

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. Three grants were awarded in 2025. Two of the grants awarded in 2024 were postponed to 2025.

Status of EKN grants

CENL Member	Overview of application	Status
Bulgaria (2025)	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 librarties about safeguarding and promoting their cultural heritage is planned.	Project rescheduled: the exhibition and the professional exchange to take place in September 2025. Thus, the exhibition will be on display during the European Heritage Days held in Sofia in September.
Hungary (2025)	Knowledge exchange regarding digital philology methods in 4 areas: 1) Creation of georeferenced and pin marked maps, 2) dealing with minor langues like Gaelic and Hungarian in digitalization and HTR-model building, 3) data visualization, 4) usability of archived web content for reseach purposes, and the development of data mining and data visualization of this content.	Two staff members from the Hungarian National Library are scheduled to visit Scotland in September, and two staff members from the National Library of Scotland will visit Hungary in November.
Romania (2025)	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.	Project rescheduled to autumn (September–October 2025)

Georgia (2024)	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 completed, see report on website
Moldova (2024)	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 completed, see report on website

II. Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme Update

The call for applications for the SKE Bursary Scheme 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. As of August 2025, five applications were submitted, all of which the secretariat approved. In August 2025, the CENL secretariat advertised the remaining Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries via the CENL newsletter. This led to three more applications, all of which could be approved.

Status of 2024 Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries

CENL Member	Details	Status
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Instead of the originally planned visit of the National Library of Hungary, the bursary will be used for a visit of Acting Director Adisa Zero to Paris to participate in the 50 th meeting of the Directors of ISSN National Centres and to sign a Cooperation Agreement with the BnF (see below).	The scope of the project has been revised in accordance with the CENL secretariat after after the retirement of former director Ismet Ovcina.

Status of 2025 Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries

CENL Member	Details	Status
Germany	Study visit to the Austrian National Library – particularly in the local map collection – to exchange experiences about workflows, business processes, and developments	Ongoing
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Bosnia and Hercegovina	Visit of Acting Director Adisa Zero to Paris to participate in the 50 th meeting of the Directors of ISSN National Centres and to sign a Cooperation Agreement with the BnF (see above)	Ongoing
Serbia	Study visit to the National Library of Ireland and the Museum of Literature Ireland in March 2025	Project completed, see report on website
Latvia	Study visit to the Royal Library of Belgium in March 2025	Project completed, see report on website
Moldova	Study visit to the National Library of Bulgaria in May 2025	Project completed, see report on website
Estonia	Study visit to the Royal Danish Library and to Aarhus	Project completed, see report on website
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