

Bursaries and Grants Update

Actions required:

- The EC is asked to take note of the Bursaries and Grants update.

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.

Status of EKN grants awarded in 2025

CENL Member	Overview of application	Status
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 libraries about safeguarding and promoting their cultural heritage is planned.	Project scheduled for summer 2025
Hungary	Knowledge exchange regarding digital philology methods with the National Library of Scotland 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.	
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.	

Status of EKN grants awarded in 2024

CENL Member	Overview of application	Status
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.	The conference took place on 22-23 April 2025. Project report is pending.
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; due to organizational reasons the grant funds will be transferred to the National Library of Lithuania, who kindly accepted to organize travel, accommodation, and catering services for the colleagues from the National Library of Moldova

II. Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme Update

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 2025, five applications were submitted, all of which the secretariat approved.

Status of 2024 Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries

CENL Member	Details	Status
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), 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	Completed, report on website
Latvia	Study visit to the Royal Library of Belgium in March 2025	Completed, report on website
Moldova	Study visit to the National Library of Bulgaria in May 2025	Scheduled for 6-10 May 2025
Estonia	Study Visit to the Royal Danish Library and to Aarhus	Scheduled for 26-29 May 2025
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