

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

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 **7 February 2025**. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and the outcome will be announced by March 2025.


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.

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GRANT APPLICATION FORM

1. Organisation Details

Applicant information				
	Name	Organisation	Job Title	email and phone
Main proposer	Kalina Ivanova	The National Library of Bulgaria (NLB)	Director	director@nationallibrary.bg +359 2 9183 101
Collaborator 1	Dragana Milunovic	The National Library of Serbia (NLS)	Deputy Director	dragana.milunovic@nb.rs +381 11 2451-242
Collaborator 2	Eva Augustínová	Slovak National Library (SNL)	Director	eva.augustinova@snk.sk +421 43 2451 294
Confirm that you meet the grant application eligibility criteria (listed above)				Yes
Signed: 				
Date: February 07 th , 2025				

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: "Heritage and Memory beyond Borders"

As memory institutions, the partners are committed to advance the cause of Europe's national libraries through identifying, keeping, preserving and sharing the documentary cultural heritage. Each partner country has entries in the "Memory of the World" Register of UNESCO's programme considering them an invaluable asset and a common heritage of humanity. The current initiative aims with a **joint exhibition** to raise and enhance the public awareness among the wider public about the significance of the documentary heritage included in the UNESCO's "Memory of the World" Register. The joint exhibition "*Heritage and Memory beyond Borders*" will be opened in Sofia, Bulgaria during the visit of the partner libraries representatives and will present in unified design the cultural heritage of the three nations in 10 panels with photos and bilingual text in 4 languages - BG/EN, SR/EN & SK/EN. No objects would be physically transported but following the launch of the exhibition in Sofia the partners would have the opportunity to organize travelling exhibitions (three sets of the exhibition panels are planned to be designed and produced).

On the other hand, a **professional exchange** among the library personnel will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria on issues like experience in the process of submission of entries in "Memory of the World" register, specifics, efforts and resources needed, attempts of organizing collective submissions, lessons learnt. Also, the relation of the process with ongoing challenges stemming from preservation, conservation, digitization; the development of outreach programmes, including exhibitions, travelling presentations, social media, lectures, educational programmes, open/special events in order to make the special collections better known (attracting scholars, researchers and the public). The partners will share how the cultural heritage is promoted – nationally and internationally, what are the benefits for the country having registered a documentary heritage in the "Memory of the World" Register of UNESCO's programme. Moreover, what efforts and measures the countries undertake to safeguard this documentary heritage and discuss on the appropriate measures the memory institutions have to undertake to safeguard the documentary heritage against human and natural dangers to which it is exposed.

Special guest speakers will be invited to contribute with valuable specific expertise and knowledge from Slovakia and the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture and the National Commission of Bulgaria for UNESCO.

Closely related to those outreach and promotion efforts is the reputation of the National Libraries that can be considered as an ideal destination to receive important gifts of significant documentary heritage. The proposal is designed and developed in order to increase the public awareness and visibility on the importance of protection of the world's documentary heritage, and to provide for its universal accessibility in the light of the 47th session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee at Sofia in July 2025. Brief description of the registered cultural heritage in "Memory of the World" register from the partner countries to be presented and included in the exhibition follows.

The National Library of Bulgaria has three manuscripts from the collections in the "Memory of the World" register at UNESCO as follows:

- **Enina Apostle:** A short Apostolos lectionary, written on parchment in the second half of the 11th century, making it the oldest Cyrillic manuscript currently part of a Bulgarian collection.

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- **Borilov Synodik:** The earliest surviving copy, dating from the end of the 14th century. It was found in Tarnovo by Nikolay Palauzov and is currently housed in the National Library of Bulgaria
- **Masnavi-ye-Ma'navi** ("The Spiritual Couplets") by Rumi, from the 16th century.

The partner National Library of Serbia would present the following Serbian heritage:

- **Telegram of Austria-Hungary's declaration of war** on Serbia on 28th July 1914 marked the beginning of the First World War.
- **The Miroslav Gospel**, a manuscript dating from around 1180 with miniatures of outstanding beauty, is the representative of a group of illuminated manuscripts of specific style and iconography resulting from fusion of elements of the West (Italy) and the East (Byzantium).
- **Nikola Tesla's Archive** consists of a unique collection of manuscripts, photographs, scientific and patent documentation which is indispensable in studying the history of electrification of the whole Globe.

The partner Slovak National Library would present the following Slovak heritage:

- **Illuminated Codices from the Library of the Bratislava Chapter House** - The fate of Slovakia's documentary heritage has been shaped over the centuries by a number of political, cultural and social phenomena. The historical territory of Slovakia itself has been a permanent meeting ground of political interests and cultural influences from the whole of Europe. The Antiphonaries of Bratislava belong to the most significant and most representative monuments of the book culture in Bratislava and Central Europe.
- **The Bašagic collection of Islamic manuscripts from the holdings of the University Library in Bratislava** contains unique sources of world Islamic culture and through its significance as an outstanding and comprehensive documentation of Bosnia's written literature in 16th-19th centuries and a unique evidence of literary (prose, poetry) and scientific (Islamic theology, law, history, philosophy, Korans sciences, traditions, Islamic mysticism) activities of Bosnian Muslim scholars writing in Arabic, Turkish and Persian languages reaches world-wide importance.
- **The documentary heritage "Mining maps and plans of the Main Chamber - Count Office in Banská Štiavnica"** represents a collection of almost 20 thousand of items from the 17th century up to the early years of the 20th century, which are an essential part of the archival fonds of this the most significant authority for mining, metallurgy and minting in the Hungarian part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The delegates of the three libraries will discuss the variety of challenges the National Libraries face in the process of preserving and promoting culturally significant materials and documents from their collections to the present and future generations.

The outcomes from the joint exchange and discussions 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.

There are previous collaborations of the National Library of Bulgaria and the National Library of Serbia in 2022 in the project "Wealth of Colors and Traditions." It was implemented in partnership with four other national libraries from Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro and Romania, thanks to the EKN grant. However, the Slovak National Library is a new connection that we decided to initiate based on the common interest and willingness to exchange experience in most challenging aspect for memory institutions to preserve documentary heritage and make it available to people. At the National Library of Bulgaria there are already literary corners of Serbia and Slovakia with donated books and materials. Also, the Memorandums of Cooperation between the libraries are up for a renewal.

4. Benefits

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

- the project idea contributes to the advancement of the cause of Europe's national libraries by organizing an exhibition of the cultural heritage included in the UNESCO "Memory of the World" Register through three National Libraries;
- the diversity of the registered cultural heritage in the "Memory of the World" Register of the partner countries (manuscripts, telegrams, photographs, scientific and patent documentation, etc.) affirms the special role of the memory institutions in preserving and promoting it;
- the current initiative directly supports the development of the partner libraries as memory institutions for the past and for the future in the light of the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee that will be hosted by Bulgaria in Sofia from July 06th to 16th, 2025;
- through sharing knowledge, experience and learning from each other's challenges faced in the process of registration the library experts will build a stronger network and strengthen the bonds between the libraries.

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 partner National Libraries of Serbia and Slovakia: (end of June or early July)

- Plane tickets for 2 people /Belgrade – Sofia – Belgrade/: 250 € per person = 500 €

- Plane tickets for 2 people with possible bus transfer /Bratislava – Sofia – Bratislava/: 300 € per person = 600 €

- Accommodation for 4 people: 175 € per person x 2 night = 350 € per person = 1 400 €

- Lunch (*second day*) and dinner (*first day*) (*to be claimed on an actual cost basis with receipts*): 560 €

Organisational costs for the hosting institution:

- Exhibition design & production in Bulgaria (panels with photos and texts in 4 languages - EN, BG, SR и SK) 3 sets - each of 10 panels – 3 x 530 € per set = 1 590 €

- Courier service (exhibition to Serbia and Slovakia) 2 x 150 € = 300 €

Total estimated cost of proposal = 4 950 euro.