

CENL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. Introduction

In the timeframe April – June 2021, the CENL Board of Directors voted for the future CENL Executive Committee members for the term **2021 - 2024**. The election was undertaken online, following prior notification to all members with regards to the method of voting. The results will be ratified at the CENL Annual General Meeting in November 2021. The elected Executive Committee members will resume their roles on 1 December 2021.

2. Election results

37 members have cast their vote. The following CENL members have been voted on to the CENL Executive Committee:

Name	Library	Role
Frank Scholze	German National Library	Chair
Janne Andresoo	National Library of Estonia	Vice Chair
Karin Grönvall	National Library Sweden	Treasurer
Vadim Duda	Russian State Library (Moscow)	Executive Committee Member
Laurence Engel	Bibliothèque nationale de France	Executive Committee Member
Sara Lammens	Royal Library of Belgium	Executive Committee Member
Hans Petschar	Austrian National Library	Executive Committee Member
Ivanka Stričević	National and University Library in Zagreb	Executive Committee Member

3. The Executive Committee Members and their election pledges

FRANK SCHOLZE

German National Library / Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
Chair



“Cooperation and collaboration between libraries and other scientific and cultural heritage institutions in times of digital transformation are more important than ever. Being connected and having professional contacts helps all of us in facing challenges and in solving problems – not only in times of the pandemic. In a strong community, we are able to learn from each other and to support ourselves mutually. This is true both on a national and a supranational level.”

On the national level, I am a member of the federal board of the German Library Association (dbv) and numerous other scientific committees and councils. As the Director General of the German National Library, I would like to contribute to the community of European national libraries as well. National Libraries need a strong voice in Europe as important hubs in professional and political networks. Together with you - all the colleagues from CENL - and with my team at the German National Library, I would like to support CENL thus contributing to advance the European national libraries as a community.”

JANNE ANDRESOO

National Library of Estonia
Vice-Chair



“Being a member of CENL Executive Committee would give a perfect opportunity to engage in the work of a significant international organisation. The moment in time is very challenging – although the pandemic has not stopped communication with colleagues altogether, international cooperation has notably slowed down and dozed. With hopes that the crisis will be overcome, we nevertheless seem to be standing at the doorstep of a new era that has brought into focus crisis management as an essential skill for libraries. When the world opens up again, our desire and need to learn from each other will be stronger than ever before, its importance has been demonstrated very clearly during the previous extraordinary year. I believe you share my yearn for international communication and information exchange, and that motivates me to be useful to our community of national librarians and beyond.

In the expectation of a thorough renovation, the National Library of Estonia is currently rethinking our library building and furnishing it with new concepts and ideas – sharing this challenge with colleagues would be extremely useful for our library and hopefully interesting also to other libraries. Along with this, our library is building into a competence and development centre for the entire library network in Estonia and we are increasingly interpreting the National Library in the context of our digital state. I believe this would be a topical issue also for other CENL members, particularly in the light of the current crisis – how libraries in general and national libraries in particular are expected to provide more support to the digital state in order to ensure access to information and basic services both in ordinary life and in crisis situation.”

Karin Grönvall

National Library of Sweden
Treasurer



“I have experienced CENL as an important community for sharing experiences and making sure the national libraries in Europe learn from and support each other. I would be happy to, if I get the opportunity, contribute more actively to the development of the future CENL.

I appreciate the national libraries as inclusive organizations that are open and accessible to everyone who wants to take advantage of our services and collections regardless of background, geographical residence etc. Open national libraries are fundamental to democratic societies. Our libraries are historical institutions where the old and the new meet. We are all challenged and inspired by new opportunities and expectations in a digital and global age. We share experiences from the pandemic impact. On large, we see similar challenges, and the value of supporting each other in the work with small and large continuous adjustments and need for skills development. I think we can deepen and elaborate our arenas of cooperation. For our users, there should be no barriers between the national libraries in Europe. We must aim at constituting a common infrastructure.”

I would be most honored if I get the chance to be part of the Executive Committee for CENL and continue the work for bringing together our national libraries.

Vadim Duda

Russian State Library (Moscow)
Executive Committee Member



“Dear colleagues,

I am Director General of the Russian State Library, Vice-President of the Russian Library Association, Vice-President of the National Association “Libraries of the Future”, Vice-President of the Library Assembly of Eurasia, Co-Chair of the German-Russian Library Dialogue, and Co-Chair of the Russian-American Library Dialogue.

In my capacity as Director General of the Russian State Library, I have overseen national projects aimed at creating digital collections, developing library services and policies, as well as at promoting international cultural outreach. In particular, the RSL is the principal operator of the National Digital Library, which now includes about 5.3 million full-text documents. We have also launched the “Book Monuments” project, opening access to 8,000 high-resolution digital book monuments of historical, scientific, and cultural significance.

In addition to digitisation, we are working on preservation and restoration of collections across the country. The RSL has recently conducted a nation-wide review of the state of library collections, and based on the data we have gathered, we are now developing conservation plans that will also include the construction of new facilities and staff training.

Another of our ongoing projects is modernisation of over 700 regional municipal next-gen libraries as the centres of opportunity and development of the most valuable resource, i.e. human intelligence and knowledge. By 2021 (in two years), we have already created 306 next gen libraries for more than 25 million people in 73 regions of Russia. We have developed general guidelines, distance-learning programmes, as well as a toolkit for designing library spaces.

As the head of the largest memory institution in the country, I see this opportunity to join the CENL Executive Committee as a chance to share our vast cultural heritage, but also as an important step for strengthening relations with partners and intergovernmental organizations, and for participation in international initiatives and projects. Personally, I believe we should engage in a dialogue to promote library partnership on regional and international levels, to streamline the development of innovative library activities, and to cooperate on projects aimed at preservation and digitisation of valuable collections.”

Laurence Engel

**Bibliothèque nationale de France
 Executive Committee Member**



“Dear colleagues, Dear fellow members of the CENL,

As you all know, Europe is part of the National Library of France’s DNA. Since 2016, as President of the National Library of France (BnF), I have been an active member of CENL through regular contributions to CENL AGs with in mind the will to share with you my understanding of the challenges at stake in the digital era. This is also the reason why, the BnF is also currently involved in the AI and Copyright working groups. Moreover, the BnF is looking forward to welcoming the CENL AG in Paris in 2023. In order to bring this commitment to the next level, I wish to join the Executive Committee as an Executive Committee Member and in this capacity bring new inputs and ideas.”

Sara Lammens

**Royal Library of Belgium
 Executive Committee Member**



“I would be very happy to join the Executive Committee for a second term. During my first term, I got to know the organization as well as his members better. It was an honor and a pleasure to meet a lot of colleagues and to share ideas. It was an exciting and inspiring journey that I would like to continue.

As a member of the Executive Committee, I would like to continue to reflect on what CENL can offer to his members in this exciting and challenging times for libraries and knowledge institutions. How can we strengthen our community? How can we deal together with the very quick evolving environment we’re living and working in? How can we learn from each other and inspire each other?

I am convinced that the CENL-platform has a vital role to play and that dialogue and peer learning on an international level is fruitful for all of us. I’m ready to work hard to set goals for the organization and to bring together national libraries and the people that make them work and move. I would love to work with all of you three more years on actual topics we’re all dealing with and on shaping our future.”

Hans Petschar

**Austrian National Library
 Executive Committee Member**



“Since 2002, I have the honor of representing the Austrian National Library at CENL. With greatest pleasure, I was able to join the CENL EC 2018 – 2021 and to collaborate with colleagues in supporting and strengthening European National Libraries in a changing heritage and knowledge environment.

Guided by the outstanding leadership of CENL chair Roly Keating and the professional and supportive secretariat, the CENL EC 2018 – 2021 developed a new strategy for CENL, created new networks, created a new website and bursaries and the Erland Kolding Nielsen grant for knowledge exchange of our members. Based on solid financial grounds the CENL secretariat has developed a transition plan for the transition of the CENL chair and secretariat to a new CENL library in 2022 – and therefore we can look forward to the future with confidence.

It would be an honor for me to join the CENL EC 2021 – 2024 for a second term and to support CENL members during the last 3 years of my librarian career in advocating the cause of European National Libraries on a national and international level.”

Ivanka Stričević

National and University Library in Zagreb

Executive Committee Member



“Ivanka Stričević has been University Professor since 2007 and in 2020 she was appointed as a Director General of the National and University Library in Zagreb. She graduated in pedagogy and librarianship, obtained a MA degree in pedagogy, and a PhD degree in information and communication sciences, all from the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

In her academic career she carried several management positions. She was Vice Rector for Scientific Affairs and Information Infrastructure at the University of Zadar (2015-2019), Head of Department of Information Sciences at the University of Zadar (2012-2015) and Deputy Head of the same Department (2008-2012). Before starting her academic career, Ivanka Stričević was a Manager of youth services in the Public Library in Zagreb (1978-2007).

She is active member of national and international professional associations, including the Croatian Library Association and Croatian Reading Association. As an active IFLA member she was chair of the IFLA Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section and IFLA’s Literacy and Reading Section and she is currently participating in the National Libraries Section.

She published more than 70 papers, co-authored 10 studies and books, edited numerous publications on users of information, reading, literacy and librarianship, and worked on scientific and numerous expert projects.

She received two national awards: Ivan Filipović for achievements in education in 1994 and Kukuljević charter for achievements in librarianship in 2008.

If elected to the CENL Executive Committee board she would seek to strengthen relationships of CENL with the key European and global stakeholder organizations, contribute to the governance and overseeing of the CENL, and actively contribute to the CENL’s activities of strengthening professional capacities and resilience of European national libraries in the aspect of reshaping the postCOVID European library field. New ideas and responses are needed to face the new reality of the society in general and library field in particular. These new challenges can be perceived as an opportunity for CENL, to boost the cooperation of national libraries and rearrange priorities. The CENL should take the leading position in the promotion of new visions, standards and practices. As guardians of national cultural and scientific heritage, the national libraries are in the best position to strengthen their role through interactive cooperation among themselves, acting at the same time as a pillar and reference point for all other libraries in their respective countries.”