

## Bursaries and Grants Update

### Actions required:

- The EC is asked to take note of the Bursaries and Grants update.
- The EC is asked to vote on the 2024 EKN Grant applications

### 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. Of the EKN grants awarded in 2023, there is one project still ongoing:

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 is almost completed

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

### Grant applications 2024 and recommendations

The call for applications for the Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant was open from 7 February 2024 to 20 March 2024. The Secretariat announced the call via the CENL website and twice in the CENL newsletter. Five applications were received by the Secretariat. In line with the 2024 budget, three applications can be approved. The Secretariat has evaluated the applications to facilitate the decision making of the EC. The secretariat recommends three applications for approval and considers two applications to be out of scope. The full application forms can be found in Appendices A-E.

CENL Member	Overview of application	Overview of costs claimed	Recommendation of CENL secretariat
Bulgaria	Cross-Border Collaboration for European Cultural Heritage Preservation and Sustainable Development of Library Services: The project will encompass a 3-day exchange program (to be scheduled for the second half of September, along with the European Heritage Day initiative) hosted at the National and University Library in Zagreb, accommodating 5 delegates, comprising librarians and management staff from the National Library of Bulgaria.	4,920 EUR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4,170 EUR Travelling costs for the delegates from the National Library of Bulgaria</li> <li>750 EUR Organisational costs for the partnering institution, fees for experts and facilitators, responsible for conducting seminars and workshops during the interlibrary exchange days</li> </ul>	The CENL secretariat recommends <b>approval</b> of this application because it is aimed at strengtening and deepening a collaboration between two CENL member libraries.
Georgia	We plan to have maximum two days - for working conference, and one day for cultural activities around library. The Program will include various activities. More detailed program with its studying topics will be sent also, but initial matters of the conference which is very important, essential for us is the circulation process in the library system, as well as, how to work in various models of SIERRA, how to implement a support base which helps to run an electronic catalog.	To be provided	The CENL secretariat recommends <b>approval</b> of this application because it is the first collaboration within CENL between the two libraries.
Moldova	The project consists on organizing a study visit of 4 specialists from the National Library of Moldova to the National Library of Lithuania, focussing on international relations, project management, developing new services, using informational resources and innovations of the National Library of Lithuania and others.	5,000 EUR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,820 EUR Air tickets and baggage for 4 people</li> <li>2,688 EUR Hotel for 4 people/7 nights</li> <li>492 EUR Transportation, meals and wire transfer</li> </ul>	The CENL secretariat recommends <b>approval</b> of this application because it is aimed at strengtening and deepening a collaboration between two CENL member libraries.
Czech Republic	In 2025, we will commemorate the nine hundredth anniversary of the death of Cosmas, the dean of the Prague chapter and the author of the oldest chronicle dealing with Czech history with an extensive ehibition. While other sources will cover the basic preparation of the exhibition, the costs of loans, and scientific publications, the National Library of the Czech Republic has not yet secured funding for the planned educational component of the exhibition.	5,000 EUR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,000 EUR Organizing two workshops for teachers</li> <li>500 EUR Travel costs to secondary schools</li> <li>1,000 EUR Meeting with colleagues from the National Library of Austria in Vienna (Preparatory works for he exhibition)</li> <li>2,500 EUR External collaborators</li> </ul>	The secretariat considers this application to be out of scope: EKN is awarded to projects that promote international collaboration and strengthen bonds between CENL libraries. The main engagement focus of this project, however, is secondary schools within the Czech Republic.

Latvia (BANG)	The proposal is to organize and host a two-day seminar at the National Library of Latvia in April 2025 and therefore bring the BANG group together so we can discuss, prepare and divide the tasks for the organisation of this in person event in 2025.	5,000 EUR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,000 EUR – Travel costs of the WG members in September</li> <li>• 1,000 EUR – accommodation of the WG</li> <li>• 1,000 EUR – design and visual identity costs of the webinar</li> <li>• 750 EUR – travel costs for the moderator + preparatory work</li> <li>• 250 EUR – emergency funds in case of the increase travel costs</li> <li>• 1,000 EUR – partial coverage of travel costs for seminar speakers</li> </ul>	The secretariat considers this application to be out of scope: BANG is one of CENL's network groups with an annual budget of 5,000 Euros.
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## II. 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. In 2023, three grants were awarded for 2,000 EUR each. **On 18 September 2023 the EC confirmed that the HSF shall not be continued. The fund was closed at the end of 2023.**

Year	CENL Member	Overview of application	Status
2023	Croatia	„The first Croatian woman librarian: the road to gender equality.“ Through the exhibition and the video reportage on Elza Kucera, the public's attention shall be drawn to the first Croatia 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". 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.	Completed, report on <a href="#">website</a>

<b>2023</b>	<b>Romania</b>	„The woman and her professional avatars. Representations in the communist press.“ 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 Digitool and social media.	Upfront payment made, project almost conpled
<b>2023</b>	<b>Greece</b>	„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 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.	Upfront payment made, project almost completed
<b>2022</b>	<b>British Library</b>	Youth-led project with support from the Library, working closely with local youth group, KCBNA (Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association).	Project scheduled for 2024

### III. Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme Update

For 2024, the Board of Directors has approved a budget of 10,000 EUR for this Bursary, i.e., 10 bursaries for 1,000 EUR each. In the first moths of 2024, two applications were submitted, both of which the CENL secretariat approved.

#### Status of 2024 Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries

CENL Member	Details	Status
<b>Romania</b>	Study visit of the National Library of Italy in Firenze for 5 days in Summer 2024	Ongoing
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Visit of the National Library of Hungary and signing of Memorandum of Understanding	Ongoing

### IV. Future direction of the funds

Referring to the idea of an earlier discussed Emergency Planning Fund (EPF) the EC members agreed to assess the members' needs with a survey, first. The secretariat was asked 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 ongoing, and the revised draft of the survey is among the papers for the EC meeting on 28 March 2024 (Paper 03).