

Bursaries and Grants Update

Actions required:

- EC are asked to make a decision on the awards for the Hidden Stories Fund 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 and 2023.

Grants awarded in 2023

The Executive Committee selected three out of five applications for funding on 17th April 2023:

CENL Member	Overview of application	Status
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	Project preparations have begun.
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-exchange seminars involving the staff of the respective institutions (one before summer 2023, one after).	The project plan was slightly amended (one event with translation instead of two events). The event took place on 12th and 13th June 2023.
Moldova	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.	The conference preparation is ongoing. The National Library of Moldova and the CENL Secretariat have been discussing technical aspects of the financial transactions.

All EKN projects from the previous years are completed. Reports can be found on the [website](#).

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.

Status of open Covid-19 Support Funds

Year	CENL Member	Details	Status
2022	North Macedonia	Establishment of a virtual "Book Club"	Upfront payment was made in June 2022, project will be launched in September 2023.

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, with a budget of 4,000 EUR, i.e., two grants for 2,000 EUR each. After this further year, it should be discussed whether another extension for one year would be appropriate. In 2023, the secretariat received three applications, and makes the following recommendations:

CENL Member	Overview of application	Overview of costs claimed	Recommendation of CENL secretariat
Greece	„We, the Afro-Greeks: Black literature as a bridge between cultures.“ The project aims to address the lack of visibility and inclusion of Greeks of African descent, frequently referred to as "Afro-Greeks", in the dominant public narrative of	2000 EUR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of ~80 items on black literature + transport costs: 1,600 EUR 	The CENL secretariat recommends approval of this application because the well shaped project centers around a hitherto less visible community.

	Greece, by enriching the collections of the National Library of Greece with black literature and by creating spaces for their stories to be told, heard, and spread among its audience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotional expenses: The design and printing of Posters in various formats and design and print of ~1,500 bookmarks: 400 EUR 	
Romania	<p>„The woman and her professional avatars. Representations in the communist press.“</p> <p>In Romania, like in all communist countries, great attention has been paid to the role of women in new professional fields. The press of time, following the ideological principles of the regime, built through images and texts the typology of the working woman. The project will select visual material (text and image), which illustrate the female's gender stereotypes. The most representative images will be scanned and assembled into a virtual exhibition with curatorial texts. The exhibition will appear on the library website and Digttool and social media.</p>	<p>2000 EUR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research activities: 500 EUR Gloves and masks against dust (will be changed after each 2hour use): 700 EUR Photo digitisation, incl. Editing for virtual exhibition: 500 EUR Curatorial activities and marketing: 300 EUR 	The CENL secretariat recommends the approval of one of the applications from either Romania or Croatia. Both projects are well shaped and interesting: One project will shed light on the particular role of women in the communist countries, the other will bring an exemplary biography to the attention of a national and international professional public. It may be noticeable that the EKN grant would add value to the Croatian exhibition by enabling the video production, but that the exhibition will be realised irrespective of any CENL funding.
Croatia	<p>„The first Croatian woman librarian: the road to gender equality.“</p> <p>Through the exhibition and the video reportage on Elza Kucera, the public's attention shall be drawn to the first Croatian woman doctor of philosophy, woman psychologist, woman librarian and woman public servant. The exhibition and reportage are part of the year-long celebration of the achievements of women in culture and science organized by the National and University Library in Zagreb in 2023 under the name "Women in NSK".</p> <p>The preparation of the video reportage with the translation of subtitles into English is the reason why the library is applying for the grant. The funds needed for setting up the exhibition are secured from other sources.</p>	<p>2,000 EUR (overall costs: 4,080 EUR, 2,080 EUR will be carried by the National and University Library in Zagreb and Institute for Philosophy).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of physical exhibition: 1,320 EUR Language editing and text proofreading: 190 EUR Ceremonial opening of the exhibition incl. photographing: 290 EUR Exhibition promotion costs: 280 EUR Video reportage recording and editing: 1,773 EUR Translation of subtitles for video reportage: 227 EUR 	

Status of open Hidden Stories Funds

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

The project manager who had put forward the proposal for the 2022 Hidden Stories project of the British Library left the library and little progress has been made on the project since. However, there is a new project manager in place and the team is also about to open a new community space in the British Library, so they are keen to go ahead with the project. This would, however, require an extension to 2024. An adjusted and updated project plan would be provided.

III. Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme Update

For 2023, the Board of Directors has approved a budget of 6,000 EUR for this Bursary, i.e., six bursaries for 1,000 EUR each. In the first half of 2023, two applications were submitted and approved by the CENL secretariat. Since the last EC meeting, the CENL secretariat has received four applications: One application from Serbia was approved in June, one from Finland was rejected in July (the applicant was an affiliated researcher and not employed by the National Library of Finland). Of two applications from Moldova, one was approved. For the future, the secretariat intends to add to the application eligibility criteria that only one Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary per member can be accepted per year. For the remainder of 2023, there are two more Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries available.

Status of 2023 Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries

CENL Member	Details	Status
Romania	Study visit of the National Library of the Netherlands for 1 week in June 2023.	Completed, report on website
Latvia	Study visit of the DNB in Leipzig to learn about the organisation of the Humanities and Natural Science Reading Rooms of the DNB	Completed, report on website
Serbia	Study visit of the National Library of Finland in November 2023	Ongoing
Moldova	Participation at Let's Go green Conference, 9-10 November 2023, organized by the National and University Library in Zagreb	Approved

IV. Future direction of the funds

After the 2023 round of Hidden Stories Funds is over, the EC will be asked to decide whether the Fund should be extended for another year. With regards to the new CENL strategy, the secretariat recommends to terminate the Hidden Stories Fund, and instead think about the implementation of one or two new funds enabling all national libraries to better cooperations. The EC can decide on this either at the September meeting or at the beginning of 2024.

In the context of the discussion on how to reduce the assets of CENL on the one hand, and the idea of a fund for endangered cultural heritage on the other, the secretariat had proposed a new line of funding. The Emergency Planning Fund (EPF) should be open to all CENL members, allowing them to develop an emergency plan for their national library, or to update their existing plans. This fund should limit the expenses of CENL and ensure that all members can update their plans or start thinking about them if they do not yet have an existing emergency plan. 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 and suggested to assess the members' needs with a survey. They asked the secretariat to prepare a survey of all CENL members on the status of their libraries with emergency plans and their need for support from CENL. This action is pending. The secretariat will prepare this survey in the next few months for discussing the future direction of the funds within the EC in early 2024.