

CENL Executive Committee Meeting (37)

28 March 2024, 13:05-14:55 CET
Videoconference via Zoom

Attendees

Frank Scholze, CENL Chair
Karin Grönvall, EC Treasurer
Laurence Engel, EC Member (until 13:20 CET)
Sara Lammens, EC Member
Hans Petschar, EC Member
Ivanka Stričević, EC Member
Susanne Oehlschläger, CENL Secretary

In attendance

Hélène Berges, BnF
Ophélie Ramonatxo, BnF
Svenia Pohlkamp, CENL Secretariat, minutes

Absent

none

Frank Scholze welcomed everyone to the second EC meeting in 2024. It was Laurence Engel's last meeting as an EC member as she leaves her position as the President of the French national library. She took the opportunity to thank everyone for the very good cooperation, a sentiment which was returned by the other EC members.

For organisational reasons, the EC agreed to change the order of the agenda items and to discuss item 4 „Resolution to amend the articles...“ first.

1. Approval of the agenda

Paper 01

The agenda was approved by all.

2. Minutes of the last EC meeting, 5 February 2024

Paper 02

Minutes were approved with no further additions.

3. Matters and actions arising from EC minutes

Paper 03

Action Point 1 concerned the survey on the status of emergency planning in CENL member libraries. As proposed during the last EC meeting, the secretary contacted Céline Allan (BnF) to finalise the draft survey. She was very supportive and provided the link to a similar UNESCO survey which turned out to have a much broader scope than the planned CENL survey. The secretariat therefore prepared a new version of the survey draft with questions suited to

determine whether there is a need for a new funding line. The results of the survey are to be presented at the AGM in Warsaw.

In fulfilment of Action Point 2, the secretariat informed the members of the conference on Ukrainian heritage, literature and art organised by the National Library of Poland on Saturday 15 June, which CENL members can attend on a voluntary basis. The secretariat did not yet receive further information on this conference.

To fulfil Action Point 3 a time slot was included in this year's AGM for the CENL Dialogue Forum. Twenty minutes are reserved for this topic. Changes were possible and could be discussed under agenda item 7.

4. Resolution to amend the articles of association of CENL in conformity with the draft deed drawn up by NautaDutilh N.V. and bearing the reference 80056330 M 54393684 (unofficial English translation 80056330 M 54393685)

Paper 04

In order to accommodate the tight schedule of Laurence Engel, this item was discussed first.

The formal procedure to amend the statutes requires that the EC members approve the changes to the draft in the original language (Dutch). The English translation is only to be used for informational purposes. Afterwards, the Board of Directors must confirm this decision at the AGM in Warsaw, only then will the revised statutes become legally binding.

As all EC members were present and the text of the amended statutes in Dutch (together with an unofficial English translation) was made available to the EC members beforehand, the formal procedure could go ahead. Frank Scholze asked for comments on the revised text. The EC members had no comments. The EC members voted by show of hands. All members agreed to the changes. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

The approved changes to the statutes will be presented to the Board of Directors at the business meeting during the AGM in June.

5. Bursaries and Grants update

Paper 05

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. The Secretariat evaluated the applications and recommended three applications for approval and considered two applications to be out of scope. In line with the 2024 budget, three applications could be approved.

The three applications considered for approval are all about a cooperation with another European national library. The application by Georgia includes a first time cooperation with Estonia. The application by the Czech Republic does not meet the scope of the grant as it does not include a cooperation with another national library. The application from Latvia is also not recommended for approval as it regards a project of CENL network group BANG. The network groups have their own funding. The grant was not established to add to the funding of the network groups.

The EC members discussed the applications: Mainly, the secretariat's evaluation was supported. It was noted that the application from Georgia did not include information on finance. The

secretariat did also notice this and requested further details which it did not yet receive. The secretariat will of course monitor the approved projects closely.

It was also noted that the three applications considered for approval were not perfect matches for the scope of the EKN Grant. During the meeting the description of the EKN Grant on the website was discussed. A revision should be considered in order to focus more on the co-operation between the CENL member libraries and on projects and relevant issues that include more than two national libraries.

Frank Scholze proposed a vote about the approval of the applications from Georgia, Bulgaria and Moldova which were recommended by the secretariat. The EC members followed the recommendations of the secretariat. They agreed to approve the applications from Georgia, Bulgaria and Moldova and to reject the applications from the Czech Republic and Latvia. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

6. Dialogue Forums Update

Paper 06

Paper 06 which includes a report of the Dialogue Forums requires no addition.

The exchange in the Dialogue Forums is considered useful by Frank Scholze even though it is a bit early for a final evaluation. Susanne Oehlschläger added that the Dialogue Forums receive no funds from CENL, but communication across domains should be beneficial.

The National Libraries as Data Dialogue Forum conducted a survey among CENL member's institutions concerning the existing and planned collaborations between national libraries and research infrastructures. The results of this survey are discussed in a section on the CENL website and will also be included in the annual report.

7. CENL AGM 2024

Papers 07, 08 and 09

EC election

The business meeting at the AGM 2024 will include the election of a new EC. The secretariat will prepare the election which will hopefully be conducted by a show of hands, but preparations for a possible secret ballot are also being made. Susanne Oehlschläger emphasised that everyone interested in re-joining the EC must nominate themselves.

Ophélie Ramonatxo explained that the BnF's new president will be Gilles Pécout. He will start on 18 April 2024. She will encourage him to nominate himself. Frank Scholze added that he spoke to Óscar Arroyo Ortega (Spain) recently and will speak to Anna Lucarelli (Florence, Italy) and Maria Inês Cordeiro (Portugal) in the coming weeks about possible nominations from southern Europe. However, the members will have to nominate themselves actively.

Susanne Oehlschläger further explained that there is as of now no limitation to the seats on the EC. The amended statutes include a limitation but these are not yet effective. In line with the spirit of the Statute amendment and for practical reasons, the new EC should not have more than seven seats. There can be more than seven nominees.

Treasurer's report

Karin Grönvall presented the treasurer's report including the 2025 budget. In short, CENL spent less than it could have and is in a financially comfortable position. The other EC members had no questions regarding the report or the 2025 budget. Both may be presented as seen at the AGM in June.

Minutes of AGM 2023

The draft minutes of the AGM 2023 in Paris are to be approved during the business meeting at the AGM in Warsaw this year. The secretariat is not aware of any further amendments to the minutes.

Conference

At this year's AGM the conference topic will be e-legal deposit as discussed. Susanne Oehlschläger explained that the inspiring speeches before the breakout groups are supposed to give an overview on the situation in Europe. Details should be discussed in the following breakout groups. Speakers who are able to give the planned speeches are yet to be found. Speakers for the breakout rooms shall be found through a Call for Contributions. The call should be published soon (before the end of April). Ophélie Ramonatxo proposed to contact the IFLA National Library Section's committee concerning e-legal deposit and also the British Library who organized a conference on this topic last year. She will do so soon and will get back to Susanne Oehlschläger by the mid of April.

Susanne Oehlschläger proposed to drop the presentations of the EKN Grant Holders in favour of more time for the slot on cultural heritage becoming the target of damage and aggression. The EC members preferred to keep the presentations of the EKN Grant Holders in the program as the grant is a key feature of CENL and the grant holders should get the chance to present their work. The slot on cultural heritage becoming the target of damage and aggression includes an update on the situation in Ukraine. It might again not be possible for Lyubov Andriivna Dubrovina to attend in person. In that case a video will be shown.

As one of the last agenda items, Amina Shah, the host of next year's AGM, will invite the CENL members to the National Library of Scotland. The secretariat has already fixed the date with her: 15 to 17 June 2025.

8. Any other business

As the EC is to be elected in June, a date for its next meeting in autumn cannot yet be fixed. However, the current EC agreed to save two possible dates as options: 30 September 2024 and 14 October 2024. The meeting will take place in Vienna.

Frank Scholze closed the meeting at 14:55 CET.