

CENL Executive Committee Meeting (31)

23 May 2022, 11:05-13:55 CET
 Videoconference via GoToMeeting

Attendees

Frank Scholze, CENL Chair
 Janne Andresoo, CENL Vice-Chair
 Karin Grönvall, EC Treasurer
 Sara Lammens, EC Member (until 13:00)
 Hans Petschar, EC Member
 Ivanka Stričević, EC Member
 Susanne Oehlschläger, CENL Secretary

In attendance

Ophélie Ramonatxo, BNF (as a representative for Laurence Engel)
 Michael Duchardt, CENL Secretariat
 Katharina Schöneborn, CENL Secretariat
 Sabine Schrimpf, CENL Secretariat
 Stefanie Schust, CENL Secretariat, minutes

Excused

Laurence Engel, EC Member

Frank Scholze opened the last meeting before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Ankara by welcoming the Executive Committee (EC) members and guests.

The meeting started at 11:05 CET.

With Michael Duchardt (Finances), Katharina Schöneborn (Minutes and Papers), Sabine Schrimpf (Funds and Grants) and Stefanie Schust (Minutes and Papers), individual members of the CENL Secretariat were present to introduce themselves personally to the EC members. Susanne Oehlschläger showed a slide with pictures of those colleagues on the team who could not attend and explained their respective areas of responsibility. She outlined that all members have been staff of the German National Library before. There are considerations as to whether an additional person should be hired to work exclusively for the CENL Secretariat.

1. Approval of agenda

Paper 01

Ophélie Ramonatxo informed about the Bibliothèque nationale de France's (BnF) launch of a micro survey via the CENL mailing list about the conditions for communicating documents in the different national libraries. She thanked everyone who answered and announced that there is a report in the making. Frank Scholze responded that if there is enough time left, the topic can be discussed under "Any other business".

Agenda was approved with no further additions.

2. Minutes from last EC meeting, 20 April 2022

Paper 02

Ivanka Stričević thanked for the minutes and suggested to think about adding a list of abbreviations, as a lot of acronyms are used in the minutes. This could be especially helpful for understanding if someone from outside the meetings gets access to the minutes.

Frank Scholze and Susanne Oehlschläger clarified that the minutes are only used for internal purposes and will not be published. It shall be continued that terms are first written out in full, then the acronym can be used. The Chair proposed that a balance should be found and that ideas for terms that require less explanation are welcome.

Minutes were approved with no further additions.

3. Matters and actions arising from minutes

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

- Susanne Oehlschläger explained that there was no need to remind members to post their news regarding the Ukraine, as they were already sent out within the content call for the news.
 The wait is now on for new general ideas on how to support the Ukrainian colleagues.

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

- Not yet completed due to ongoing measures. What could be done in this context needs to be discussed more broadly at one of the next EC meetings.

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

- Successfully completed. A total of seven responses were received from members wishing to apply for financial assistance. One is from the Director General of the National Library of Ukraine, who has stated that she is unable to travel. It can be assumed that other members will follow who want to claim such assistance.
 This should not be a problem as long as it is still within the budget.

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

- Has not yet been done. Sabine Schimpf will take care of this after the meeting.

Frank Scholze added for action item 2 that it will be necessary to balance the workload. It is planned to address this in the second half of the year. A proposal will be probably presented in one of the EC meetings in winter. Susanne Oehlschläger pointed out that there is a face-to-face meeting planned with all EC members for autumn, since such matters are best discussed in person.

4. Support for Ukraine and Ukrainian libraries

Frank Scholze mentioned that in general there has been reached an operational level for help. For example, in Germany the Network for the Protection of Ukrainian Cultural Heritage coordinates information on the situation and bursaries are offered at several German libraries for Ukrainian colleagues. CENL itself is not in a position to fund direct aid on a large scale, therefore support for already ongoing initiatives such as those led by UNESCO or Europeana is considered as useful. The UNESCO is already building a digital library, saving not only websites like Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online (SUCHO), but also physical material. Both Ophélie Ramonatxo and Hans Petschar

reported that they are in contact with SUCHO, but no concrete statements have yet been made about the proposal to host the collected content on the servers of the BnF.

Ophélie Ramonatxo informed about the UNESCO initiative with IFLA. An emergency group has been set up to protect Ukrainian museums, coordinated by the Louvre Museum in Paris. There is also the idea of joining a group dedicated to the help of Ukrainian libraries and whether this could be an opportunity for CENL to contribute. She also spoke about the Europeana initiative. A working group about Ukraine is being launched, which coordinates activities, promoting actions on the Europeana websites, communicating about Ukrainian collections, metadata and digitization. These efforts have not yet started, but there have already been enquiries about the extent to which CENL wants to participate. In this context, Susanne Oehlschläger added that meanwhile an official request has been received from the Director General of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, Lyubov Dubrovina, to suspend their membership fee. As this was already decided at the last EC meeting, it now has to be confirmed by the Board of Directors at the AGM.

5. CENL Annual General Meeting

Preliminary Programme

Paper 03

Frank Scholze thanked the CENL Secretariat for the preparatory work especially taking into account that this is the first time the AGM is organised by them. Due to many inquiries from the member libraries, a preliminary program was published, which should represent a first draft. Susanne Oehlschläger informed the EC that with 57 registrations (including 39 member delegates) a high number of participants is expected, especially after the last two years when there were no travel opportunities. The EC members agreed that the draft represents an interesting program with key note speakers from different perspectives on the role of national libraries for the society, especially with the addition of the exceptional Ukrainian view. A discussion ensued about the extent to which Barbara Lison will take a position on the crisis within IFLA. It was assumed that there might be an opportunity to address this during Q&A in Ankara. The EC members agreed that these issues could not be left out, and transparency is needed to maintain trust in IFLA as it has a big impact on all libraries. Regarding the question of whether CENL intends to set up a Dialogue Forum with IFLA, Frank Scholze replied that there is no definite list with organisations that could participate. If the members express this wish, the forum itself would offer a platform for this communications.

Susanne Oehlschläger assured herself about the voting modalities for the upcoming proxy form. According to this, the members only have to vote on last year's minutes and the updated budget.

In response to a question from Ophélie Ramonatxo, Frank Scholze and Susanne Oehlschläger affirmed that all documents for the business meeting will be uploaded to the website on the Members area prior to the meeting in Ankara. Only the presentations of the speakers will be made accessible afterwards.

Sara Lammens proposed the idea of Q&As being taken from different EC members to create more variety. Frank Scholze agreed and encouraged the other members to contact Susanne Oehlschläger if they are interested.

Janne Andresoo asked if there is still a time slot in the program for the Erland Kolding Nielsen (EKN) report. Since the report was not completed before the draft was published, it could not be included in the program. Susanne Oehlschläger will add the report to the program, probably for the second day of the AGM.

A discussion then ensued about the proposed structure of the Lightning Talks in the context of the strategic priorities of CENL. The scheduled time of one hour was considered to be too little by the majority of the EC members. Ivanka Stričević suggested group talks to better involve the members. Karin Grönvall supported this idea, especially because it is now possible to meet again in personal discussions. Ophélie Ramonatxo saw this in particular as a positive signal towards the members from the new presidency. EC agreed to allow more time for this item by limiting the time for the presentation of Laurence Engel about the AGM 2023 in Paris and the individual presentations of the Network Groups, so a total of 1 hour 30 minutes is estimated.

It was agreed upon the format of the Lightning Talks should be a combination: National libraries should present their strategies as short Lightning Talks for the whole audience and in the breakout groups should be the opportunity to relate these to the CENL strategies. This was not intended as workshops, but merely as discussion groups to get a reflective sense of the draft strategic priorities before the final version will be presented at the next AGM in 2023. It was decided that the four breakout groups shall be led by Hans Petschar, Ophélie Ramonatxo, Ivanka Stričević and Damian Elsig from the Swiss National Library. The presentation proposed by Damian Elsig about how to the organise and furnish the library building for the future should be given as a Lightning Talk at the beginning of his moderation.

In order to achieve more structured results in the breakout groups, possible guiding questions should be agreed upon:

- Is there anything missing in the strategic priorities, are there any additions from the member libraries?
- Are there concrete ideas how to put that into action?
- What are the main priority topics for the member libraries within the CENL strategy?

Frank Scholze suggested that EC members may send further questions to the secretariat by e-mail and thanked for the lively discussion, which has evolved the program once again.

Treasurer's Report, 2022 Supplementary Budget and 2023 Budget Paper 05

Frank Scholze explained that the current 2022 budget and the proposed 2023 budget state that income will be lower than expenditure. For the overspend the reserves shall be used. In figures, this means that the newly proposed budget for 2022 includes €12,000 more than officially agreed by the Board of Directors in November 2021.

Due to the loss of the membership fees from Russia and Ukraine, about €6,000 more will have to be spent. In addition, the secretariat recommended to accept two applications for the EKN grant for which no money was approved before and the banking cost at ING are much higher than expected before. At the same time, CENL has a lot of money in the reserves, so that there won't arise any financial problem. Whereas there is no need for CENL to keep large amounts of money in the reserves, they should be reduced gradually over the next few years. After a short discussion all EC members agreed on the new budget planning that has to be explained at the AGM in

Ankara and voted on by the Board of Directors. Susanne Oehlschläger pointed out that due to the new structure of the membership fees, the contribution for some member states will increase, so that automatically less of the reserves will have to be used. Due to the special circumstances of the last few years, the budget had already been decreased continuously, for example, because the pandemic prevented people from traveling.

CENL Annual Report 2021/2022

Paper 06

The EC members were satisfied with the Annual Report. Ophélie Ramonatxo asked whether more explanation is needed as to why the FEP-CENL Dialogue Forum is being relaunched. Frank Scholze and Susanne Oehlschläger stated that there is no need to go deeper in the history in the report, and that the focus was the fact that a new format has been established. While the Network Groups are more of an internal CENL format, the Dialogue Forums shall be an outreach to external partners. Furthermore, it was discussed how the Network Groups could be structured in order to be in line with the strategic plan of CENL. As Susanne Oehlschläger explained, all Network Groups will end formally by the end of the year. The CENL members may apply to install a new network group. If any of the existing Network Groups wishes to continue, it must reapply. While the Books and Audiences Network Group has already signalled its intention to continue, no one in the Copyright Network Group has yet agreed to chair it, and the AI in Libraries Network Group has announced to cease. Frank Scholze pointed out that active member engagement in Network Groups is important as it aligns with the strategic priorities, and asked EC members to promote this in their libraries and communities.

6. Any other business

Ophélie Ramonatxo reported on the micro survey concerning communication of documents in national libraries. It is still possible to take part in the survey. Everyone who has responded so far seemed very interested in the results. Hans Petschar also led a survey a few years ago and explained that basic information was published but that it was not possible to obtain complete results from all libraries. He promised to look for where these publications can be found, as Susanne Oehlschläger also noted that it would be important to know exactly what information should be published on the website. Frank Scholze said that he wanted as much as possible information on the projects be published, at least in the archives of the CENL website. The CENL Secretariat should always be contacted for this purpose.

Frank Scholze thanked the EC members for the productive meeting. He said to be looking forward to seeing all of them again in person at the AGM in Ankara.

The meeting ended at 13:55 CET.