



**Minutes of the European Regional Division Committee meeting,
Thursday and Friday 23rd and 24th November 2023,
in-person at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek België, Brussels, Belgium**

Present:

EURDC Members:

Ertuğrul Çimen, Chair
Marcie Hopkins, Vice-Chair
Kateryna Aleksieienko
Steen Bording Andersen
Dagnija Baltiņa
Nick Boxem
Giorgios Glossiotis
Catharina Isberg
Ágnes Hajdu Barát
Hella Klauser
Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk
Jasmina Ninkov
Stefano Parise
Mojca Rupar Korošec
Antti Sauli
Pascal Sanz
Alicia Sellés Carot
Maia Simonishvili

Guests:

Laura Guindal (Head of Subdirectorate for Library Cooperation/Board Member, Ministry of Culture and Sports/National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe, Spain)
Sharon Memis (Secretary General, IFLA HQ)
Stephen Wyber (IFLA HQ)

Apologies:

Almuth Gastinger
Pavel Kuzmin

Programme:

Thursday 23rd November 2023

1. Welcome and setting the afternoon (Ertuğrul Çimen)
2. Main learning points from the first two and half days (Marcie Hopkins)
3. Introduction to action plan work (Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk)

4. Work on the action plan – The members and roles of the sub- committees will be identified (Moderator: Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk)
5. Conclusion

Friday 24 November 2023

1. Welcome, and setting the day
2. Roundtable: Subcommittees will focus on determining their future plans within the scope of the action plan
3. Presentation and consideration of the work plans determined by the subcommittees in the previous roundtable session
4. Brainstorming Session 1: WLIC will not be held in 2024. However, the EURDC may act proactively and organize events with the participation of IFLA members from different regions. In this session, is aimed at the EU RDC members will discuss to identify possible hosts (countries and institutions), possible dates, topics/themes, and possible stakeholders
5. Brainstorming Session 2: working on a plan for communications
6. Potential Collaboration Opportunities in the Region / Guest Speaker: Ilona Kish Q/A and Discussions
7. Next steps, Conclusion, and Closing (Ertuğrul Çimen, Marcie Hopkins, Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk)

On Thursday 23rd November the business meeting started with a short speech by EURDC Chair Ertuğrul Çimen (EC) and Sharon Memis (SM).

Marcie Hopkins (MH) then facilitated a group evaluation to capture the main points and lessons learned from the two-and-a-half-day IFLA Workshop on *Building a Strong and Sustainable Library Field in Europe* and EURDC committee members shared their findings via mentimeter.

Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk (JKZ) informed EURDC members how the action plan was prepared and what was considered while working on it. She presented the 4 chosen actions, which members discussed in detail. All corrections made by members through their discussions have been applied to the action plan, which was then accepted as the final agreed file.

The meeting on Friday 24th November started with the final confirmation of moderators for each of the 4 actions:

- Action 1 – Demonstrating the impact of library advocacy initiatives – Dagnija Baltiņa
- Action 2 – Cooperation with European library partners – Hella Klauser
- Action 3 – Evaluation of needs for library professional development – Maia Simonishvili
- Action 4 – Democracy and European libraries – Antti Sauli

EURDC members made their final decisions regarding to which actions they would like to contribute to.

4 subcommittees worked in groups and determined their work plan. Next, the subcommittees' moderators presented their plans in details and other members shared their thoughts.

Then the EURDC discussed the possibilities of organizing a meeting and maybe a conference in place of the cancelled WLIC 2024. 4 ideas were discussed:

- 1) organize the EURDC meeting the day before or after EBLIDA or LIBER Annual Conference,
- 2) organize the EURDC meeting along with a conference in Cyprus which will be hosted together with MENA RDC (just before or after LIBER Annual Conference),
- 3) organize the EURDC meeting in October 2024 in Barcelona, Spain,
- 4) organize the EURDC as a standalone meeting.

Stephen Wyber (SW) stressed that whichever option will be chosen, the EURDC should make sure to prepare it as a hybrid meeting.

Catharina Isberg (CI) said that the decision should be made quickly to allow members to include it in their plans. She further made the point that a standalone meeting would not be advisable for sustainability reasons, and that if EURDC were to meet separately then this should be organized as a hybrid meeting only.

EURDC members agreed on continuing this topic during the next meeting.

Next the 4 subcommittees worked on communication plans for their action. JKZ asked every subcommittee to send her by December 8th 4-5 sentences informing on what the subcommittees will be working.

At the end EURDC members were joined by Ilona Kish (IK), the director of the Public Libraries 2030 initiative. She gave information about both the initiative and the projects the PL2030 is carrying out. Collaboration opportunities were also discussed with EURDC committee members.