

## CENL Executive Committee Meeting (34)

17 April 2023, 14:00-16:00 CET  
Videoconference via Zoom

### Attendees

Frank Scholze, CENL Chair  
Janne Andresoo, CENL Vice-Chair (14:00-15:30)  
Karin Grönvall, EC Treasurer  
Laurence Engel, EC Member (14:00-15:30)  
Sara Lammens, EC Member  
Hans Petschar, EC Member  
Ivanka Stričević, EC Member  
Susanne Oehlschläger, CENL Secretary

### In attendance

Bruno Sagna, BNF  
Hélène Berges, BNF  
Michael Duchardt, CENL secretariat, treasurer's report (15:30-15:45)  
Constanze Schwikart, CENL Secretariat, minutes

Frank Scholze opened the meeting at 14:05 CET.

### 1. Approval of agenda

Paper 01

The agenda was approved with no further additions.

### 2. Minutes from last EC meeting, 23 January 2023

Paper 02

Minutes were approved with no further additions.

### 3. Matters and actions arising from minutes

Susanne Oehlschläger informed that five action items from the last meeting had been fulfilled. The sixth item is still in preparation.

The Secretary prepared a new draft of the amendments to the statutes considering the discussion at the EC meeting on 23 January, 2023 (paper 03). It is voted on under agenda item number 4 "Change of CENL statutes".

Laurence Engel reported that she tried to speak to the French ministry of culture, she will try it again during a meeting and keep the secretariat updated. However, she thinks that it is not likely to have a video message. FS emphasises that if the French Minister is not available DNB will not ask the German Minister for a message.

The CENL secretariat will include information on public transport and the possibility to buy metro tickets in advance to avoid waiting periods in FAQ on the CENL website for the AGM.

The CENL Secretariat submitted a new draft of the CENL strategy with discussed changes (paper 04). It is voted on under agenda item 5 “Strategic priorities”.

The CENL Secretariat notified all applicants of the EC's decision regarding the Network Groups on 2 February 2023.

Action 6: 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 is still open. It may not be completed until the AGM in Paris. The decision on a possible cultural heritage fund depends on the results of that survey.

Susanne Oehlschläger gives an update on the survey on initiatives for helping Ukraine. There were 22 answers by the end of March. There is great variety in content. A DNB staff member who is coordinating help for Ukrainian libraries is currently evaluating the survey. She is preparing an overview which will be shared on the website.

#### 4. Change of CENL statutes

Paper 03

The draft was approved with no further additions.

#### 5. Strategic Priorities

Paper 04

Sara Lammens recommends minor changes to the draft: replace “collections” (page 2, middle) with “heritage”. Replace “print” (page 3, first sentence) with “physical”.

The change of wording from “print” to “physical” is supported by the other EC members as it is more precise in describing media items. There is a discussion if the term “digital” can be replaced with “immaterial”. Ivanka Stricevic points out that there is still a need for a term that is commonly used and understood, so it is agreed to stick with “physical and digital form”.

Sara Lammens also asks if in the priority area on the last page there should be an addition in the form of “develop website as a platform for discussion” to make it more interactive. This would mean an increased effort for the website.

At the moment the website is not used to a large extent, so it could not be worth investing more work into it from the perspective of the secretariat.

Frank Scholze suggests to change the wording to “develop the CENL website as an *interactive platform* to ensure (...)” (page 4).

The revised strategy was approved unanimously with these small changes in wording. It will be presented at the AGM in Paris.

#### 6. CENL Network Group Update

Papers 05 and 05a

At the January meeting EC agreed on the three network groups for the term 2023 - 2026. The secretariat thanked all applicants and informed them about the EC's decision. The groups are now preparing information for the website. The secretariat also checked the Terms of reference and updated them slightly according to the practice within the last years.

As a general rule, CENL pays no money to individuals. The reimbursement of travel or other expenses will be paid only to libraries. As this is not possible for some libraries, because they would have to plan those expenses in advance, the draft leaves room for individual solutions if necessary.

The proposal was approved unanimously.

Hans and Sara will continue as sponsors for network groups AI and BANG. A new sponsor is needed for the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) network group, and Karin will take on as their sponsor.

As Books and Audiences Network Group (BANG) members are half CENL members and half external, Susanne Oehlschläger asks about the EC's opinion on that matter. She wants to know and if it is ok to have persons from outside CENL as members of the Network Group.

Sara Lammens does not see this as a problem for BANG. If there are less CENL members than external members this could be a problem, but might be caused by a need for special knowledge and skills. This should be considered already at the moment of the application.

Hans Petschar proposes to change the wording to members and guest members. Ivanka Stricevic marks that external members get access through national libraries, so they should be called co-opted members as in the Terms of reference.

In conclusion, the updated Terms of reference can be applied.

## 7. Funds and Grants Update

Paper 06 with appendices A-E

Applications for the Skills and Knowledge Fund from Romania and Latvia were approved by the secretariat.

The Erland Kolding Nielsen (EKN) grant call was open from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. There have been five applications. The secretariat recommends approving the applications from Hungary and France. Also, the secretariat recommends to dismiss the application by North Macedonia about Sustainability as it centres around the same topic as the AGM. Two applications from Romania and Moldova were rated equally by the Secretariat, and it is up to the EC to select one for funding.

Laurence Engel abstains from the discussion on that decision as BnF also applied for the grant.

The secretariats recommendation is approved: France's and Hungary's applications are approved and North Macedonia disapproved.

In the discussion on the third approval there is support for both applications: Romania's project could be easier to sustain and it is more specific to national libraries. The proposal from Moldova is seen as broader and there is the chance to follow up the project. Also, Moldova is more focused on the area and could be of bigger help for libraries in Ukraine. The application from Moldova is approved by vote.

Frank Scholze suggests to encourage Romania to revisit their project and apply again at a later time.

## 8. CENL Annual General Meeting

Paper 07, 08 and 09

### **Cultural Program:**

Laurence Engel reports that the cultural program is now finalised and information on that will be sent to the secretariat. Fondation Pinot was added in the program. It is a beautiful heritage place close to BnF Richelieu. The first dinner will then take place at BnF, it will be a standing up dinner with cocktails and finger food. The cultural program will start at lunchtime on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> June.

There is an exhibition about the history of printing in the Mitterand site of BnF. A visit is planned for the next day after the conference that will take place at this site.

### **Conference program:**

Colleagues from BnF would like to prepare a presentation on the new preservation site in Amiens, EC agrees.

Hans Petschar is asked by the secretary if he would like to prepare a presentation on sustainability. He is willing to prepare a presentation, though he finds that there are already too many. So he could likely be more of a backup in case someone has to cancel their speech.

Frank Scholze mentions that the session is very full, so presenters have to be very disciplined to limit their speeches. Still, it is intended to get a rich view on sustainability, so it is nice to have different perspectives. It is also possible to move presentations to the interactive session on the second day of the conference.

For the interactive group sessions moderators are needed. They can be supported by another person who takes notes. This could be someone from the group. Frank, Ivanka, Hans, Karin and Laurence will be leading group discussions. The group discussions are supposed to give room to discuss what was said during the key notes and presentations and reflect on the sessions before.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Michael Duchardt prepared the treasurer's report (paper 08). Current numbers from end of April will be added for the AGM. CENL's income only covers fix costs, so CENL is relying on the savings. Frank Scholze says that if CENL continues to overspend as planned, it will be at 200.000 € in reserves in 10 years from now. If the funds and grants are to be maintained, there is no scope for major expenditure without membership fees being increased in the foreseeable future. There will be a paper for the members for AGM that explains the plan of spending.

There was a closing meeting with the auditors: the moderate overspending is fine and the papers for AGM can be prepared accordingly. Nevertheless, we have to be prepared to be asked about the plans on overspending within the next years.

Janne Andresoo suggests to include 1-2 slides about moderate overspending for AGM to illustrate it for the members. This proposal is supported by the EC.

Frank Scholze states that the EC represents diversity of CENL members and discussed the financial strategy in detail. This should be communicated at the AGM for raising awareness, without inviting further discussion.

**Future Annual General Meetings**

Ivanka asks about the further process on deciding about future AGMs. They are now planned until 2025 (National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, as host).

Frank replies that the EC accepted all proposals until 2025, but will continue to decide on a yearly basis from 2026 on. This will be included in the chair's report at AGM.

**9. Any other business**

The next EC meeting will take place on 18 September 2023 as a physical meeting in Stockholm.

The Chair thanked everyone for a productive meeting and concluded the second EC meeting of the year at 15:45.

DRAFT