



**Minutes of the European Regional Division Committee meeting,
Tuesday 3rd October 2023, online**

Attendees:

EURDC Members:

Ertuğrul Çimen, Chair
Marcie Hopkins, Vice-Chair
Steen Bording Andersen
Nick Boxem
Giorgios Glossiotis
Catharina Isberg
Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk
Pavel Kuzmin
Stefano Parise
Mojca Rupar Korošec
Antti Sauli
Pascal Sanz
Maia Simonishvili

Guests:

Sharon Memis (IFLA HQ, Secretary General)
Despina Gerasimidou (IFLA HQ)

Others:

Varvara Fayershteyn

Excused:

Almuth Gastinger
Ágnes Hajdu Barát
Hella Klauser
Jasmina Ninkov
Alicia Sellés Carot

1. Welcome from EURDC Chair

Ertuğrul Çimen (EC) welcomed EURDC members to the first meeting of the Europe Regional Division Committee for years 2023-2025. The attendees introduced themselves. Sharon Memis,

IFLA's Secretary General (SM) informed about the opened nomination process to the new Open Science and Scholarship Advisory Committee.

2. Regional Council Update

EC summarized the Regional Council Meeting:

- 1) Chairs of the regional division committees presented their reports they were asked by the IFLA HQ to prepare,
- 2) He presented Europe as a region with long-standing traditions,
- 3) It was noticed that different regions have different issues.

SM underlined the importance of the regional divisions and their roles in their specific contexts. The theme of Vicki McDonald IFLA presidency "stronger together" has been reminded.

3. Discussion of the process of co-opting members for the two free chairs

Concerning the process of co-opting members for the two free chairs in the division EC stated that:

- 1) New members can't be invited directly but can be encouraged to join/self-nominate,
- 2) The new call will be announced as soon as possible,
- 3) The candidates should self-nominate to the positions,
- 4) The candidates will be welcomed only from the already non-represented countries, preferably from the under-represented types of libraries,
- 5) The co-option process should start at the beginning of the next week (i.e. 9th October).

4. Brussels Workshop and EURDC meeting update

EC informed that the everyone should already have received the invitation to the workshop that will be held in Brussels in November. The workshop will be attended by different organizations' (EU/library/NGO) representatives and will be followed-up by a EURDC in-person meeting. Despina Gerasimidou (DG) shared meeting details and reminded that costs of the meeting will be covered by IFLA. She asked everyone to reply to the received meeting invitation, if they have not done it already.

5. Action Plan 2023-2025

Marcie Hopkins (MH) informed that the Action Plan for years 2023-2025 must be submitted by 31st October. In her opinion last term's Action Plan was interesting but too ambitious: there were not too many resources to the reported ideas. She proposed to choose 2/3 actions to focus on. The main tasks the committee is asked to focus on are:

- 1) Supporting Global and Regional Advocacy Agendas
and
- 2) Strengthening the Regional Field.

The committee may also define other projects.

Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk (JKZ) presented the ideas for the Action Plan sent-in by the committee members.

Nick Boxem (NB) and Giorgios Glossiotis (GG) asked questions about the information presented by JKZ and shared their opinions.

Stefano Parise (SP) asked if the committee is allowed to give statements. SM replied that the committee is allowed to do so but it must be always stated that these are EURDC's opinions. MH said that the committee should focus on working on something specific to help libraries regionally.

Pascal Sanz (PS) asked how the committee will be working on the Action Plan proposal. EC proposed to create a Google Drive file.

SM reminded that IFLA is a non-political organization and there is a code of conduct that the committee members should follow. SP noted that if IFLA wants to defend its core values in some countries is now forced to set aside its neutrality. Antti Sauli (AS) said that the committee should find a way to define IFLA's place in European library world.

6. Communications

JKZ informed about the plans for the committee's communication. She expressed that she will be asking committee members to send her ideas for the news. Maia Simonishvili (MS) pointed that we should choose topics interesting to the committee and address other organisations and invite them to cooperate.

GG suggested to work on the Action Plan in the first place and then focus on the news shared with others. As the previous information coordinator, he pointed the importance of sending texts and information to share.

Catharina Isberg (CI) proposed that each month 1 or 2 people should be responsible for sending news about their countries. She suggested to create a sheet with a plan of contributions.

7. IFLA WLIC 2024 Discussion

SM informed that IFLA has been informed of the decision to withdraw the invitation to hold the 2024 World Library and Information Congress in Dubai. Therefore, there will be no WLIC in 2024. The Governing Board will now work on updating the criteria and requirements needed to organize future WLICs.

8. Any Other Business

No AOB have been raised.

9. Closing remarks

EC thanked everyone for their attendance.