item 05 (January 2022): The finalized strategic priorities should be send out to the members before the EC meeting in May.

Action item 05 (September 2021): As the term of the Network Groups will end by the end of 2022, the secretariat did not remind the chairs of their duty to send regular updates to the EC. The new term starts in 2023, so by the end of this year there will be a new application process.

Action Item 08, concerning the reflection on the new direction of the funds will be discussed in a meeting in autumn, since it is a large topic. probably September. EC can give a recommendation but the Board has to approve.

4. Support for Ukraine and Ukrainian libraries

Paper 04

Discussion on support to safeguard Ukrainian digital heritage

The discussion centers around SUCHO (Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online), CENL has been contacted by the Swiss NL to discuss how CENL can support and coordinate SUCHO's efforts. SUCHO is organized by volunteers, the initiative comes from Stanford University, Tufts University and the Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage. Swiss NL is ready to help financially and the BNF proposed to host content on their servers (at the moment, SUCHO has a deal with Amazon to store digital content for free, but costs will apply in the future). BNF is in contact with SUCHO as well with regard to identifying URLs of Ukrainian websites, hosting websites and exploring web archiving.

HP informs that Max Kaiser, Head of Research and Development at the Austrian National Library is in touch with SUCHO and he will report back.

KG points out that it is vital to find out what the needs are exactly in order to tailor help accordingly. FS agrees that it is necessary to get an insight into the needs of the Ukrainian national library. The Ukrainian Library Association said they needed digitization software, German Libraries are trying to procure that. OR points out that CENL should ask its members for employees with the necessary language skills (Russian and Ukrainian) and the know-how for identifying URLs that should be saved.

One option would be to cooperate with the Internet Archive, but for that financial input would be needed. A financial involvement from CENL for a long period would be beyond its possibilities. Another option would be to set a new fund for the preservation of cultural heritage, but CENL can't run a permanent infrastructure.

Web page #Stand with Ukraine

The secretariat set up the #Stand with Ukraine page and will send a reminder to all members to post their help efforts on the page.

Action item 1: send reminder to members to send information on their Ukraine-related activities and initiatives

Membership Fee

It is agreed that the membership fee for the Ukrainian National Library will be suspended for this year.

Donation of suspended payment for EKN Grant of NL of Russia

The reminding 300€ from the EKN Grant to Russia shall not be given to the Ukrainian NL

Ukrainian culture in European National Libraries

OR asks if the money could be used to collect Ukrainian context in CENL's membership libraries. FS points out that for a distributed Ukrainian library of literature and cultural heritage more money would be needed, since it would be a large project. SO informs that members shall be asked to provide a query link for their catalogues to find Ukrainian content. KG asks if established infrastructure like Europeana could not be used for this, but HP argues for a more practical approach, e. g. the Austrian NL created a special reading room for Ukrainian refugees, students and researchers. IS notes that a bibliography of Ukrainian literature and culture could have two-fold function. It could be a help and information point for refugees (as in the Austrian NL approach), furthermore, it could be helpful for a future rebuilding of physical collections. Thus CENL should encourage its members to compile Ukrainian-focused bibliographies.

There is overall agreement for CENL to discuss the launch of a new structural emergency programme for endangered cultural heritage which would not be specifically geared towards one country, but long-lasting. Saving cultural heritage is in all of CENL's members interest and a broader approach would find easier agreement with all members. Such a new fund needs defined criteria, a transparent assessment and clear guidelines for deployment.

Action item 2: Discussing the set up a new emergency fund for endangered cultural heritage

5. Finance report

Paper 05

The secretariat sent the report to KG as the treasurer, the full report will be sent for EC's May meeting.

Financial support for AGM

The EC agrees on option 1 (offering 1,000 € to members paying 750-1250€ fees). The secretariat will send this information to all entitled members. Past experience has shown that not all entitled members claim this financial support.

Action item 3: The secretariat will send information to all entitled members.

6. Bursaries and Grants Update

Paper 06 with appendices A-K

Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant

There were 5 applications (Moldova, Estonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Montenegro) for this grant. The secretariat assumed that three grants could be given, but it is only one. The secretariat reviewed and ranked the applications and recommends the following applications: In first place Estonia, in second place Lithuania, in third place Bulgaria. The EC agrees with this ranking.

FS wants to put it up to the AGM to increase the budget for this fund, so that the three recommended applicants can be funded. Since there weren't many applications in the last years, the budget for the Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant had been decreased. It is agreed upon that if CENL stays within the overall budget, there can be some internal transfers. If this is not possible, AGM can also vote on a supplementary budget.

Covid-19 Support Fund

There have been two applications (Moldova and North Macedonia). The secretariat reviewed the applications and recommends to award the grant to North Macedonia. The EC agrees.

Hidden Stories Fund

There have been four applications (Latvia, Scotland, North Macedonia, British Library). The secretariat reviewed the applications and recommends to award the grants to Scotland and the British Library. The EC agrees on the secretariat's proposal.

Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme

Two applications (Bulgaria and Romania) arrived in February and were approved. The secretariat recommends to approve of the third pending application (Bosnia and Herzegovina), since there weren't many applications for this grant in the last years and there was no official deadline published. The budget, which has been reduced due to the Covid-19 pandemic, should be increased accordingly. The EC agrees to let the secretariat check whether CENL stays within the overall budget and thus could pay for this third fund. If this is not possible, the AGM can vote on a supplementary budget for this fund as well. Some of the EC members ask for the applications, the secretariat agrees to deliver them, soon.

Action item 4: The secretariat will send the applications to the EC members.

7. Network Groups Update

Paper 07

Books and Audiences Network Group (BANG)

Since the chair of the Books and Audiences Network Group stepped down, there has been an application for the position by Anete Krumina from the NL of Latvia. The EC accepts Anete Krumina as the new chair of the BANG.

Artificial Intelligence Network Group (AING)

The group sent a report and will report at the AGM in Ankara. The group wants to end their work by the end of 2022.

Copyright Network Group (CRNG)

There is still no chair for this group. As the term of the Network Groups will end in December 2022, a new chair will fill in only for the remaining term. Up to now no one is interested to take up the position of chair under these conditions.

The sponsors for the network groups are confirmed: SL for BANG, HP for AING, FS for CRNG.

A call for establishing application of (new) network groups will be announced at the AGM in Ankara.

8. New format: CENL dialogue forum

FEP-CENL dialogue forum

Paper 08

FS informs, that in Paper 08 there is a leftover from a previous version of the

paper, the EC are asked only to take a decision on the new format Dialogue Forum and to agree on the FEP-CENL Dialogue Forum.

IS asks what kind of structure this new format will have. There are questions concerning chairing and reporting. FS explains that the existing FEP-National Libraries Working Group, chaired by Ute Schwens from the German NL, will be the nucleus of the group. For the future, all dialogue formats will need some kind of election process, but they will be more informal than the network groups.

EC agrees to launch the CENL Dialogue Forum (DF) as a new format where CENL members can meet with representatives of other organizations or interest groups to discuss topics of mutual interest.

One of the first Dialogue forums shall be the FEP-CENL Dialogue Forum incorporating the existing FEP-National Libraries Working Group. The group can have subgroups. One of these subgroups shall be the existing “French-German Meeting of Copyrighted Works in Digital Libraries”. Other subgroups are welcome.

9. Future venues for the Annual General Meeting

Paper 09

The EC agrees on the following venues for the future AGMs:

2024 NL of Poland

2025 NL of Scotland

2026 NL of Luxemburg.

HP informs the EC that the AGM must confirm the decision.

Summary of actions:

Action item 1: update webpage, send reminder to members to post their initiatives

Action item 2: Setting up a new emergency fund for endangered cultural heritage

Action item 3: The secretariat will send information to all entitled members.

Action item 4: The secretariat will send the applications to the EC members.