

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 2025 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.

Grant applications 2025 and recommendations

The call for applications for the Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant was open from 8 January 2025 to 7 February 2025. The early deadline was due to the secretariat's intention to allow more time for projects to be completed before the end of the year. The Secretariat announced the call via E-Mail, via the CENL website and via the CENL newsletter. Four applications were received by the Secretariat. In line with the 2025 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 one applications to be out of scope. The full application forms can be found in Appendices A-D.

CENL Member	Overview of application	Overview of costs claimed	Recommendation of CENL secretariat
Bulgaria	Heritage and Memory beyond Borders: The initiative aims at a joint exhibition on documentary heritage included in the UNESCO's "Memory of the World" register in Sofia, Bulgaria. Also, a professional exchange among the participating librarities about safeguarding and promoting their cultural heritage is planned.	Travel and accomodation for 4 people/2 nights: 2.500 EUR Lunch: 560 EUR Exhibition design and production: 1.590 EUR Courier service: 300 EUR Total: 4.950 EUR	The CENL secretariat recommends approval of this application.

Hungary	Knowledge exchange regarding digital philology methods in 4 areas: 1) Creation of georeferenced and pin marked maps, 2) dealing with minor languages like Gaelic and Hungarian in digitalization and HTR-model building, 3) data visualization, 4) usability of archived web content for research purposes, and the development of data mining and data visualization of this content.	Travel and accommodation for 2 people/2 nights from Hungary to Scotland: 2.960 EUR Travel and accommodation for 2 people/2 nights from Scotland to Hungary: 2.000 EUR Total: 4.960 EUR	The CENL secretariat recommends approval of this application.
Romania	Saving Books. Treatment, Prevention, Preservation. Professional Training Workshop for Librarians and Conservators: Organization of four conservation workshops led by the Conservation team of the NL of France at the NL of Romania for about 30 participants. Additionally, French specialists will assess the condition of the NL of Romania's "Deconstructed Collections" and discuss their treatment and conservation procedures.	Travel and accommodation for 4 people/5 nights: 4300 EUR Meal expenses for 4 people and 5 days: 700 EUR Total: 5.000 EUR	The CENL secretariat recommends approval of this application.
North Macedonia	Renovation of the floor in 4 offices	1.250 per office Total: 5.000 EUR	The CENL secretariat recommends rejection of this application because it is out of scope of the EKN grant.

Status of EKN grants awarded in 2024

CENL Member	Overview of application	Status
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.	This grant was completed in November 2024, report on website
Georgia	A two day working conference with the NL of Estonia, and one day for cultural activities around library. The Program will include various activities. Initial matters of the conference include: the circulation process in the library system, how to work in various models of SIERRA, how to implement a support base which helps to run an electronic catalog.	Project postponed to 2025
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.	Project postponed to 2025

II. Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme Update

For 2024, the Board of Directors had approved a budget of 10,000 EUR for this Bursary, i.e., 10 bursaries for 1,000 EUR each. Five applications were submitted, of which the CENL secretariat approved four. Three projects have been completed in 2024; the fourth is still pending due to the situation of the National Library in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The call for applications for 2025 has been issued by the secretariat on January 8, 2025. As in 2024, there are 10 bursaries available for 1,000 EUR each. In January 2025, two applications were submitted, both of which the secretariat approved.

Status of 2024 Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries

CENL Member	Details	Status
Romania	Study visit of the National Library of Italy in Firenze for 5 days in Summer 2024	Completed, report on website
Latvia	Visit of the Martynas Mazvydas National Library of Lithuania in Vilnius, Lithuania, for an experience exchange with colleagues at the Music and Visual Arts Unit	Completed, report on website
Romania	Study visit of the Département de la Conservation within the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in November 2024	Completed, report on website
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Visit of the National Library of Hungary and signing of Memorandum of Understanding	Due to the retirement of Ismet Ovcina (Director of the National Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina) in September, the Bursary could not yet be used.

Status of 2025 Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries

CENL Member	Details	Status
Serbia	Study visit to the National Library of Ireland and the Museum of Literature Ireland in March 2025	Scheduled for March 2025
Latvia	Study visit to the Royal Library of Belgium in March 2025	Scheduled for March 2025

III. 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 aimed to support projects to collect, preserve, research and highlight the stories from, by and related to underrepresented communities in our national collections. **The fund was closed at the end of 2023.**

Status of remaining Hidden Stories Funds

Year	CENL Member	Overview of application	Status
2022	UK/British Library	Youth-led project with support from the Library, working closely with local youth group, KCBNA (Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association).	Project completed in October 2024, report on website