

## Bursaries and Grants Update

### Actions required:

- EC are asked to make a decision on the awards for the EKN Grant 2023

### 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. In 2023, the EKN has a budget of 15,000 EUR, i.e., three grants can be awarded.

### Grant applications 2023 and recommendations

The call for applications for the Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant was open from 3 February 2023 to 10 March 2023. The Secretariat announced the call via the CENL website and in the CENL newsletter. The Secretariat received five applications. In line with the 2023 budget, three applications can be approved. The Secretariat has evaluated the applications to facilitate the Executive Committee's decision making. The secretariat recommends two applications for approval and one for refusal. Two applications were rated equally and it is up to the Executive Committee to select one out of the two for funding. The full application forms are attached in Appendices A-E.

CENL Member	Overview of application	Overview of costs claimed	Recommendation of CENL secretariat
Hungary	The aim of the cooperation is to improve the web archiving infrastructure of the National Széchényi Library and the Bibliothèque Nationale du Luxembourg, to renew certain workflows and to share knowledge	4507 EUR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3084 EUR travel and accommodation for 3 people from NSZL to Luxembourg,</li> <li>• 1423 EUR travel and accommodation for 2 people from Luxembourg to Budapest).</li> </ul>	The CENL secretariat recommends <b>approval</b> of this application because it is aimed at a collaboration between geographically distant NLs on a specific topic. The web archiving community may benefit from the achieved results.
France	Three major CENL member libraries, which are carrying out projects to build high-rise, robotic, hypoxic storage facilities (BL, BnF, KB) want to organize two knowledge-	2 * 2500 EUR, each breaking down as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 EUR welcome coffees</li> <li>• 1200 EUR lunches for 20 people</li> </ul>	The CENL secretariat recommends <b>approval</b> of this application, because the project partners will shed light on a

	exchange seminars involving the staff of the respective institutions (one before summer 2023, one after).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1000 EUR travel expenses</li> <li>• 100 EUR reproduction costs</li> </ul>	cutting edge topic, that is likely to be of interest to several CENL members.
<b>Romania</b>	In the Lower Danube Communities Project, the National Libraries of Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine will employ archival research practice, one public exhibition and an international conference to explore the historical impact neighbouring communities had on the Lower Danube River and its ecosystems.	4800 EUR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 900 EUR exhibition materials</li> <li>• 300 EUR promotional materials,</li> <li>• 1600 EUR travel for 4 people,</li> <li>• 1200 EUR hotel for 4 people for 2 nights,</li> <li>• 800 EUR for 4 meals for 5 people</li> </ul>	The Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee <b>selects</b> one out of the two orange marked applications.
<b>Moldova</b>	Organization of an international conference "Social resilience and stronger professional networks as a precondition for peace" in September 2023 with participants from Moldova, Ukraine, Lithuania and Latvia, with follow-up webinars and informal sessions at each participating library.	5000 EUR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus tickets for 2 people: 480 EUR</li> <li>• Air tickets for 4 people: 1800 EUR</li> <li>• Hotel, 4 nights for 6 people: 1560 EUR</li> <li>• Conference lunch and dinner: 960 EUR</li> <li>• Bank fee: 200 EUR</li> </ul>	The Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee <b>selects</b> one out of the two orange marked applications.
<b>North Macedonia</b>	International Conference (SEENL libraries) "The Role of Libraries as Change Agents in Society on Sustainability Practices", which will be held in Ohrid, North Macedonia from 16-18 October 2023.	5000 EUR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquiring publications focusing on green libraries and sustainability: 1200 EUR</li> <li>• Accommodation: 1000 EUR</li> <li>• Logistics and conference facilitator: 600 EUR</li> <li>• Keynote speaker: 600 EUR</li> <li>• Literacy and language expert: 400 EUR</li> <li>• Graphic design and photographer: 400 EUR</li> <li>• Transportation and tourist guide: 500 EUR</li> <li>• Equipment and supportive materials: 300 EUR</li> </ul>	The CENL secretariat recommends to <b>reject</b> this application, because the subject of the conference is the same as at the CENL AGM 2023.

## Changes in the status of EKN Grants 2019 - 2022 since the last EC meeting

Year	CENL Member	Details	Status
2022	Lithuania	An Early Reading Forum, which will take place at the National Library of Lithuania. Due to the increasing number of coronavirus infections in the summer of 2022, the forum's format was changed to a hybrid event.	Project completed

## II. Covid-19 Support Fund and Hidden Stories Fund

### Covid-19 Support Fund

The Covid-19 Support Fund was 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. On 28 September 2022, the Executive Committee agreed to terminate the fund by the end of 2022. The fund is still listed on the CENL bursaries website, with a notice that the fund has been closed.

### Changes in the status of Covid-19 Support Funds since last EC meeting

Year	CENL Member	Details	Status
2022	North Macedonia	Establishment of a virtual "Book Club"	Project started, upfront payment was made in June 2022

### 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. On 28 September 2022, the Executive Committee agreed to continue the Hidden Stories Fund for another year, i.e. in 2023. After this further year, it should be discussed whether another extension for one year would be appropriate. The secretariat plans to open the call for applications for 2023 in June 2023, and to continue with a budget of 4,000 EUR for the Hidden Stories Fund, i.e., two grants for 2,000 EUR each.

## Changes in the status of Hidden Stories Funds since last EC meeting

Year	CENL Member	Details	Status
2022	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.	Project ongoing
2022	British Library	Youth-led project with support from the Library, working closely with local youth group, KCBNA (Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association).	Project ongoing

## III. Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme Update

Because 2022 showed a great demand for Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries, the secretariat works with a budget of 6,000 EUR for this Bursary, i.e., six bursaries for 1,000 EUR each. Since the call for applications for the 2023 round of Skills and Knowledge Exchange was published on 3 February 2023, two applications were submitted so far. They were approved by the CENL secretariat. For the remainder of 2023, there are four more Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries available.

CENL Member	Overview of application	Overview of costs claimed	Decisions of CENL secretariat
Romania	Miss Dinu will visit the National Library of the Netherlands for 1 week in June 2023.	990 EUR (flight: 270 EUR, hotel for 6 nights à 120 EUR)	Accepted on 9.3.2023
Latvia	Inga Vovčenko, Lauma Remese will visit the DNB in Leipzig to learn about the organisation of the Humanities and Natural Science Reading Rooms of the DNB	960 EUR (flight tickets, local transportation and 2 nights in a hotel for 2 people)	Accepted on 9.3.2023

## IV. Future direction of the funds

### Background

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 2023 budget, 10,000 EUR will be available for the CENL Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary and the Hidden Stories Fund. For EKN there is a separate budget of 15,000 EUR.

## New Fund for Emergency Planning

At the EC meeting on 23 January 2023, the secretariat introduced the idea to set up an additional funding line: the **Emergency Planning Fund (EPF)**, open to all CENL members, allowing them to develop an emergency plan for their national library, or to update their existing plans. CENL members should be allowed to use the fund to meet with other CENL members, for networking between CENL members, to discuss and cooperate on what is important and what needs to be taken into account in forward-looking emergency planning for their national libraries and the cultural heritage they have to safeguard. They can also be encouraged to use it for training and outreach activities. In doing so, CENL could actively and proactively contribute to preserving the European cultural heritage. The secretariat proposed to **start with 5 funds**, and allocate the fund with **up to 1,500 euros**. Each member may **apply for the fund only once**.

The EC members pointed out that setting up a new programme would be a lot of work and there was little time available for it. The secretariat was asked to prepare a survey of all CENL members before the AGM on the status of their libraries with emergency plans and their need for support from CENL and set aside some time at the next AGM for discussion with members. This action is still ongoing.