

## GRANT APPLICATION FORM

### 1. Organisation Details

Applicant information				
	Name	Organisation	Job Title	email and phone
Main proposer	Adrian Cioroianu	National Library of Romania	Director	biblioteca@bibnat.ro +40 21 314.24.34
Collaborator 1	Vladimir Pištalo	National Library of Serbia	Director	nbs@nb.rs +381 11 2451 242
Collaborator 2	Krasimira Aleksandrova	National Library of Bulgaria	Director	secretary@nationallibrary.bg + 359 (2) 9183 212
Collaborator 3	Lyubov Andriivna Dubrovina	Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine	Director	library@nbuv.gov.ua +38 44 525-81-04
Collaborator 4	Elena Pintilei	National Library of the Republic of Moldova	Director	bibasist@bnrm.md +373 22 24 04 93
Confirm that you meet the grant application eligibility criteria (listed above)				Yes/No
Signed:				
Date:10.03.2023				

## 2. Proposal for international collaboration

*Please provide a description of your proposed project here (maximum of two pages).*

The Lower Danube Communities Project 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. It will work with both archival and new materials from five National Libraries related to the historical and contemporary impact people played on the Lower Danube River. Our project makes visible the confluence and the complementarity created by the River Danube and the impact that more neighbouring communities have on each-other and to worldwide natural resources in general.

With our partners – National Library of Serbia, National Library of Bulgaria, National Library of Moldova and National Library of Ukraine – we will:

- 1) Assess the existing archival and new visual, text and cartographical unique documents and materials about the Lower Danube River through specific library research in special and current collections. We aim to collect a range of approximately 9 items (and the respective digital copy) from each collaborator. We value historical materials, but we also encourage to include at least two items that make visible the contemporary ecosystem of the Lower Danube. Each item to be selected will be accompanied by a text of 100-200 words, to be co-designed in collaboration with the partners.
- 2) Curate and exhibit the resulting images, cartographical and photographic material, books and other archival materials physically (in September 2023) but also online (through Digitool – an online platform developed at the National Library of Romania, but also through collaborators' online platforms, including social media) to raise public awareness of the importance this river plays regionally.
- 3) Organise an international conference in September 2023 in Bucharest, as part of the National Library Days, to promote interlibrary staff communications among the partners, as well as to facilitate discussions with academics, activists, journalists and policy makers nationally and regionally. The CENL grant will support travel, accommodation, and hospitality for one member of each library only. If additional funding will be obtained in Romania, we would like to invite an extra staff member from each of the institutions named above.

Key outputs from meeting these objectives will be:

- 1) The production of a range of both academic and public dissemination outputs (including publications, a physical and an online exhibition and an international conference to be held in Bucharest) on the importance the River Danube plays for the confluence of neighbouring communities and cultures.
- 2) Staff development and the stimulation of new ways of thinking about and deploying visual research and curation to intervene in the specific issues and debates about heritage and in library/ institutional practice more broadly in collaborative and participatory ways. The result of the research can be published in a thematic special number of National Library of Romania' s Review and will be taken forward in educational workshops by the educational team at the National Library of Romania.
- 3) The preparation of a standard grant application for research into the ecological and historical impact neighbouring communities had on the rivers and their ecosystems with a European rather than regional scope, where to include national libraries in other European countries as our partners and to promote ecology and literacy by means of travelling exhibitions.

The exhibitions, conference and educational workshops held as part of this project in Bucharest will be open to the public physically as well as online. This project aims to increase interest in and understanding of the history of the Lower Danube River, the heritage National Libraries in the region hold, as well as to raise awareness both about the confluence and complementarity created by the River and the impact that more neighbouring communities have on each-other and to worldwide natural resources in general.

### 3. Previous Collaborations

*Does your project create new connections between CENL institutions?  
Please give details of any previous collaborations between the libraries involved in this project.*

Over the years, all the national libraries involved in this project developed good collaborative relationships, especially in terms of international exchange of publications and interlibrary loan. The National Library of Romania has collaborated with each of the libraries mentioned in the application form, in other projects or activities, such as international conferences or exhibitions, except with the National Library of Ukraine. Through this project we aim to strengthen and extend the cooperation relations between national libraries in this part of Europe and integrate Ukrainian institutions in our common European projects.

## 4. Benefits

*Please outline how your project will benefit CENL's aims and goals.*

The Lower Danube Communities Project is based on the collaboration of staff from five national libraries: National Library of Romania, National Library of Serbia, National Library of Bulgaria, National Library of Moldova and National Library of Ukraine. The beneficiaries of the project include both established and early stage researchers, national librarians from within and beyond those institutions and their publics in physical and online forms, who benefit from furthering cultural and scientific understanding of the region. This project values the past and present of the Lower River Danube and raises awareness both about the confluence and complementarity created by the Danube and the impact that more neighbouring communities have on each other and to worldwide natural resources in general.

## 5. Estimated cost of proposal

*Please include a breakdown of the costs which will be incurred by all collaborators. Indicate when these costs are likely to be incurred.*

Budget	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024
Exhibition materials 900 EUR			900			
Promotion materials (prints, flyers) 300 EUR			300			
Travel Up to 400 EUR / person return ticket: 4 X 400 = 1600 EUR	1600					
Accommodation 4 people X 2 nights X 150 Euro = 1200 EUR	1200					
Hospitality/ Subsistence 5 Persons X 4 meals = 800 EUR					800	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4800 EUR</b>					