



**Minutes of the European Regional Division Committee meeting,  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, online**

Present:

EURDC Members:

Ertuğrul Çimen, Chair  
Marcie Hopkins, Vice-Chair  
Steen Bording Andersen  
Dagnija Baltaņa  
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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 Baltiņa (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.