



**Minutes**  
**of the**  
**COBISS.Net Council Meeting**

5 October 2023, Struga

The meeting took place in Struga, North Macedonia, on Thursday, 5 October 2023, between 10:00 and 11:00 CET.

**In attendance:**

COBISS.Net Council members

Dr. Ismet Ovčina; National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina; (director)  
Dr. Aleš Bošnjak; IZUM, Slovenia; (director)  
Dragica Lompar; director of the National library »Djurdje Crnojević« of Montenegro  
Rahmetulla Kuqi; National and University Library of North Macedonia »Sv. Kliment Ohridski« (director)  
Krasimira Aleksandrova, SS. Cyril and Methodius National Library Bulgaria; (director)  
Vjenceslava Ševaljević; National Library »Djurdje Crnojević« of Montenegro; (NCC head)

Other invited guests

Davor Bračko; IZUM, Slovenia; (COBISS.net coordinator)

**Meeting agenda:**

- Opening statements from Dr Ismet Ovčina, COBISS.Net Council President; Dr Aleš Bošnjak, director of IZUM
- Exchange of bibliographic records in the COBISS.net network with a new member of the network
- Development help project for the expansion of the COBISS.net network
- AOB

Dr Ismet Ovčina greeted everyone and asked if there was a representative of each COBISS.net country present. It was established that the directors of the Serbian National Library and the Slovenian National Library were absent. Also absent were Mirlona Buzo from Albania and Artë Kqiku from Kosovo. The UNESCO representatives excused themselves.

Dr Ismet Ovčina thanked the organiser Rahmetulla Kuqi for organising the COBISS.Net Council meeting and asked Dr Aleš Bošnjak to say a few words.

Dr Aleš Bošnjak then reported about the planned activities. As Slovenia is in a difficult situation due to the recent floods, the Slovenian government is re-allocating funds. The funding that was promised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation for COBISS.net will be available. Each NCC must make a plan and confirm it with Davor Bračko. All invoices must be submitted in the first half of November 2023 in order to secure the donation. Dr Aleš Bošnjak also mentioned that he spoke with the Director-General of the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs who will try and allocate an additional 25,000 EUR of funding. The funding will be part of the developmental aid and will only be available to non-EU countries, so Bulgaria will be excluded. More will be known shortly. If this donation happens, then the COBISS.net countries will have to act quickly and submit a proposal and the accompanying invoices.

Dr Ismet Ovčina then summed up the information: the current funding is available to everyone, and the reports and invoices must be submitted by mid-November. If there is additional funding, it will be confirmed shortly. If there are any questions, Davor Bračko should be contacted.

Dr Aleš Bošnjak then moved on to the next item on the agenda, i.e. the exchange of records within the COBISS.net system, in particular with Croatia. IZUM has been in contact with Koprivnica Public Library in Croatia for a year. They would like to use COBISS as they are not satisfied with the current library information system (Metel). The Croatian National Library and some university libraries previously used Voyager, and now Alma, and are currently not interested in using COBISS. The Koprivnica Public Library will now serve as a COBISS Centre. However, they are not yet willing to follow our guidelines with regards to the mutual exchange of bibliographic records. They would like to download records from other countries, but not make their records available to other countries, which is not in line with modern European standards. Dr Aleš Bošnjak asked the Council for their opinion: will Croatian libraries be allowed to download bibliographic records from other countries if they do not make their own records available for libraries from other countries?

Dr Ismet Ovčina thanked Dr Aleš Bošnjak for the information and expressed his support for the activity of including a Croatian library in the system. The general consensus was that all the libraries in the COBISS.net network must follow the rules of the system; if they are not willing to do so, then they can only use the records from their own local databases.

Under AOB, Dr Aleš Bošnjak mentioned that Rahmetulla Kuqi is helping with establishing a contact with the National Library of Turkey in Ankara. A visit to the library is planned and a presentation about COBISS will be made in order to facilitate possible future cooperation.

Dr Ismet Ovčina concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.