



EB0220

Minutes of the Executive Board Meetings held online on Monday 22 June 2020, Tuesday 23 June 2020 and Friday 26 June 2020.

Present: Ms Jeannette Frey (President), Mr Julien Roche (Vice-President), Mr John MacColl (Secretary-General), Drs Anja Smit (Treasurer), Drs Astrid Verheusen (Executive Director), Ms Athina Papadopoulou (Operations & Projects Officer), Dr Giannis Tsakonas, Dr Hilde van Wijngaarden, Prof Lars Burman, Ms Agnès Ponsati Obiols, Dr Birgit Schmidt, Dr Heli Kautonen, Dr Andreas Brandtner, Ms Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen (until 24/6), Dr Adam Sofronijevic (from 26/6), Ms Cécile Swiatek (from 26/6).

Apologies: Mr Martin Svoboda.

Monday 22 June 2020

Executive Board Discussion Slot

1. COVID-19 Impact

Jeannette Frey welcomed Executive Board members and invited all members to share their recent experiences with regard to the COVID-19 outbreak and the responses from their libraries. This input would be crucial for the development of the LIBER Strategy. A discussion followed and several Executive Board members endorsed the circulation of a survey on “Research libraries in a post-COVID-19 world”. It was agreed that the survey should be as concise as possible, reflecting the needs of the LIBER community to the fullest and directing the LIBER services to the needs of its network. Jeannette Frey mentioned that it would be useful to circulate the survey after the summer months as libraries would have more clarity after reopening to assess the situation. Julien Roche noted that communication with Participants around the survey should bear in mind the fluidity and unpredictability of the current state of affairs.

The LIBER Office would finalise the structure of the survey with the aim of starting the circulation in September and analysing the results by December.

2. EOSC and Libraries – Roadmap and Action Plan

Jeannette Frey introduced to the Executive Board the Roadmap and Action Plan connecting EOSC and libraries. She noted that she had joined the EOSC Executive Board on behalf of LIBER with Observer status. The Roadmap had been drafted incorporating the input gathered via the consultations during the meetings in January 2020 with the relevant departments of the European Commission. Hilde van Wijngaarden argued that this would be a good opportunity to connect with the research community, but it should be made explicit in the Roadmap that libraries would serve as the mediator and the connection between EOSC and researchers. Giannis Tsakonas stated that the Roadmap was a very good step towards a more meaningful connection between libraries and EOSC. It would be beneficial to include LIBER Steering Committees and Working Groups, but more structured guidelines would be needed from EOSC.



It was agreed that the LIBER Office would approach the Steering Committee Chairs and Working Groups to establish a connection between the EOSC and the LIBER Strategies. Executive Board members agreed that the Roadmap could be shared in its current version.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

3. Apologies

Mr Martin Svoboda.

4. Minutes of the Meetings: Lausanne, February 2020

The minutes were approved.

5. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

6. Report of the Finance Committee, June 2020

6.1 Annual Report & Accounts 2019 & Letter of Representation

The Annual Report & Accounts for 2019 were presented to the Executive Board for information. Since their approval in February 2020 one explanatory paragraph on the impact of COVID-19 had been added to the report. The Finance Committee formally requested that the net income of €8,000 be added to the LIBER General Reserve. The Executive Board approved this request.

6.2 Profit & Loss to May 2020

The Profit & Loss to May 2020 was presented to the Executive Board for information. It was noted that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, LIBER had experienced a loss of €70,000 in expected income. However, this had been balanced by savings in the running costs of the LIBER Office. There was over €500,000 in the General Reserve ensuring that LIBER remained a healthy organisation.

6.3 Explanatory note: LIBER Budget 2020 Effects of COVID-19

The business model on the organisation of Online Events would have to be reconsidered in view of the COVID-19 restrictions. A new proposal would be prepared and presented during the October 2020 Executive Board meetings outlining a new business model for organising professional LIBER Online Events. It was agreed that the LIBER Office in collaboration with Executive Board members would prepare a proposal to be presented during the October 2020 Meetings.

6.4 National / Regional Organisational Membership

In response to a recent enquiry from the Consorci de Serveis Universitaris de Catalunya (CSUC), the Finance Committee had recommended the two following actions. First, to allow the Consortium of Academic Libraries of Catalonia to be invoiced €1,295 based on the population of Catalonia and not Spain, since it is an organisation representing only the region's libraries. Second, to clarify the extension of the lower rate to regions as well as nations in the appropriate text on the website.

The Executive Board approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

7. Meeting of Participants 2020

7.1 Executive Board Nominations at 25th June

John MacColl announced the nominations received by the closing date for nominations (13 June 2020). Appointments would be announced at the Meeting of Participants on Thursday 25 June 2020.

Candidate: Ms Catriona Cannon, Deputy Librarian, Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford.

Proposer: Dr Wolfram Horstmann, Director of Göttingen State and University Library.

Candidate: Ms Cécile Swiatek, ADBU Secretary General, France.

Proposer: Ms Jeannette Frey, Director of the Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire (BCU) Lausanne.

Candidate: Dr Adam Sofronijevic, Deputy Director, University library "Svetozar Markovic".

Proposer: Dr Paul Ayriss, Pro-Vice Provost, UCL Library Services.

7.1.1 Reappointments at the Meeting of Participants

In addition to the new openings outlined above, the following four Executive Board members would have completed terms of office by June 2020. They were eligible for re-appointment for a further term of two years and were willing to stand for re-appointment:

Ms Jeannette Frey, Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire (BCU) Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mr Julien Roche, University of Lille, France.

Dr Giannis Tsakonas, University of Patras, Greece.

Prof Dr Lars Burman, Uppsala University Library, Sweden.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

8. EU Activities

8.1 Open Science Policy Platform

Kristiina Hormia Poutanen presented the OSPP report listing the recommendations addressed to the key stakeholders. She highlighted the significant effort of the LIBER Office in defining the recommendations. The final report would be disseminated to the LIBER network with the help of the LIBER Office. Jeannette Frey extended her gratitude to Kristiina Hormia Poutanen for her work representing LIBER at the Open Science Policy Platform.

8.2 International Projects Report

Astrid Verheusen presented the pre-circulated International Projects Report to the Executive Board highlighting LIBER's key achievements in the period up to June 2020.

8.2.1 Project Proposal to Arcadia: "Access to knowledge" - Preference of the Executive Board for the tracks where LIBER should lead

Astrid Verheusen shared important updates with the Executive Board on the project proposal to Arcadia: "Access to knowledge" in which LIBER had participated. She mentioned that LIBER had collaborated with EBLIDA, IFLA and SPARC Europe, and submitted the project proposal to Arcadia. Giannis Tsakonas elaborated on the four "tracks" determining the four different fields of interest that had been expressed in the proposal. The Executive Board was asked to determine the preference of a "track" which LIBER would lead.

The Executive Board decided that both Track 2: “Protection of exceptions from Contract Override” and Track 4: “Increase the Right to Publish Green Open Access Across Europe” should be led in combination with LIBER. Astrid Verheusen would follow up with the project partners.

8.2.2 Draft Contract with F1000 “Open Research Europe Platform”

Astrid Verheusen presented the draft contract with F1000 for LIBER’s participation in the “Open Research Europe Platform” project. As she noted, there were several articles that were not in line with LIBER’s values as an organisation. Several members of the Executive Board agreed that LIBER should seek legal advice and a counter-proposal would be expected. It was stressed that LIBER should not accept any condition on the contract that could potentially jeopardise its reputation within its community.

8.3 SCOSS

Giannis Tsakonas presented the pre-circulated report to the Executive Board. He emphasised the fact that SCOSS had had a poster at the LIBER 2020 Online conference. He mentioned that the work delivered by LIBER’s representative at the SCOSS Advisory Board, Paul Johnson, had been very substantial and well received.

8.4 SPARC Europe

Agnès Ponsati Obiols presented the pre-circulated report to the Executive Board for information. Birgit Schmidt inquired whether SPARC Europe had been preparing a paper on the role of libraries within EOSC. Astrid Verheusen mentioned that SPARC Europe had already prepared a draft roadmap in December 2019 which had not been aligned with LIBER’s efforts. Astrid Verheusen would contact Vanessa Proudman from SPARC Europe to talk about next steps and whether a collaboration could be achieved.

8.5 UNESCO

Julien Roche presented a report on LIBER’s Collaboration with UNESCO with reference to the global online consultation on Open Science. Astrid Verheusen and Julien Roche would represent LIBER in the consultations call scheduled on July 6th 2020. It was agreed that a task force from within the Executive Board would provide relevant feedback on the UNESCO white papers on Open Science. The task force would comprise Heli Kautonen, Hilde van Wijngaarden, Birgit Schmidt, Giannis Tsakonas, Julien Roche and Astrid Verheusen. A call would be planned to co-ordinate the further actions within the task force.

8.6 cOAlition S: Exploring collaborative non-commercial publishing models

Astrid Verheusen presented the proposal to the Executive Board for information. She mentioned that LIBER had a small part in this project, helping to define the questions of the survey and disseminating the survey to the LIBER network. She highlighted that even though LIBER’s part was small, it would be important for LIBER to be part of the project in order to strengthen future collaborations.

8.7 Europeana Report

Julien Roche presented the pre-circulated report to the Executive Board summarising the activities of Europeana over the past several months.

9. Steering Committees (including Working Groups)

9.1 Digital Skills & Services: Steering Committee Report

Bertil Dorch presented the pre-circulated report to the Executive Board. He emphasised the point that the Working Groups had expressed the desire to have a designated slot during LIBER events to present their results. Working Groups’ representatives also requested more concrete guidelines on the Working Groups lifecycle. Executive Board members agreed that the Mid-Term Event would be a good opportunity to present

Working Group results on the grounds that the work would be related to the selected theme of the event.

9.2 Innovative Scholarly Communication: Steering Committee Report

Giannis Tsakonas presented the pre-circulated report to the Executive Board. He noted that it was an intense period for the Working Groups, and especially the Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group, in order to deal with the challenges presented by COVID-19.

9.2.1 Working Group: Innovative Peer Review

The Steering Committee suggested the creation of a new LIBER Working Group on Innovative Peer Review. Several members of the Executive Board agreed that it would be very beneficial for LIBER to form such a Working Group.

The Executive Board approved the creation of the Innovative Peer Review Working Group.

9.2.2 National Legislation for the promotion of Open Access in EU countries

Giannis Tsakonas presented the follow-up document as requested after the February 2020 Executive Board Meetings. This document was prepared by Ben White and his colleagues outlining the national legislations within Europe on the promotion of Open Access. The Working Group had been working on a document to enable countries to promote Open Access via national legislation. Birgit Schmidt added that there was a paper shared via the Guild Association on a list of actions on Open Science.

9.2.3 Secondary Publishing Right – Roadmap

Following discussion on this topic during the February Executive Board meeting in Lausanne, the Board had envisaged a roadmap, but this had not been drafted yet because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Giannis Tsakonas presented an updated version of the document presented in February and highlighted the changes.

The Executive Board approved the document.

9.3 Research Infrastructure: Steering Committee Report

Birgit Schmidt presented the pre-circulated report to the Executive Board. She highlighted important activities carried out by the Working Groups, referring in particular to the Library Architecture Website launch and the Linked Open Data Report. She noted that Mijke Jetten had had to depart as a co-chair of the Research Data Management Working Group as she had recently changed role, but Rob Grim had committed to keep chairing the group as there had been no other co-chair candidates yet.

10. LIBER Partnerships

10.1 Partnerships Proposal

Julien Roche presented the updated Partnerships Proposal. The main changes were reflected in the ways the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) would be allowed to lapse and also the links between LIBER and professional networks and associations. The launch of a pilot collaboration with library associations within Europe was agreed. John MacColl stressed that LIBER would first personally contact the partners with whom MoUs should lapse in order to explain LIBER's decision and explore reinforcing current ties or creating new ones.

The Executive Board approved the proposal.

11. Appointments Committee: Oral Report

It was decided that an Appointments Committee meeting was not necessary and the Committee would meet in October 2020.

12. LIBER Rules & Regulations

12.1 Suggested Revisions

John MacColl presented the pre-circulated paper to the Executive Board. The paper outlined important considerations with regard to LIBER's Rules & Regulations and the Articles of Association. In recent years, a heightened interest in Executive Board membership had accompanied an increase in LIBER membership. At the same time, there had been a growth in staffing positions within the LIBER Office. It would therefore be beneficial to examine closely the current provisions and regulations regarding terms of office, the election of the President and the Vice-President, the appointment of special advisors, internal Executive Board appointments and the question of whether the role of Secretary-General was still necessary. Giannis Tsakonas mentioned that he endorsed the idea of modernising LIBER's constitution, however with the suggested revisions some Executive Board members would be unable to stand for the LIBER presidency as they were already in their third term. Julien Roche mentioned that the roles of President and Vice-President would be difficult roles to be filled outside the Executive Board membership. Several members of the Board agreed that the role of Secretary-General is very important to retain as a keeper of the tradition within LIBER.

John MacColl would create an updated version of his proposal and circulate it to the Executive Board for discussion at the October meeting

INTERNAL BUSINESS PROCESSES

13. LIBER Quarterly

13.1 Appointment of new Managing Editor

John MacColl provided an update to the Executive Board on the results of the LIBER Quarterly Task Force. After a call for the next LIBER Quarterly Managing Editor had been circulated, a total of three applications had been received. The three applications were then forwarded to the LIBER Quarterly Editorial Board for consideration. A panel drawn from the Task Force and the Editorial Board interviewed the candidates, and it was decided that there should only be one Managing Editor but that the remaining applicants could be considered for supportive roles within the Editorial Board. The panel recommended that Trudy Turner would be appointed Managing Editor, Göran Hamrin would be offered the role of Assistant Editor and Aurélie Terrier would be offered the role of Assistant Layout Editor with Raf Dekeyser becoming the Layout Editor. The Executive Board was happy with these decisions.

14. Executive Director's Report

Astrid Verheusen presented the Executive Director's report to the Executive Board. She highlighted the enhancement of the LIBER Office with two additional staff members. Responsibilities of the LIBER Office have also grown due to the implementation of the new services. She noted that the IT migration had been delayed because of the COVID-19 restrictions, and was now scheduled to begin in July 2020. She mentioned that discussions would follow with the Royal Library regarding the price increase in LIBER's housing costs. With reference to the COVID-19 crisis, the LIBER Office would have to plan ahead and make sure that LIBER was able to deliver the promised extension of services. Special care had also been taken in ensuring that LIBER Sponsors would still benefit from their sponsorship contracts despite moving the LIBER Conference Online for 2020.

15. LIBER Communications

15.1 Communications Activity

Astrid Verheusen presented the Communications Activity report to the Executive Board. She highlighted that the Communications team and especially Friedel Grant were particularly busy dealing with the COVID-

19 crisis communications alongside the regular workload that was expected of the team.

16. LIBER Annual Conference

16.1 LIBER 2020 Online - Report

Julien Roche presented the report with some initial reflections on the LIBER 2020 Online Conference. He highlighted a very fruitful Conference Programme Committee meeting on what LIBER and LIBER events could deliver in the future. Nienke van Schaverbeke, Partnership & Events Manager, described the work involved in organising the programme for LIBER 2020 Online and provided some key figures related to the Conference. She noted that attendance and audience engagement was overwhelming. A follow-up document would be prepared to be presented during the October 2020 meetings.

16.2 LIBER 2020 Online - Sponsorship Brochure

Astrid Verheusen briefly presented the adjusted sponsorship opportunities for LIBER 2020 Online in order to adapt and adjust to COVID-19 restrictions.

16.3 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) 2020 & 2021

Astrid Verheusen noted that the MoU with the LIBER Conference hosts for 2020 and now 2021 (the University of Belgrade) would need special attention given the unusual circumstances. Jeannette Frey confirmed that Lausanne would be able to host the LIBER Conference in 2025. The LIBER Office would contact the local host in Belgrade with regard to the MoU for the LIBER 2021 Conference.

17. Future Conferences

John MacColl stated that because of the uncertainty with regard to physical events the Future Conferences list had not been updated yet. He would get in touch with the recently appointed Librarian at Ghent University Library to confirm the availability to host the LIBER 2022 Conference in Ghent, Belgium. An updated version of the list would be presented in the October 2020 Meetings after confirming the availability of Lausanne.

17.1 Mid-Term event

Hilde van Wijngaarden updated the Executive Board regarding hosting the new Mid-Term event in the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam as previously agreed. Because of the restrictions brought about by COVID-19, a physical event would be very difficult to be arranged in December 2020. Julien Roche stated that this event had been envisaged as highly interactive, and moving it online would pose significant risks for its success. The Executive Board agreed to cancel the Mid-Term Event and resume in 2021, and instead to host a COVID-19 Session in December 2020 based on the feedback received from the survey launched in September 2020. The LIBER Office would inform the Mid-Term Event Task Force a few days before contacting the LIBER Network about the survey.

It was agreed that Astrid Verheusen and Jeannette Frey would provide feedback to the Executive Board via e-mail with some proposals for a COVID-19 Session. Hilde van Wijngaarden would move the reservations for the Mid-Term event to December 2021.

The Mid-Term Event task force would remain the same for 2021.

18. LIBER Executive Board Appointments

18.1 Appointments at Meeting of Participants on 25th June

John MacColl presented the results of the online election and the appointments made at the Meeting of Participants on Thursday 25th June 2020. He welcomed the two new Executive Board Members, Dr Adam Sofronijevic and Ms Cécile Swiatek. He also confirmed the reappointments of Ms Jeannette Frey, Mr Julien Roche, Dr Giannis Tsakonas and Prof Dr Lars Burman.

19. Any other business

The venue of the October 2020 Executive Board meetings would be decided after the summer period. The February 2021 meetings would take place in Ghent, Belgium, and Astrid Verheusen would follow-up on the exact dates.

20. Dates of future meetings:

OCTOBER 2020: ONLINE

DEADLINE FOR AGENDA ITEMS: 24TH SEPTEMBER 2020

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS (PAPERS/REPORTS): THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2020

Appointments Committee	Tuesday	13 October 2020	10:00-11:30
Finance Committee	Wednesday	14 October 2020	09:00-10:30
Executive Board Discussion Slot	Wednesday	14 October 2020	11:00-13:30
Executive Board Meeting First Meeting	Thursday	15 October 2020:	09:00-11:00

Steering Committee Chairs Meeting	Friday	16 October 2020:	09:00-10:00
Executive Board Second Meeting	Friday	16 October 2020:	10:00-13:00

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Para.	Action	Responsible	Status
EB Meetings, October 2019			
1.c	Action plan LIBER Participation Trends report: Prepare a proposal for Recommendation 2 (on revising the Annual Conference Fund)	Hilde van Wijngaarden / Astrid Verheusen	
EB Meetings, February 2020			
4.	Draft approach for a Text- and Data-Mining Working Group	Birgit Schmidt	
5.	Present the LIBER Training Programme Roadmap Proposal at the next Executive Board meeting	Astrid Verheusen / Bertil Dorch	
7.1.1	Feedback to be sent to Andreas Brandtner regarding the LIBER Journées Programme	All	
7.5	Establish the Working Group on Data Science	Birgit Schmidt	
8.1	Test the LIBER Sponsorship Guidelines with potential Sponsors/Partners	Astrid Verheusen	
13.	Discuss the housing costs of the LIBER Office with the KB	Astrid Verheusen	
EB Meetings, June 2020			
1.	COVID-19 Survey to be run this autumn	Astrid Verheusen / Jeannette Frey	
2.	LIBER Office to connect with the Steering Committees and Working Groups to establish connections between libraries & EOSC	Astrid Verheusen	
6.1	Transfer the €8,000 net income to the General Reserves	Astrid Verheusen	
6.3	LIBER Online Events proposal	Astrid Verheusen	

6.4	Re-invoice the CSUC and alter text on the website in relation to Organisational Participants	Astrid Verheusen	
8.2.1	Communicate with the Arcadia project partners	Astrid Verheusen	
8.2.2	Seek legal action to negotiate the terms of the ORE contract	Astrid Verheusen	
8.4	Discussion with Vanessa Proudman regarding next steps on the EOSC Roadmap	Astrid Verheusen	
8.5	Co-ordinate a call for next steps within the UNESCO Task Force	Astrid Verheusen	
9.2.1	Set up Innovative Peer Review WG	Giannis Tsakonas	
10.1	Contact partners of MoUs which will lapse	John MacColl	
12.1	Rules & Regulations: Update on the suggested revisions	John MacColl	
16.1	LIBER 2020 Online: Feedback document	Julien Roche / Nienke van Schaverbeke	
16.3	Contact the Belgrade host regarding the LIBER 2020/2021 MoU	Astrid Verheusen	
17.	Updated list on Future Conferences venues	John MacColl	
17.1	Circulate feedback on the organisation of a COVID-19 Session to the Executive Board	Jeannette Frey / Astrid Verheusen	
17.1	Move reservations for the Mid-Term Event in 2021	Hilde van Wijngaarden	
19.	Finalise the October 2020 Executive Board Meetings venue	Astrid Verheusen / John MacColl	
19.	Finalise the dates for February 2021 Executive Board meetings	Astrid Verheusen	

September 2020

