

## Appointment of CENL Executive Committee 2024 - 2027

To vote by show of hands

The CENL Secretariat asked all CENL members for nominations for members of the CENL Executive Committee via email on 2 April 2024.

The following seven nominations were received by 2 May 2024:

- Frank Scholze, National Library of Germany, current Chair (elected 2021) – for position of Chair
- Gilles Pécout, National Library of France – for position of Vice-Chair
- Karin Grönvall, National Library of Sweden, current Treasurer (elected 2021) – for position of Treasurer
- Tomas Foltyn, National Library of the Czech Republic - for position of EC member
- Sara Lammens, National Library of Belgium, current EC member (elected 2018) - for position of EC member
- Maja Micevska Rizova, National and University Library St. Clement og Ohrid - for position of EC member
- Ivanka Stričević, National and University Library in Zagreb, current EC member (elected 2021) - for position of EC member

In accordance with the CENL articles of association, the Board of Directors is invited to approve the appointments of the Executive Committee for the term June 2024 – June 2027.

## Introduction of all nominees for the Executive Committee

### Tomas Foltyn

National Library of the Czech Republic



Hello everyone! My name is Tomas Foltyn. I have been working at the National Library of the Czech Republic since 2007. In my beginnings, I worked as an ordinary employee in the Digitization Department, then I managed the Collection's Management Division responsible for the long-term preservation of the modern library collections of the National Library of the Czech Republic and gradually progressed to the position of its Director General, to which I was appointed on the 1. 5. 2021.

From the beginning of my career in librarianship, I have also been responsible for a range of national and international R&D projects and networking of the Czech libraries and other culture heritage and educational institutions. My professional expertise therefore covers the wide spectrum of CENL's core missions and I would like to make them available not only for the development of CENL itself, but also for each European national library blossoming.

CENL is already playing a very important role in the field of political and decisive advocacy, active leadership not only during the crisis situations (our times are very rich for these "black swans" - cyber attacks, war in Ukraine, COVID virus, fake news, energy crisis etc.) and open communication between the representatives of European national libraries. I would like to further strengthen and increase these, to my mind, key roles of CENL during my possible service on its Executive Board. As directors of world leading cultural and educational institutions, pillars of democratic thinking, local communities and civil society, I believe this is our fundamental responsibility and the joint commitment of all the CENL members that can help to implement our ideas into European cultural and educational policies and raise our visibility in society.

Beyond this practical and highly professional aspect of its function, CENL is for me also a group of open-minded, collegiate people willing to share their experiences and the outputs of their work at the national level. This exceptionally open and empathetic approach makes CENL a professional association that works very well and it is a pleasure to be represented in. Such a professional/friendly element has to be strongly support in the future.

In one of the previous paragraphs I mentioned the difficulties that the present time brings. However, the world of today is also full of "white swans", new challenges, that can move the society and libraries forward. These are certainly the development of artificial intelligence, sustainable development and education or the willingness of the mature part of the society to help each other. I am optimistic about the future of libraries and I will be very happy to contribute to their sweet future - on a broad European level.

**Karin Grönvall**

National Library of Sweden



I have been in my position as National Librarian since 2019 and on the executive committee as treasurer since 2021. During this time we have in CENL shared the experience of managing a national library during a worldwide pandemic and we have seen the full-scale invasion of a European country followed by an war that is still on.

My experience is that CENL is an important community for meeting colleagues, sharing experiences and making sure we learn from and support each other. If I get the opportunity, I will be happy to continue serving on the executive committee and to contribute actively to the development of the future CENL.

I appreciate the national libraries as inclusive organisations; open and accessible to everyone, regardless of background, geographical residence etc. Open national libraries are fundamental to democratic societies. As national libraries in Europe, we have in many cases a common history and our collections go beyond national borders. We are all challenged and inspired by new opportunities and expectations in a digital and global age. The fast AI-development has increased the demand for our digital collections. On large, we experience similar challenges, and I see a great value in supporting each other to stay relevant, to develop our organisations and to make sure we keep the competence needed. I would like to contribute to the further development of 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 honoured if I get the chance to another term of the executive committee for CENL and to continue the work of bringing our libraries in Europe closer together.

**Sara Lammens**

Royal Library of Belgium



I would be very happy to join the Executive Committee for a third term. During my first and second 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.

**Maja Micevska Rizova**

National and University Library St. Clement og Ohrid



Taking a part of the Executive Committee with the psychology background and 10 years librarian experience allows me to contribute with diverse set of skills that can be valuable in various personal and professional contexts for communication, critical thinking, research skills, cultural competence, strategic decision-making processes.

Networking in Executive Committee can lead to new partnerships, collaborations, and professional growth. Being part of the Executive Committee offers a chance to make a significant impact on the organization's policies, initiatives, and overall success. Members have the power to shape the future of the librarianship, direction and outcomes. Serving on an Executive Committee can be a valuable learning experience. It provides exposure to complex challenges, decision-making processes, fostering personal and professional growth. Executive Committee members play a crucial role in driving organizational growth in libraries. Their contributions can help steer the libraries towards achieving its goals and fulfilling its mission.

**Gilles Pécout**

National Library of France (BnF)



Dear colleagues, dear fellow members of the CENL, The National Library in France (BnF) strongly believes in the role of the CENL to federate a community of national libraries across Europe, and to jointly build our capacities and expertise. The BnF has always been very committed in the life of the CENL – as a Chair of the AI network group and a member of the EDI one, as a member of two Dialogue Forums (with the Federation of European Publishers and with DARIAH), and as a member of the Executive Committee with our former President Laurence Engel from 2021 to 2024. We also had the honour and the pleasure to host the 2023 AGM in Paris, where more than 70 participants gathered to discuss sustainability in

national libraries!

As the new President of the BNF, I am convinced that the CENL will be the place to discuss the many challenges ahead for our libraries – preserving cultural heritage in a digital world and adapting to all forms of heritage with the e-legal deposit, using the opportunities offered by AI to remain ethical and human-centered, safeguarding endangered heritage, ensuring inclusivity in our libraries, and also making sure we remain at the service of our users. I hope to be able to continue the work started by my predecessor within the Executive Committee of the CENL, in order to keep supporting libraries across Europe.

**Frank Scholze**

German National Library / Deutsche Nationalbibliothek



In times of digital transformation, cooperation and collaboration between libraries and other scientific and cultural heritage institutions is a key factor. Networking and professional contacts help us to fulfil our mission of preserving cultural heritage and making it accessible to the public. Especially in challenging times, when we are facing pandemics, wars and cyberattacks while we are in the midst of a profound digital transformation, it is even more important to form a strong

community where we can support and learn from each other.

I have already experienced this mutual support during my term as Chair of the Executive Committee 2021-2024 and I would like to continue this exceptionally good cooperation to bring European national libraries even closer together.

Together we can make a difference - with you, the CENL members and my team at the German National Library, I will do everything I can to strengthen the voice of European national libraries and continue to grow together.

**Professor Ivanka Stričević**

National and University Library in Zagreb



I am interested in joining the Executive Committee for the second term because I strongly believe that CENL as an organization holds significance within the global library field and is particularly vital to European national libraries, especially in times of crises and challenges, when libraries need to strengthen their capacities both internally and externally.

I am strongly committed to CENL's mission and goals and wish to continue contributing my skills and expertise to further its objectives. Having served on the Executive Committee, I have gained a deeper understanding of CENL's operations, challenges, and opportunities and have acquired a wide

insight into the diverse modes of operation of CENL member libraries.

If elected for a second term, I plan to build on the achievements and progress made during my previous term and I see the second term as an opportunity to implement additional initiatives that will strengthen European national libraries through their membership in CENL.

Serving on the Executive Committee provides valuable networking opportunities within the library community. A second term will allow me to further expand this network, strengthen relationships with key European and global stakeholder organizations, and foster collaborations, projects, grants, and expertise exchanges that benefit CENL and its members.

Overall, the decision to pursue a second term on the Executive Committee reflects a combination of dedication to bringing CENL to a leading position in the promotion of new visions, standards, and practices in the library field, a desire to make a positive impact on strengthening professional capacities and resilience of European national libraries, and a commitment to personal and professional growth.