

MINUTES

of the second COBISS.Net Council meeting

30 November 2017, Maribor, Slovenia

The meeting was held in Maribor, Slovenia, 30 November 2017, starting at 9:00 CET.

Participants:

Nominated members of the COBISS.Net Council and authorized proxies:

Aleš Bošnjak; IZUM, Slovenia; *(Acting Director)*

Ismet Ovčina; National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina; *(Director)*

Nevenka Hajdarović; National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina; *(Head of NCC¹)*

Senka Naumovska; National and University Library, Macedonia; *(Acting Director)*

Žaklina Gjalevska; National and University Library, Macedonia; *(Head of NCC)*

Tatjana Dunović; National and University Library of Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
(Director's Authorised Proxy)

Željka Komlenić; National and University Library of Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina; *(Head of NCC)*

Milorad Vučković; National Library of Serbia; *(Director's Authorised Proxy)*

Vesna Stevanović; National Library of Serbia; *(Head of NCC)*

Bogić Rakočević; National Library of Montenegro; *(Director)*

Vjenceslava Ševaljević; National Library of Montenegro; *(Head of NCC)*

Martina Rozman Salobir; National and University Library, Slovenia; *(Director)*

Sanela Vuklišević; Ministry of Science and Technology of Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
(Head of E-CRIS)

Invited experts:

Davor Šoštarič; IZUM, Slovenia

Arjeta Sadiku; IZUM, Slovenia

Irena Sešek; National and University Library, Slovenia

Albana Velianj; Academy of Sciences of Albania

¹ NCC – National COBISS Centre

Mirlona Buzo; Academy of Sciences of Albania

Agenda:

1. Election of the COBISS.Net Council president
2. Activities regarding the international development help for financing the COBISS.Net project (UNESCO, EU, etc.)
3. New features in the COBISS system
4. AOB

The introductory address of Dr Aleš Bošnjak, the acting director of IZUM, was followed by the election of the COBISS.Net Council Chair. This function should to be allocated to the member with the longest service in COBISS.Net network and the first president was Jelena Đurović elected in the first meeting on 8 July 2016. Since Ms Đurović retired this year, the new chair elected was Dr Ismet Ovčina by a unanimous vote. Mr Ovčina accepted the title and thanked the participants for the shown support and took over the meeting.

For the second item on the agenda, Davor Šoštarič first reported on the progress of the UNESCO project with 12 items supported by all Council members in the first meeting. The project is very ambitious; multiple activities for acquiring support took place, however, the support from individual ministries and governments of COBISS.Net member countries is also essential. The lack of self-engagement is also proven by the fact that only two ambassadors took part in the meeting in Paris organised by UNESCO. IZUM has the support from its competent ministry and some directorates, but support solely from Slovenia is not and will not be enough. Such support must also be present from ministries, governments and other participants of all member countries. IZUM does not have access to their ministries, which means that this must be initiated by NCC centres and directors of national libraries. They need to be politically active and lobby with appropriate authorities (the government, ministry, public experts) in order to achieve the progress and development of the COBISS.Net network. In short, our common goal must be a strong COBISS.Net network.

The Chair of the COBISS.Net Council, Dr Ismet Ovčina, starts the discussion regarding this topic and invites the participants that they contribute to a strong COBISS.Net network with their activities as best as they can. We should strive for this. A suggestion was given that the participants should notify each other about activities and achievements with the planned distribution list of the COBISS.Net Council. Dr Ovčina himself has committed himself to lobby with UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Committee, whose member he also is; as well as to lobby as a member of the ISSN group with the member from UNESCO.

The director of the National Library from Skopje, Senka Naumovska, informs the Council that the political situation in Macedonia is favourable at the moment and that she counts on the support from the Ministry of culture as well as from the Ministry of education.

The director of the National Library from Podgorica, Bogić Rakočević, informs the Council that there is no Ministry of culture in Montenegro at the moment, but they will nonetheless do everything they can to promote the COBISS.Net network.

Ms Albana Velianj from Tirana informs the Council that they are currently in the process of reforming the field of science, which she sees as an opportunity to settle the issue of librarianship and COBISS at the same time;

however, these activities are not to be expected before the spring of 2018. At this point, Dr Aleš Bošnjak mentions the successful visit to Albania, where they presented achievements in the field of online personal bibliographies. The presentation also received the same praise and interest in Kosovo.

Ms Sanela Vuklišević from Banja Luka informed the Council that she will inform her minister about this. Even though she is responsible for E-CRIS in Republika Srpska, she stresses that there is no E-CRIS without COBISS.

The representative of the National Library in Banja Luka, Željka Komlenić, suggests a special meeting with the ministers and the representatives of UNESCO.

The director of the National Library in Ljubljana, Martina Rozman Salobir, informs the Council that they are of course ready to cooperate with IZUM in matters of consolidating and spreading the COBISS.Net network. She also commends the exemplary cooperation between IZUM and the National and University Library.

The head of NCC in Beograd, Vesna Stevanović, informs the Council that they will try to procure a basic support from the Ministry of culture, but also suggests that the next time they should be informed about such meetings and activities sooner in order to have enough time to get in touch to the proper authorities and to lobby with them. Milorad Vučković, also from the NCC in Beograd, expects an organisation of a meeting at a higher level, i.e. between governments. He believes that Slovenian government and its competent ministry should turn to the governments and ministries of other COBISS.Net countries with its proposal/appeal. At the end of this discussion Ismet Ovčina appeals to IZUM that they send the UNESCO project to the members of the COBISS.Net Council again and the members commit to become more engaged in their respective countries. We should also consider organising a meeting between the competent ministries of the COBISS.Net Council member countries.

Participants unanimously confirm the initiative to organise a meeting at a higher level (ministers).

In the 3rd item on the agenda Dr Aleš Bošnjak presents some new features in the COBISS system. First, he presented mCOBISS already used in Slovenia, Serbia and Bosnia and Hercegovina with the intention to implement it in other COBISS.Net countries in the near future. Presentations will be available everywhere and there are larger modifications of existing versions in progress. The head of NCC from Skopje, Žaklina Gjalevska, inquired what more is there to be done in order to implement mCOBISS in Macedonia. Dr Aleš Bošnjak explained that it is only a matter of a few details and that the translations are also almost finished. The NCC representatives from Serbia inform the Council that their experiences with mCOBISS vary and that the usability of the service greatly depends on librarians who have a big influence when it comes to promoting such and similar new features. Unfortunately, the librarians more often than not have a hard time accepting new features and only do so with reservations and do not support them enough. The head of NCC from Sarajevo, Nevenka Hajdarović, adds that they have exclusively positive experience with mCOBISS after one year of using it. IZUM's acting director adds that there was a lot of effort put into promoting mCOBISS in Slovenia.

Among the selected new features that are to be implemented in the near future Dr Aleš Bošnjak also mentioned COBISS+ and online registration.

Then Dr Bošnjak mentioned one of the most important projects in COBISS.SI at the moment which is the inclusion of school libraries in COBISS. Milorad Vučković, from NCC in Serbia, opened the discussion about the

legal aspects of database ownership in regards to this topic. He suggests that the database owner could be the municipality that connects the primary schools and high schools in a specific town or region. According to him, the main problem in Serbia is training and inclusion and the solution could be decentralisation, because this would relieve the NCC and the national library enabling them to focus on professional development as well as on school libraries for example.

The representative from Republika Srpska, Ms Željka Komlenić, suggests that a proposal or a concept for the inclusion of school libraries should be created.

Žaklina Gjalevska from the NCC in Macedonia considered the problems of payment and ownership in regards to the inclusion of school libraries and offers her experience regarding the suggestion of decentralisation, which caused an incorrect transfer of knowledge in Macedonia and consequently led to errors in records and holdings data in local databases.

Vjenceslava Ševaljević from the NCC in Montenegro informs the Council that they have reached an agreement with IZUM concerning special financial obligations for school libraries.

According to the remarks from Ms Nevenka Hajdarović from the NCC in Bosnia and Hercegovina, IZUM must by all means first consider a special package for school libraries and their financing.

Dr Aleš Bošnjak thanked the participants for their opinions, which will be analysed in IZUM and alternative models for each country will be prepared.

Under AOB the participants unanimously agreed that Rules of Procedure should be prepared for the purposes of the COBISS.Net Council. After the meeting the minutes and a distribution list will be prepared.

At the end of the meeting Davor Šoštarić also mentions the changes concerning the protection of personal data that become effective in May 2018 as well as IZUM's obligations that are a consequence of this.

The meeting was concluded with the confirmation from Dr Aleš Bošnjak that the COBISS Conference will take place next year and that the 3rd COBISS.Net Council meeting will presumably also take place at that time.

The participants also agreed that a mailing list will be created so that members can notify each other about the performed activities for the achievement of common goals in the meantime.