# Minutes

## of the

## COBISS.Net Council Meeting

The meeting was held via Zoom on Monday, 26 May 2025, between 13:00 and 14:15. The working language of the meeting was English, and simultaneous interpretation was available in Serbian and Slovenian. At the beginning of the meeting, Davor Bračko gave instructions on how to listen to the simultaneous interpretation.

**Present:**

*Members of the COBISS.Net Council:*

Angelina Grujić; National Library of Serbia; (head of NCC)

Arjeta Sadiku; IZUM, Slovenia

Arta Kqiku; Library of the Kosovo Academy of Sciences and Arts

Azra Smajić Gačević, National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina; (head of NCC)

Daniela Vasileva; St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library, Bulgaria; (head of NCC)

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

Dr. Aleš Bošnjak; IZUM, Slovenia; (director)

Jovica Nikchevski; National Library of North Macedonia »Sv. Kliment Ohridski«; (acting director)

Mirlona Buzo, Library of the Academy of Sciences of Albania; (head of NCC)

Tamara Butigan Vučaj; National Library of Serbia, deputy director, head of Digital Library Department at the National Library of Serbia –Council President

Tatjana Dunović; National and University Library of the Republic of Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vjenceslava Ševaljević; National Library of Montenegro ''Đurđe Crnojević''; (head of NCC)

Žaklina Gjalevska; National Library of North Macedonia ''Sv. Kliment Ohridski''; (head of NCC)

Željka Komlenić; National and University Library of the Republic of Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina; (head of NCC)

*Interpreters:*

Miloš Mitrović; IZUM

Petra Bridges; IZUM

**Institute of**
**Information**
**Science**

Prešernova ulica 17
2000 Maribor
Slovenia

+386 2 2520 331
izum@izum.si
www.izum.si

**Meeting agenda:**

1. Opening statements from Tamara Butigan Vučaj, COBISS.Net Council President; Aleš Bošnjak, director of IZUM
2. Confirmation of the minutes from the previous COBISS.Net Council meeting
3. Proposals for a better user experience in COBISS.Net
4. Presentation of the COBISS.Net project at the meeting of the Western Balkans R&I Platform
5. Development aid for the expansion of the COBISS.Net network
6. AOB

Tamara Butigan Vučaj started the 13th meeting of the COBISS.Net Council and greeted everyone present. She gave some general instructions about how to carry out the meeting. She passed the floor to Aleš Bošnjak.

First Aleš Bošnjak expressed his delight as the participation was very high. The objective of the meeting was to discuss recent events, Slovenian donation for the COBISS.Net network for network expansion, training and education activities, travelling expenses and promotion. It is not possible to buy computer equipment from these funds. Next month, there will be transition to COBISS Lib and computers in the network are perhaps not compatible with the requirements for COBISS Lib instalment. Microsoft does not provide support for Windows 7 or older versions. A new project is in preparation, which is also among the topics of this meeting. We have to discuss what can be claimed within this project, for what we can acquire funds and who is going to be responsible and for what tasks. The second live presentation of the project was very successful, it took place during the meeting of the Western Balkans R&I Platform in Podgorica, with the main representatives of the European Commission being present; they praised the project. They will tell what instruments we should use to succeed when applying for the project. Davor Bračko will tell us more about it. He thanked the directors of national libraries as they supported this project with a letter of intent. It is a long-term project that will bring more funds and it will be possible to cover also equipment costs with those funds. Also, he thanked all who spoke with the representatives of ministries as this increased the support given at the meeting of the Western Balkans R&I Platform in Podgorica.

Then Tamara Butigan Vučaj suggested some activities in order to get to know each other. All the people present told their names, what institutions they came from and their feelings about the COBISS.Net network. All the people present at the meeting expressed some positive thoughts about the cooperation within the network.

Tamara Butigan Vučaj summed up that it was good to hear such a positive opinion about the cooperation within the network.

The next item on the agenda was the confirmation of the of the previous meeting. Tamara Butigan Vučaj had only one comment, i.e. Azra's surname was misspelled (Gačić instead of Gačević), which needs to be corrected. The minutes were then officially approved by a show of hands.

Proposals for improving the user experience from the network were the next item on the agenda. A letter from Montenegro arrived, with the initiative to change the method of cataloguing bibliographic records. Aleš Bošnjak tried to give some general explanations. Some comments will

be taken into consideration with gratitude, Tadeja Brešar gave some instructions on how to address the first issue, in the software department they agreed to consider and implement the second comment. If anything has not been resolved yet, the network members should indicate this as soon as possible. Also within the COBISS.Net Council, a forum could be established with the purpose to discuss the transition to COBISS Lib and COBISS Cat, and other proposals for improvement. IZUM will deal with all the comments and tips with due consideration.

Then Tamara Butigan Vučaj added that she wanted to mention this letter as Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo and Northern Macedonia are not involved with it. Afterwards there was a proposal from the National centre of the Republic of Srpska, presented by Angelina Grujić concerning the downloading of CONOR records from other systems within the COBISS.Net network. The idea had emerged based on the project of exchaning records between Serbia and the Republic of Srpska in order to establish the initial authority database with personal names and corporate body names, in relation to which 39.000 records were downloaded. The objective of the project was the exchange of authority records between all the member countires of the COBISS.Net network, modelled on the current exchange of bibliographic records. Downloaded records would then be edited in compliance with valid local cataloguing rules.

Aleš Bošnjak welcomed the proposal but it should be examined what difficulties might arise. IZUM will provide a response to this proposal soon.

The presentation of the new COBISS.Net project was the 4th item on the agenda. Experts say that the project is suitable for applying to the Horizon call for proposals, i.e. infrastructure instrument (HORIZON INFRA). Details about the application must be defined and what can be financed. By mid-September, the entire text of the application for the project must be drawn up. All the specified tasks must be finished within the set deadline, i.e. within 4 years. Davor Bračko will send a presentation about the project to all the Council members. We should be aware of the fact that this is a platform for research and innovations, all the ministers from the relevant ministries were present, they had to report about their tasks in the last 6 months. Then the floor was given to Aleš Bošnjak, who described the project in detail and received support from the Slovenian ministry and the confirmation that the project is suitable for application. A project coordinator will have to be selected for each country, directors of national libraries will be the signatories, one person must be chosen to coordinate work within each country. A greater role will be played by university libraries, the library of the academy of science, important repositories. Training can be performed in the national library, major role will be given to research and innovations.

Then Davor Bračko told that the project is divided into work packages. The project in question is the HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-DEV-03 project with the title Consolidation of the Research Infrastructure landscape – Individual support for evolution, long term sustainability and emerging needs of pan-European research infrastructures. The objective of the project is to support strategic development and long term sustainability, and to provide adjustment to emerging needs of pan-European research infrastructures; research infrastructures must be available to everyone, open science is of key importance. The call for proposals was published on 16 May 2025, the deadline for sending proposals is 18 September 2025. If the proposal is successful, the foreseen start of the project is June 2026 and the project will take place for four years. Beneficiaries can be libraries, research organizations (universities, institutes), public institutions (government agencies, municipalities), private undertakings (particularly SMEs), etc. The beneficiaries must have their

registered seat in an EU member state or a Horizon Europe programme associated state.

First, the roles within the project must be defined. IZUM will apply as the main applicant, all the others will be partners in the project. Strategic partners must be defined (institutions with complementary expert knowledge, infrastructure or networks will be searched for), their role must be clarified (it must be defined what they will contribute) and letters of commitment must be signed.

Aleš Bošnjak told that IZUM already participates in other Horizon project, IZUM also cooperates with IJS (Jožef Stefan Institute), where they conduct numerous such projects. Additionally, European Commissioners stressed that Western Balkans countries should commit to participate in the open science agenda as this represents a better starting point for cooperation within EOSC in EU and in other European initiatives.

Tamara Butigan Vučaj commented that the project sounds promising, all the countries will be partners within the project. In Serbia, they have no direct experience with the Horizon projects and they see this as an additional challenge; if we really wish to cooperate, they will find a way how to do it.

Davor Bračko will send a presentation and a description of the project to everyone.

Regarding the development aid for the COBISS.Net expansion, Davor Bračko told that funds, this year EUR50,000.00 in total, will be available again, for network expansion, inclusion of new libraries and promotion of the state; proposals should be prepared, the project must be finished by 18 October 2025 and the invoices must be issued by the end of October.

Under AOB, everybody described their experience regarding the transition to COBISS Lib and COBISS Cat due to the termination of the COBISS3 software. Everything is going on as planned and everyone is optimistic that they will manage to deal with everything by 1 July 2025.

The meeting ended at 14:15 CET.