



Minutes
of the
COBISS.Net Council Meeting

12 September 2022, online

The meeting took place via Zoom on Monday, 12 September 2022, between 10:00 and 11:00 CET.

In attendance:

COBISS.Net Council members:

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

Dr. Ismet Ovčina; National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina; (*director*)

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

Dr. Vladimir Pištalo; National and University Library of Serbia; (*director*)

Dragica Lompar; National Library »Djurdje Crnojević« of Montenegro; (*director*)

Žaklina Gjalevska; National and University Library of North Macedonia »Sv. Kliment Ohridski«; (*NCC head*)

Jovica Tasevski; National and University Library of North Macedonia »Sv. Kliment Ohridski«; (*on behalf of the director*)

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

Rumyana Petrova; SS. Cyril and Methodius National Library Bulgaria; (*NCC head*)

Vjenceslava Ševaljević; National Library »Djurdje Crnojević« of Montenegro; (*NCC head*)

Vesna Stevanović; National and University Library of Serbia; (*NCC head*)

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

Mirlona Buzo; Library of the Academy of Sciences of Albania

Other invited guests:

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

Petra Bridges; IZUM, Slovenia; (*keeper of the minutes*)

Excused:

Dr. Bhanu Neupane; UNESCO

Gašper Hrastelj; Head of UNESCO Office and Secretary-General of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO

Rahmetula Kuqi; National and University Library of North Macedonia »Sv. Kliment Ohridski«
(*director*)

Meeting agenda:

- Confirmation of the minutes from the previous meeting
- Development help of the Republic of Slovenia for 2022
- Exchange of records between the national libraries in the COBISS.net network and Croatia
- AOB (any other business)

Ismet Ovčina as the president of the COBISS.Net Council moderated the meeting. In the introduction he said that the meeting would be held in English. He asked the participants if it was OK to take a screenshot to be published in the local newspaper. Everyone agreed and the screenshot was taken. Then he welcomed everyone present and said that meeting would take place over Zoom, but that they would be able to meet in person in a month in Slovenia at the COBISS 2022 conference. He thanked everyone for attending. He mentioned that Jovica Tasovski would be attending the meeting instead of the new director of the Macedonian national library Rahmetula Kuqi. He established that representatives from all the national COBISS centres from all the countries were present. He said that the agenda was already sent to everyone by e-mail and that he hoped the meeting would be finished in an hour. The first item on the agenda was the confirmation of the minutes from the previous meeting. Once again, everyone approved the minutes.

The second item on the agenda was the development help of the Republic of Slovenia to the countries within the COBISS.net network.

The third item on the agenda was the exchange of records between the libraries within the COBISS.net network and the National Library of Croatia. Ismet Ovčina said that Aleš Bošnjak would talk about this and that he himself also spoke to the director of the Croatian national library and would report about this later.

Under AOB he suggested that Aleš Bošnjak tells everyone about this year's COBISS conference. At the last meeting they were discussing the development of COBISS among other things, so he asked Aleš Bošnjak to say a few words about the development help of the Republic of Slovenia for 2022.

Aleš Bošnjak reported that the talks with the government and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs were successful. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Education, Science and Sport concluded an agreement for an additional 20,000 EUR of financing, which means 40,000 EUR in total. He also received some guidelines on how this money should be spent, mainly for the implementation of new functionalities and the expansion of the COBISS.net network, system maintenance and the introduction of permits in libraries that have joined recently. The money must be spent this year as the fiscal year

ends on 31 December 2022, which means that all invoices that will be covered by development funds must be issued before 31 December 2022. Davor Bračko is the COBISS.net network coordinator and the main organiser of COBISS Days and has prepared proposals together with the centres on what to do and how to spend these funds. Aleš Bošnjak said that Davor Bračko would briefly introduce the activities and areas, and then each centre will present their proposal on how to spend the funds. Next, the National COBISS Centres will then be informed by the end of the week (or the following week at the latest) about which proposals were accepted within the budget. If the proposal is good but exceeds the budget, then IZUM will try to help and co-finance the activity with its own funds. Then he summed up that they will firstly accept or reject the proposals and then prepare a report on what was done. Next, the reports of the national centres will be united into one report which will be presented to the competent ministry. The work will also be included in IZUM's annual report, but separately, as these activities are not financed through funds acquired on the market. Finally, he said that he was glad that the project has already made it this far and asked Davor Bračko to continue and present the common document.

Davor Bračko thanked everyone for their proposals. He copied all the proposals into one Excel document with six different modules: including new libraries, implementing new services, promotion (COBISS Days), librarian training, course instructor training and translation of documents. Most countries proposed the inclusion of new libraries, the implementation of new services (e.g. dCOBISS) and organisation of COBISS Days, along with some individual proposals. He suggested that each country representative briefly summarises their proposal.

Mirlona Buzo said that they decided to continue to organise courses, namely the advanced cataloguing course and the course for cataloguing other types of material, as well as granting permits for continuing resources and articles. Training will take place until the end of the year.

Davor Bračko added that the previous week there had been a conference in Albania, where the Slovenian ambassador in Albania and the president of the Albanian Academy of Sciences were present.

Aleš Bošnjak added that they had a very productive meeting with the director of the national library and the Deputy Minister for Education and Sports, Albana Tole.

Davor Bračko then asked Romyana Petrova to say a few words.

Romyana Petrova firstly said that they were not happy with the numbers of new libraries being included, but that things were complicated and the procedure would take longer. She said that the most crucial thing to be implemented in the COBISS system was Bolgarica. She said they were already talking about it and that she insisted that Bolgarica had to be a part of this process. She asked that particular attention should be paid to this. She said

they hadn't started the implementation yet but that they can act quickly and are hoping that it will be done this year.

Azra Gačević Smajić, the new head of the National COBISS Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina said that they already included 6 libraries this year and were planning to add another 4 or 5 libraries. They would like to implement E-CRIS and the implementation process is underway. They already have the register of researchers of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sarajevo. They organised COBISS Days for the third year in a row, and there is training for new course instructors as the former course instructor Nevenka Hajdarović had retired, and a replacement is needed.

Ismet Ovčina then added that they were also getting ready for the COBISS conference. With reference to the retirement of Nevenka Hajdarović, he would like to talk to Aleš Bošnjak as he thought it would be easiest if Nevenka continued to cooperate in the training process. They will discuss this in a separate meeting.

Vjenceslava Ševaljević said that the COBISS Days will be organised on 20 September. There are talks underway for implementing dCOBISS. They will organise training for a course instructor for the cataloguing course. She proposed to visit some member libraries before the end of the year and hoped to be able to discuss this in more detail with Davor Bračko and Aleš Bošnjak in Cetinje.

Aleš Bošnjak said that the last item seemed like a very good idea that should be implemented in all member countries. By doing so, they would be able to support libraries that are not as active and establish what the problem was. He thanked Vjenceslava for the excellent suggestion.

Arta Kqiku said that only 10 libraries in Kosovo participated in the system. They would like to organise training for 18 new librarians for CONOR and cataloguing serials and articles, as only Arta has this permit. They would like to organise COBISS Days in Kosovo which would take place for two days and would include a meeting with the deans and rectors of universities.

Željka Komlenić said that they regularly organised five courses in two time periods (in spring and in autumn). They established the initial CONOR database. In two years, they included 3 new libraries. In September they will organise seminars for school libraries in different regions. The licencing process for a course instructor for interlibrary loan is underway. They will start holding courses for cataloguing with authority control. The courses will take place between 20 September and the end of this year.

Žaklina Gjalevska said that the translation of user manuals into Macedonian is the most important task. Up until now they were using the Serbian translations, but the new generations of librarians no longer spoke Serbian. The Cataloguing manual is already being translated. They also performed activities related to the inclusion of new libraries but not

to the extent they were hoping for, only 2 or 3 new libraries joined. In spring they organised several courses; more are planned for autumn. They had some problems with the course instructor who was the acting director of the national library for a while and couldn't hold any courses during that time. The COBISS Days are planned for 15 November. They also started activities related to the CONOR database and are hoping to be able to include it soon. They are still preparing a training database for CONOR but are unsure when it will be ready for conducting courses. They are also planning to visit some members. Some libraries are not very active, and they would like to visit them to find out why.

Vesna Stevanović continued. She said that 16 libraries were included this year, among them 8 school libraries. They were experiencing problems with the school libraries as they were not adequately prepared. The strategy of including new libraries with no installation costs proved to be very successful and they are hoping that this will continue in the future. They also organised all beginner's courses for loan and cataloguing.

Aleš Bošnjak thanked Vesna for their excellent work and the large number of newly included libraries. He also said that there are also problems with school libraries in Slovenia as the librarians were not adequately trained. If it was possible to visit them and help them, it would make things much better. He also said that it is very likely that the activity of free inclusion of new libraries will continue.

Davor Bračko then thanked everyone for their presentations. He said that the centres would be informed in the current week or the following week by e-mail about which proposals were chosen and that he was available for questions.

Aleš Bošnjak then asked all the centres to prepare a cost estimation for the planned activities so that IZUM can prepare a full estimate of how much will be spent in each country. He emphasised that nobody should be disappointed if all proposals will not be financed and that they would try to finance them from another source.

Aleš Bošnjak then announced item 3 on the agenda, which was the exchange of records with the Croatian national library. Several meetings took place in Croatia and the Croatians are willing to include some libraries in COBISS. The national library is migrating to the ALMA system (ExLibris), which they also intend to acquire for some university libraries. The library in Koprivnica along with 8 other libraries would like to change the current Metel system and replace it with the COBISS system. Their representatives also came to Maribor, where they visited IZUM and some public libraries. The director of the library in Koprivnica, Karlo Galinac, has trouble with the national library as they would like to continue to download records from the national library even after migrating to COBISS.

He then asked Ismet Ovčina to say a few words about the conversation with the director of the National Library of Croatia.

As an introduction, Azra Smajić Gačević read out the minutes from the meeting with the

national library of Croatia regarding the exchange of records. The meeting took place on Zoom. They talked about the cooperation between libraries as part of EU projects with regards to the exchange of records. It was emphasised that this was about the mutual exchange of bibliographic records. The general impression was good.

Ismet Ovčina added that this meant progress and that they would continue the discussions as this was a very important topic. He suggested to Aleš Bošnjak to invite the director of the National and University Library in Zagreb, prof. dr. Ivana Stričević, to the COBISS conference so that they could continue this conversation together, as this was a great project and an excellent idea that needed time.

Aleš Bošnjak agreed and said that they would send an invitation. He also added that when reviewing the finances, they discovered that they could also finance the plane transfer for the directors of national libraries and the heads of the national COBISS centres to come to the COBISS conference, otherwise there might be problems with the transfer. Davor Bračko will send more information about this.

Aleš Bošnjak asked if anyone had anything to say under AOB.

Aleš Bošnjak said that they will ask all centres for a cost estimate shortly, and then inform them about the decision about which proposals were selected.

Ismet Ovčina then added that Bhanu Neupane promised UNESCO's support and then didn't get back to them. He asked Aleš Bošnjak if he had any additional information.

Aleš Bošnjak said that he also didn't have any information, but that he would meet with Gašper Hrastelj at the 30th anniversary of UNESCO in Slovenia and ask him. If he understood Bhanu correctly, then we need to send him the information on larger projects, find the topics that would match with them, and then prepare a proposal together. He also added that he would have more information regarding the cooperation with UNESCO at the COBISS conference at the meeting of directors.

Ismet Ovčina added that the meeting was very successful and that it was nice to hear about the experience of other centres and that they are all looking forward to the support.

Ismet Ovčina then thanked everyone for their successful cooperation.

The meeting finished at 11:00 CET.