

Bursaries and Grants Update

Actions required:

- EC are asked to make a decision about the future of Covid-19 Support Fund.
- EC are asked to make a decision about the future of Hidden Stories Fund.
- EC are asked to start the discussion on a potential new Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage and if possible make a decision.

I. Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant

In January 2017 CENL introduced a grant to celebrate the enormous contribution Erland Kolding Nielsen made to the development of European libraries throughout his long and distinguished career as Director General of the Royal Library, Denmark. The annual grant awards up to €5,000 to a CENL library project which promotes international collaboration and strengthens bonds between CENL libraries. Two grants were awarded each year in 2017 and 2018, three in 2019, one in 2020, two in 2021, and three in 2022.

Status of 2022 EKN Grants

CENL Member	Details	Status
Estonia	The NL of Estonia is evolving into a competence centre and coordinator of the library network in the country. In the process of re-thinking role and activities of the NL of Estonia, they have been studying best practices in other countries, whose NL plays a central role in the library network and identified Luxembourg as an excellent example. Five members of the NL of Estonia's top management plan to visit the NL of Luxembourg from 2-5 May 2022 to learn about the policies and practical activities related to being a competence centre of the library network, to exchange experience in the field of organisational management, to understand how the role of the NL of Luxembourg is regulated by legislation and how management is arranged inside the organisation.	Completed, report on website
Lithuania	The National Library seeks to spread the message about benefits of early reading to as much broad audience as possible: librarians, educators, and parents. A forum devoted specifically to early reading would lay a sound foundation for developing such a community and would reach global audience. The project aims to attract several different target audiences: library workers, researchers, educators, librarians, parents, representatives of informal education, and others. The forum plans to provide live events. Professional reports as well as discussions and educational activities for parents and specialists will be recorded in order to make them publicly available later on. The forum will be interpreted into and out of the Lithuanian and English languages. We also intend to invite our partners (libraries, schools, kindergartens, etc.) who would consent to organize satellite activities in their towns / cities and establishments. The extent of the forum will depend on the	Project started after the CENL AGM in Ankara made some additional budget available for EKN grants

	received funding. We are also applying to the following funds: Lithuanian Culture Council Fund and The Sweden-Lithuania Cooperation Fund.	
Bulgaria	<p>Exhibition "Wealth of color and tradition". In challenging times, we look at what connects us - culture, tradition, customs: The NL of Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro, Serbia and Romania have an abundance of albums, photographs, sketches and illustrations of traditional costumes and embroidery of the region. Each library can contribute 5 digital objects for a common exhibition, illustrating the richness and color of these traditional elements.</p> <p>The exhibition of 30 boards, featuring visuals and short annotations in English, will be opened in Sofia in Nov. 2022 with representatives from each country and the respective embassies. The exhibition can be turned into a travelling one. A digital exhibition will be organized as well.</p>	Project started after the CENL AGM in Ankara made some additional budget available for EKN grants

Changes in the status of EKN Grants 2019 - 2021 since last EC meeting

EKN Grant	CENL Member	Details	Status
2020	British Library	Conference, "National Libraries Now: International Perspectives on Library Curation," to be held in July 2021 at the British Library.	Underspent on online conference, have asked to use unused funds to arrange a follow-up workshop.

II. Covid-19 Support Fund and Hidden Stories Fund

1. Covid-19 Support Fund

The Covid-19 Support Fund is a grant to provide funding to help CENL members respond to immediate challenges connected to the Covid-19 crisis, and offer support to adapt and reimagine ways of working together for the longer-term future. Five grants were awarded in 2020, two in 2021, and one in 2022. It needs to be decided whether the Covid-19 Support Fund shall be continued beyond 2022 (see also section IV in this paper).

Status of 2022 Covid-19 Support Fund

CENL Member	Details	Status
North Macedonia	During the COVID 19 crisis, libraries have been left without their readers, researchers and their physical presence. The project aims to establish a virtual "Book Club", which would be a kind of digital replacement for our filled hall of the library with readers. NUL St. Climent of Ohrid - Book Club is conceived as a modern IT solution that will offer our members to exchange recommendations, experiences, views on our collections or books in general, to open "under clubs" according to their taste and favorite genre, but also to give their suggestions about the improvement of the existing services in our library, to propose new ones, to actively participate in the creation of its annual program with their proposals for projects or days dedicated to a certain topic.	Project started, upfront payment was made in June 2022

Changes in the status of Covid-19 Support Fund 2020 - 2021 since last EC meeting

	CENL Member	Details	Status
2021	Malta	A digital presentation and info panels highlighting the rich collections and archival groups in the National Library of Malta's trust, which will travel across the national and public libraries' network as well as to book festivals and fairs.	Completed, report on website
2021	Moldova	Improving digital technology equipment for the Center for Continuing Vocational Training in Library and Information Sciences within the National Library.	Completed, report on website

2. Hidden Stories Fund

In 2020, CENL supported IFLA’s dedication to inclusion and to actively work against racial discrimination of all kinds. The Hidden Stories Fund aims to support projects to collect, preserve, research and highlight the stories from, by and related to underrepresented communities in our national collections.

In 2020, one grant was awarded for 2,500 EUR, two grants for 5,000 EUR each in 2021, and two grants for 2,000 EUR each in 2022. It needs to be decided whether the Hidden Stories Fund shall be continued beyond 2022 (see also section IV in this paper).

Status of 2022 Hidden Stories Funds

CENL Member	Details	Status
Scotland	This project will produce a series of short videos which highlight items in the library’s collection that capture the lives and stories of LGBT people throughout history. This project will be based on the previously completed work of an LGBT+ History Intern. The focus will be on preserving and sharing the work of this internship with the general public in an accessible and interesting format. This internship focused on pre-1950s items allowing for the discovery of lesser known items and LGBT individuals and the selected stories will reflect this.	Project started
British Library	Youth-led project with support from the Library, working closely with local youth group, KCBNA (Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association). The research will be conducted independently by the young people into their family histories with help and guidance from the CE Team and The British Library curators involved. The aim will be to support local young people to develop research and interviewing skills exploring their own family histories with sensitivity and linking each area with the appropriate Library collection so that the artefacts contribute to a visual representation of people’s personal background stories. BL curators will help the young people tell their stories through collections pertaining to specific areas of the world: Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Bangladesh and India. We will film the project to document the process and eventually work with other local groups.	Project started

Changes in the status of Hidden Stories Fund 2020 - 2021 since last EC meeting

	CENL Member	Details	Status
2021	Macedonia	Enriching the Library with LGBTQ+ publications - Conducting research on the extent to which LGBTQ+ publications are present in the collection and what publications are needed, as resources on queer topics have not previously been acquired in an organised manner, leaving a gap in available literature.	Completed, report on website
2021	Serbia	A project to record and preserve women's experiences of the pandemic. Collection Days where women are invited to share stories of their lives during pandemic, especially those in the front lines. A series of lectures from academia, culture and media will accompany these Collection Days.	Completed, report on website

III. Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme Update

In 2022, two applications were submitted in February (by the National Libraries of Romania and Bulgaria) and approved by the CENL secretariat. After the CENL AGM agreed to increase the Skills and Knowledge Exchange (SKE) Bursary Scheme, a third application (of Bosnia and Herzegovina) could be approved. For the remainder of 2022, there are no Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries available. The secretariat will open the next call for applications in the first quarter of 2023.

Status of 2022 SKE Grants

CENL Member	Details	Status
Romania	From 4 to 11 June 2022 Dr. Nicoleta-Roxana Dinu from the National Library of Romania, Institutional Development Department, visited the National Library of Sweden (Kungliga Biblioteket - KB) in order to have a proactive discussion with its specialists on the workflow used in both libraries, with a special focus on international cooperation, digitisation processes and legal deposit.	Completed, Report on Website
Bulgaria	Representatives of the Bulgarian National Library visited the Albanian National Library in Tirana in April 2022 to exchange good practices on conservation and digitization of library artefacts.	Completed, Report on Website
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Professional visit of the director of the National Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the National and University Library of Slovenia in Ljubljana in July 2022, in order to make updates to the cooperation agreement between Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, to exchange publications, and to discuss collaboration in mutual projects.	Report pending

IV. Reflection on the future direction of the new funds

In their meeting on 12 January 2022, the EC decided to have a broader reflection on the new direction of the new funds (Covid 19 Support Fund and Hidden Stories Fund) in one of its upcoming meetings. During their meeting on 20 April 2022 EC members agreed to discuss the potential set up of a new emergency fund for endangered cultural heritage.

In the meantime, the Board of Directors adopted the 2023 budget during the Annual General Assembly in Ankara, June 19-21. In 2023, 10,000 EUR will be available for the CENL Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary and the new funds. For EKN there is a separate budget of 15,000 EUR.

1. Covid-19 Support Fund

The Covid 19 Support Fund was created to help CENL members respond to immediate challenges connected to the Covid-19 crisis. Since this acute situation no longer exists, the secretariat proposes to let the funding expire at the end of the year.

The EC are asked to make a decision on whether the fund should be continued or not.

2. Hidden Stories Fund

With regard to the Hidden Stories Fund, the secretariat sees still potential to support relevant projects but abstains from a recommendation.

The EC are asked to make a decision on whether the fund should be continued or not.

3. New Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage

Driven by the war in Ukraine and the resulting threat for the Ukrainian cultural heritage, the EC agreed to discuss the idea of a potential new Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage. Although triggered by the current situation, the idea has been to discuss whether a fund should be launched that is open to any CENL member seeking to save endangered cultural heritage.

If the EC favor the idea to go forward with a new Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage, they will have to set a mission, a scope, and a budget for the new fund. The budget would have to be taken from the 10,000 EUR that are intended for the CENL bursary program, or the Board of Directors would have to be asked to vote on a supplemental budget during the next AGM.

Some thoughts of the secretariat:

- How should „Endangered Cultural Heritage“ be defined?
- How much money should the Fund be endowed with?
- How many projects should be funded per year?

The EC are asked to start the discussion on a potential new Fund for Endangered Cultural Heritage and if possible make a decision.