Minutes of the European Regional Division Committee meeting,
Tuesday 6th February 2024, online

Present:

EURDC Members:
Ertuğrul Çimen, Chair
Marcie Hopkins, Vice-Chair
Steen Bording Andersen
Dagnija Baltiņa
Almuth Gastinger
Giorgios Glossiotis
Ágnes Hajdu Barát
Hella Klauser
Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk
Pascal Sanz
Antti Sauli
Maia Simonishvili

Guests:
Despina Gerasimidou (IFLA HQ)
Stephen Wyber (IFLA HQ)

Apologies:
Kateryna Aleksieienko
Nick Boxem
Catharina Isberg
Pavel Kuzmin
Jasmina Ninkov
Stefano Parise
Mojca Rupar Korošec
Alicia Sellés Carot

1. Welcome and Chair’s Update

Ertuğrul Çimen (EC) welcomed EURDC members to the fifth meeting of the Europe Regional Division Committee for years 2023-2025.
2. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

EC asked if anyone has comments to the last meeting’s minutes sent by Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk (JKZ). One correction has been indicated. JKZ made changes accordingly.

3. Regional Council Meeting and Communications Meeting Updates

EC informed about the Regional Council online meeting which has been held on January 17th, 2024.

4. Discussion about Engagement with the UN Missions

Stephen Wyber (SW) informed that IFLA HQ is trying to strengthen communication with the UN. IFLA HQ is looking for associations and other contacts with good contacts with the UN. The main aim of this is to promote libraries, their mission and to share experiences from the library field. Dagnija Baltina (DB) offered to share her linkperson. Hella Klauser (HK) asked for materials which would help understand what is needed from the EURDC members. EC stated that he will share the documents with the group.

5. Discussion about Emerging Leaders Programmes

EC informed that the Regional Division Committees has been asked by the Regional Council (RC) chair to gather information on emerging leaders and professional development programmes in their regions. EC already shared details on:
1) Emerging Leaders Programme held by LIBER,
2) Library Leaders Programme held by the British Library,
3) Young African Library Innovators held by the EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries),
4) Erasmus Staff Mobility Programme,
5) Staff Exchange Programme held by ANKOS.

SW added that the RC is gathering data on different models of operating where IFLA might add value. A discussion has been held. EURDC agreed on sharing any addition information in the shared document after the meeting.

6. EURDC 2024 mid-term meeting discussion

EC informed that, as agreed on previous meeting, he has asked MENA RDC chair whether their committee would like to host a joint event in July in Cyprus. As MENA RDC chair replied that the committee is already planning a mid-term meeting in Alexandria, EC asked everyone about their ideas. He proposed to revive the idea a meeting in October in Barcelona. Marcie Hopkins (MH) added that there are already other IFLA sections that are planning their meetings in that time. She stressed that this might be a possibility for the EURDC to meet with other sections and exchange ideas. EURDC members agreed that this is a good idea. EC said that he will check with IFLA HQ if this idea is possible to realize. If yes, next steps will be taken by EURDC officers.
7. Action Plan updates + Discussion and Identifying the Subcommittees and Chairs

a) Cooperation with European library partners

HK informed that the group’s first meeting of the group has taken place. As a result, a meeting has been proposed to other EU players: EBLIDA, LIBER, NAPLE and PL2030. This meeting will take place online on March 14th.

b) Democracy and European libraries

Antti Sauli (AS) informed that the group will agree on the date of their first meeting after the committee’s meeting.

c) Demonstrating the impact of library advocacy initiatives

DB shared that the group has materials necessary for their work, but their first meeting is yet to be held.

d) Evaluation of needs for library professional development

Maia Simonishvili (MS) informed that she shared 20 proposed survey questions with group members and asked them to choose the most important ones in their opinion. After receiving other’s opinions she will send out the survey.

8. Discussion about the document titled “Libraries Around the World Since Before the Pandemic”

EC informed that he has shared with the EURDC members a document on libraries’ work since before the pandemic. He asked everyone to fill in the spreadsheet with news regarding everyone’s country as IFLA is seeking to get as much local feedback as possible.

9. Any Other Business

No AOB have been raised.

EC thanked everyone for their attendance.