

## CENL NETWORK GROUP APPLICATION FORM

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### 1. Applicant Personal Details

Title: Ms

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### 2. Applicant Current work

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### 4. Network Group Topic

4.1) Please describe your proposed group topic in less than 300 words.

We propose establishing a new CENL Climate Change Network Group. This network would bring together CENL members with the objective of understanding and exploring the role of libraries in bringing about a better climate future. The Network will aim to hear from a variety of voices and experts to identify why libraries are an important player in supporting a positive climate agenda as well as what practical steps libraries can take to reduce emissions, how to develop community engagement strategies and programmes that inform and engage audiences on the issue, and how libraries can support and work with their staff in bringing about a better climate future.

4.2) Please describe the main aims of this group. Describe how this topic will align with the priorities and objectives under the CENL Strategy 2018-2023, and what its impact will be.

Our proposed Climate Change Network Group aligns with several of the priorities and objectives under the CENL Strategy 2018-2023 such as:

- Supporting national libraries to increase their impact and to be more sustainable organisations
- Developing our services

The Network Group would allow CENL members to share their knowledge and experiences on adapting to the challenges posed by climate change, in particular regarding our buildings and digital infrastructures. By collaborating together, we will be able to develop better practices and help CENL members achieve their sustainability objectives.

The group will also contribute to demonstrating the key role that national libraries play in the fight against climate change, in particular when it comes to facilitating research and information literacy on this topic, as well as empowering people to explore solutions for a climate resilient future.

The Group will also explore how national libraries can work with their audiences to increase climate literacy and provide relevant education programmes.

Climate change is already disrupting and changing the world, by having a Network Group focused on Climate Change, CENL will be able to support its members in adapting to a changing world and respond to the need of national libraries to increase their impact in their response to climate change and help them become more resilient and sustainable organisations.

## 5. Membership

5.1) Please list CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining this group:

- British Library, Maja Maricevic (Head of Higher Education and Science) & Blerina Hashani (Public Policy and Campaigns Manager)
- National and University Library in Zagreb, Dolores Mumelaš (Project Manager for green libraries and sustainable development)
- National Library of Finland, Susanna Eklund (Planning Officer)
- National Library of Poland, Julia Konopka- Żołnierczuk (Deputy Director)
- Bibliothèque nationale de France, Catherine Petit (Project manager, sustainability)
- Royal Library of the Netherlands, Name TBC

Please note that we have not had the time to agree on the roles in the group. Should the group be successful, we would organise a meeting between the funding members to elect the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

5.2) Please confirm names and affiliation for the following roles:

A Group Chair: TBC, see question 5.1

B Group Treasurer: TBC, see question 5.1

C Group Secretary: TBC, see question 5.1

5.3) Please describe in less than 300 words interest and expertise of CENL libraries which have expressed an interest in joining this group.

### **British Library**

The British Library has been working on reducing our carbon emissions for over a decade as part of the Greening Government Commitments. Our bigger ambitions will be unveiled as part of our 2023–30 strategy in Spring 2023. So far, we have identified three areas for focus and begun work in each area:

1 - making our buildings more sustainable

2 - working with our staff and partners to support change and encourage new sustainable practices and ideas

3 - help guide people in researching our collection to spark new ideas and solutions to the problems that we face today

Regarding international partnerships, alongside our partners at CILIP, Libraries Connected, Julie's Bicycle and Arts Council England, the British Library has started the Green Libraries

Partnership – an international network of libraries committed to putting sustainable practices at the centre of their future planning: <https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/aboutGreenLibraries>

As part of this we have:

- initiated the Green Libraries Grant Fund to incentivise new, green innovative in library spaces: <https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesGrants>
- In July 2022, we launched the Green Libraries Manifesto. The manifesto, as well as the list of the 50 signatories, including several international libraries, is available here: <https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesManifesto>

Over the last decade the British Library has significantly reduced our carbon emissions and waste. Measured against a 2009/10 baseline, we reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 67% and our waste by 48% in [2019/2020](#). We're currently undertaking further research to ensure that we can improve our current plans for achieving Net Zero by 2030. As an organisation that helps spark new ideas, we continue to collaborate with others to increase climate knowledge and inspire positive climate action. Details of our work can be found here: <https://www.bl.uk/about-us/governance/policies/sustainability>

### **National Library of Finland**

The National Library of Finland (NLF) is interested in joining the CENL Network Group on Climate Change. In its own national network of cultural heritage organisations in Finland, the NLF has a central role not only as a historic research library, but also as a provider of vital digital infrastructure for Finnish libraries, archives and museums. The library has committed to the goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030. In addition to improving its own operations, the library acknowledges its role and potential in influencing and supporting sustainability both in Finland and internationally. The NLF sees the proposed group as a valuable network for promoting European collaboration in climate action and will be happy to share its knowledge and experience in climate and sustainability issues.

### **National and University Library in Zagreb**

The National and University Library in Zagreb (NSK) has lots of experience in the field of green librarianship. It is, as well as other libraries that are dealing with this topic, social initiator number of topics in that area. One of the most important topic is certainly the topic about climate changes.

NSK is the place where the most relevant researches about climate changes can be found. NSK also organizes all sorts of activities for users to raise awareness of sustainable development and climate changes reminding at the same time about the goals of the UN Agenda 2030 and the initiative of the European Green Plan. It is important that we get involved in the work of the group about climate changes. This is the way how we can share our experience with others and they can do the same with us.

### **National Library of Poland**

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today. Libraries, taking advantage of their position and the authority that they enjoy in society, should act alongside other institutions to raise public awareness about environmental challenges. In recent years the National Library of Poland has taken numerous steps to modernise its buildings and make them more environmentally friendly. Joining the network group focussing on Climate Change will be an excellent chance for the National Library of Poland to share its experience of taking action on sustainability and the future of the climate. Hearing about the action taken by other libraries will be an invaluable opportunity to develop and exchange experiences and ideas. We hope that the network group's efforts will result in recommendations and best practices for all libraries.

### **Royal Library of the Netherlands**

Public institutions, among which national libraries, can be a force for good in society. In 2015, the United Nations established humanity's to-do list, in the form of global goals for sustainable development (SDG's). These concern both the social foundation of humanity and the ecological ceiling that our earth can tolerate. Libraries have seen very early on they can contribute towards these goals. We would like to work together with other CENL members to learn and work together towards reducing negative climate impact.

**Bibliothèque nationale de France**

The issue of climate change is essential for our library and closely linked to one of the strategic priorities of our 2022-2026 objective and performance contract linked to the social responsibility of our organization. This priority that now feeds in all of our actions, from the implementation of circular economy measures, an ambitious plan to reduce our carbon footprint and an environmental strategy for our future conservation site in Amiens.

5.4) Please describe in less than 300 words the interest and expertise of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

As mentioned in question 5.1, we haven't agreed on the roles for the group yet. However, all funding members have been working actively on climate change and sustainability in their respective libraries. Please find below more information on Maja Maricevic who is proposing the creation of the group:

Maja Maricevic is Head of Higher Education and Science at the British Library, responsible for the Library's strategy, policy and partnerships with higher education and science sectors.

Maja's work and research focuses on research and science functions in cultural organisations, including libraries. She is interested in how the sector needs to evolve to serve researchers of the future and to enrich its services for all. She is particularly interested in the big challenges of our time, such as the continuing digital transformation and climate change. She has been leading the work of the British Library on sustainability.

5.4) Please describe the group's early thoughts on a proposed way of working.

As mentioned in question 5.1, we have not had the time to agree on the roles in the group. Should the group be successful, we would organise a meeting between the funding members to agree on a way of working. The expectation would be regular meetings to share experience and knowledge, as well as webinars to engage with CENL members. Although the group's focus will be to engage with CENL members, we want to ensure that our approach also include the experience of colleagues from across the world, in particular colleagues from the Global South who are already being impacted by climate change.

**Signature:**

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**Date:**

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