

ERLAND KOLDING NIELSEN GRANT – Application Form

The Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant celebrates the enormous contribution Erland Kolding Nielsen has made to the development of European libraries throughout his long and distinguished career.

The Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant is a grant of up to €5 000, which is awarded to a CENL member library project that promotes international collaboration and strengthens bonds between CENL libraries.

Application eligibility criteria:

- Your employer is a CENL member
- Your national library is up to date with CENL membership fee payments
- All collaboration activities are in partnership with other CENL members and will foster international collaboration

Grant application proposal (maximum of 2 pages)

The Grant can focus on any aspect of international library collaboration. The first part of your proposal should provide details of the actual international collaborative aspect. This could be in a multitude of ways such as:

- Development of collections (physical and digital)
- Improving research
- Educational or cultural services including exhibitions
- Promoting interlibrary staff communications
- Infrastructure development
- Staff development

In consideration of international travel restrictions put in place in response to the global pandemic, applications will be accepted for in-person and/or virtual activities and events. If you are proposing an in-person event, please outline the health and safety protocols you will be establishing for the event and detail any related costs. If you are proposing a virtual event, you may include the relevant costs in the budget, for example, equipment for producing video recordings, publicity costs, fees for virtual event hosting platforms, or tools to increase accessibility of the event (live captioning).

The second part of your proposal should outline the anticipated benefits of the proposed collaborative activity, and provide an estimation of the costs for carrying out the activity. The main proposer should complete this form and provide details of other collaborators.

If you meet the criteria above and would like to apply for this grant, please complete this form, including your proposal, and submit it to the CENL Secretariat at cenl@dnb.de by **20 March 2024**. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and the outcome will be announced by the end of April 2024.

Conditions of grant

- Outputs of the grants have to be publicly demonstrable and shareable.
- The successful applicant will submit a report to the CENL Secretariat after the proposed event has taken place. This report will be published on the CENL website.
- The successful applicant (or a representative from their institution) will give a presentation to the CENL membership at the next Annual General Meeting following the completion of the project.
- Statement of costs must be provided estimating the anticipated costs, and if approved your organisation will receive 80% of the grant upfront with the remainder of the grant being paid upon completion of the project.

- Details of expenses, with original receipts, must be provided to verify all costs incurred. Final payment will only be made if the relevant documentation is provided.
- Where the grant is not used, any underspend must be repaid to the CENL Secretariat.
- Grant payments will be paid into the main proposer's account. The main proposer will be responsible for ensuring that collaborators are reimbursed for appropriate expenses.

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

1. Organisation Details

Applicant information				
	Name	Organisation	Job Title	email and phone
Main proposer	Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Aleksandrova	“St. St. Cyril and Methodius” National Library of Bulgaria	Director	k.aleksandrova@nationallibrary.bg y.markova@nationallibrary.bg T. +359 (2) 9183 101; +359 (2) 9183 167 M. + 359 893696742
Collaborator 1	Jagoda Ille	The National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia	Library Advisor for International Cooperation	jille@nsk.hr T. +385 1 6164 335 M. +385 99 303 9273
Confirm that you meet the grant application eligibility criteria (listed above)				Yes
Signed: 				
Date: 20 March 2024				

2. Proposal for international collaboration

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

- Include plans for the project's development and implementation.
- Tell us how your project will engage with CENL members and beyond, and how you plan to communicate the results of your project to wider audiences.

Project title: Cross-Border Collaboration for European Cultural Heritage Preservation and Sustainable Development of Library Services

The National Library of Bulgaria (NLB) serves as a living bridge between the rich heritage of the past and the future-oriented demands of a modern information society. In carrying out its main tasks with national responsibility, the NLB management team strives to the maximum extent to keep up with the new challenges of the 21st century, to apply a proactive approach in the harmonization of legislation and policies in the field of free access, digitisation and preservation of the cultural heritage on national, European and world level. While embracing proactive adaptation and continuous learning, we endeavour to foster networks and partnerships to advance our mission. In alignment with this ethos, this project proposes a cross-border collaboration with the National and University Library in Zagreb.

Providing a stimulating environment for personal, social and cultural development of every member of the community and society is a key task for both partnering libraries. Therefore, this collaborative project with the National and University Library in Zagreb is driven by the shared commitment to innovation and excellence in library customer care, bibliographic and information services, legal deposit procedures, and strategies for the digitisation and preservation of Europe's cultural heritage. The project focuses on leveraging mutual expertise in delivering library services, while exploring joint opportunities for cooperation in preserving the Glagolitic script, a significant historical link between Bulgaria and Croatia.

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. During their visit representatives in mutual fields from both institutions will engage in multifaceted training sessions, workshops, and seminars, delving into various specialized topics:

- **Library customer services:** Establishing and maintaining the best possible library services is essential for every CENL library. This seminar will critically assess prevailing customer service models in both libraries. Special attention will be directed towards adapting services to meet evolving needs, particularly in the post-pandemic era.
- **Digitalization of library collections:** Delegates will share insights, methodologies, and possibilities for cutting-edge technologies pertinent to the preservation and digitisation of library collections. Expertise in digitisation techniques, metadata standards, and digital preservation will be exchanged, alongside the development of joint strategies for prioritizing collections for digitisation and enhancing digital accessibility to a diverse array of resources. Emphasis will be placed on addressing Optical Character Recognition (OCR) challenges, for example with Glagolitic and Cyrillic documents, and exploring innovative approaches such as 3D scanning and augmented reality for digitisation and preservation efforts.

- **Bibliographic and information services:** Knowledge exchange will revolve around bibliographic standards, cataloguing practices, and information retrieval systems, with an eye towards collaborative opportunities in augmenting bibliographic databases and information services. Joint initiatives will be crafted to improve access to scholarly resources and stimulate research collaboration among library customers.
- **Legal deposit of publications (physical and digital):** Experiences and best practices in legal deposit legislation and enforcement will be shared, with a focus on addressing challenges and seizing opportunities in adapting legal deposit systems to accommodate digital publications. Collaborative approaches will be explored to ensure the comprehensive preservation of legal deposit collections, reflecting the rich cultural output of both nations.
- **Preservation of manuscript and documentary heritage:** Delving into the historical significance of the Glagolitic script as a pivotal link between Bulgaria and Croatia, this session will explore for example joint initiatives for conserving and digitising Glagolitic manuscripts and documents to ensure their long-term accessibility and preservation.

Through these meticulously curated topics for seminars and workshops, this project seeks to facilitate comprehensive knowledge exchange and foster enduring collaborative relationships between the National Library of Bulgaria and the National and University Library in Zagreb, thereby advancing the collective mission of preserving Europe's rich cultural heritage. The outcomes from the joint seminars and best practices of the collaboration will be disseminated through publications in library journals, online digital platforms and institutions' social media accounts.

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.

Previous significant initiatives and collaborations between both libraries: In July 2018, the exhibition "Books, Directions, Audiences" was showcased at the National and University Library in Zagreb, where the National Library of Bulgaria presented emblematic documents from its collections. One year later, on July 9, 2019, here in Sofia, we opened the exhibition "The Art of the Book in Croatia," prepared by the National and University Library in Zagreb. By the end of 2022, six national libraries - including the National and University Library of Croatia - became our partners in the project "Wealth of Colors and Traditions." In January 2024 was the inauguration of Croatia's literary corner at the National Library of Bulgaria and the formalization of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two libraries.

4. Benefits

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

- To explore opportunities for joint digital collaboration, such as shared online catalogues, digital repositories, or collaborative digitisation projects. The partnering libraries believe that by making their collections more accessible online, CENL libraries can reach a wider audience and facilitate research and scholarship across borders.
- To gain a better understanding in delivering the vital components of excellent customer care including the appearance and presentation of the library, engaging with customers, handling enquiries and expected levels of service.
- To foster staff exchanges and professional development opportunities to learn from each other's experiences and expertise.

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.

Travelling costs for the delegates from the National Library of Bulgaria: (second half of September)

- Plane tickets for 5 people /Sofia – Zagreb – Sofia/: 170 € per person = 850 €
- Accommodation for 5 people: 150 € per person x 3 nights = 450 € per person = 2 250 €
- Daily expenses for 5 people: 41 € per person per 4 days = 164 per person = 820 €
- Transfer from and to Zagreb airport for 5 people: 200 €
- Medical insurance for 5 people: 50 €

Organisational costs for the partnering institution: fees for experts and facilitators, responsible for conducting seminars and workshops during the interlibrary exchange days:

- 3 people x 250 € = Total: 750 €

Total estimated cost of proposal = 4920 euro