



LIBER ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS: LIMASSOL, 4 JULY 2024

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Participants at LIBER 2024: Limassol**

**Wednesday 3 July 2024**

### **1. Formal Opening of the Meeting of Participants**

The 2024 Meeting of Participants was opened by LIBER President Julien Roche as part of the LIBER 2024 Limassol Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, July 3. Julien Roche, the LIBER President, welcomed participants, announced the meeting procedures, and then handed over the stage to the Secretary General, Anja Smit.

### **2. Announcement of nominated LIBER Executive Board candidates and appointment of Tellers (Anja Smit, Secretary-General)**

LIBER Secretary General, Anja Smit officially announced the nominations for the Executive Boards and informed the Participants about the official voting process. She announced that closed ballot voting would start on Wednesday, July 3rd, and be concluded on Thursday, July 4th at 9 am. The nominations results would be announced during the Meeting of Participants on Thursday, July 4th, 2024.

**Thursday 4 July 2024 Meeting of Participants**

The papers have been pre-circulated in the [May 2024 mailing](#)

### **3. Opening Remarks (Julien Roche, President)**

LIBER President, Julien Roche welcomed the attendees to the back to the second part of the Meeting of Participants, which took place on Thursday, 4th July 2024.

### **4. Minutes of the Meeting of Participants held in July 2023 (Anja Smit, Secretary-General) *for approval.***

LIBER Secretary-General, Anja Smit presented the [Minutes of the 2023 Meeting of Participants](#), which were subsequently approved with a majority of 44 votes in favor (100%) during the Meeting of Participants.

### **5. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising that were not already addressed on the agenda.

## **INTERNAL BUSINESS PROCESSES & STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

### **6. LIBER Annual Accounts 2023 and Auditors Report (Hilde van Wijngaarden, Treasurer) *for approval***

The financial statements adopted by the Executive Board were presented to the meeting of affiliates. LIBER Treasurer, Hilde van Wijngaarden, presented [the Annual Account Report for 2023](#). The year

concluded with a loss of -39,956, but Hilde explained the reason for this. She welcomed questions from the participants and elaborated that the operating costs for LIBER were €261,467, which is a substantial decrease of operating costs compared with 2022. Hilde assured the meeting that LIBER remains a healthy and strong organization. The meeting of affiliates took note of the financial statements and did not propose any adjustments. [The 2023 LIBER Annual Account and Auditors Report](#) received majority approval with 44 in favor (100%).

## **7. LIBER Annual Report 2023 – 2024 (Martine Pronk, Executive Director) *for approval***

LIBER Executive Director, Martine Pronk, presented [2023-2024 LIBER's Annual Report](#) which was published previously in [the May mailing](#), summarizing the organisation's highlights for 2023-2024. She expressed gratitude to partners and stakeholders, emphasized the need to remain agile in a changing world, and highlighted impactful events, including the Evaluation Report on Emerging Leaders Programmes and the collaborative Erasmus project CeOS. The Participants approved the Annual Report with a majority of 44 (100%) votes in favor.

## **8. Sustainable LIBER Organisation Update (Hilde van Wijngaarden)**

During the Meeting of Participants 2023, Hilde van Wijngaarden, the Treasurer of LIBER, discussed the [Supportive Membership Programme](#) launched last year in Budapest. Last year, nine libraries participated and raised an additional €20,000. Hilde mentioned that the process for the Supportive Membership Fee Programme 2025 will begin soon, and the announcement will be made this September. She encouraged all Participants to promote the Programme within their networks.

## **9. Indexing Participant fees 2025 (Hilde van Wijngaarden)**

In 2022 the Meeting of Participants approved the proposal to index Participant fees on an annual basis. The annual indexing of the Participant fees for 2025 will be 3.8 % in accordance with the consumer price index for the Netherlands in October 2023. Hilde van Wijngaarden elaborated further on the implications hence stating that the 2025 annual fees will be published on the LIBER website on short notice.

## **10. Proposal Reclassify tiers membership fee (Hilde van Wijngaarden)**

*for approval*

Treasurer Hilde van Wijngaarden introduced the proposal for reclassifying the tiers for the membership fees and invited questions from the audience.

Answering a question about the basis for the changes in reclassification, Hilde explained that since 2019, the Participant membership fee is based on a system of three tiers, based the GDP per capita and the number of inhabitants of the countries of the Participants' institutions. The GDP of some countries in the lower tiers have risen since 2019. The proposal is to adjust the Categories to avoid Participants to be classified in a higher tier. Because the GDP of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 will be the basis for the membership fee 2025, the exact figures are not yet certain.

Another question regarded the fact that the Meeting is asked to approve of a change of which the practical implications for Participants are not yet known. Hilde clarified that the vote for the proposal is for the methodology and Martine added that this is due to working with the most recent GDP-levels (January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025).

There were also concerns raised about the implications of raising fees for smaller libraries. Martine stressed that the structural Participant fees will always be kept as low as possible in light of inclusivity, complementing the LIBER budget by other means, such as the voluntary Supportive Membership Fee. Julien encouraged ideas from Participants on how to achieve this. Julien invited the audience to share any other ideas on how to support LIBER with the needed budget in other, fair ways.

Martine, Hilde and Julien elaborated further on the reasons for the LIBER fee structure, the proposed

changes and the implications for the LIBER Participants. Martine assured that there will be a review every three years to mitigate impact for Participants.

After the discussion was concluded, Hilde van Wijngaarden presented the proposal for approval. The proposal was approved by the Meeting of Participants with 40 votes in favor (91%) and 4 abstentions.

## **11. LIBER Executive Board Membership July 2024 (Anja Smit)**

### **11.1 Meeting of Participants Appointments (Anja Smit)**

Anja Smit asked the Meeting of Participants to ratify the Executive Board reappointment of Adam Sofronijević University of Belgrade, Serbia, Anna Clements University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, Cécile Swiatek Paris Nanterre University, France, Dóra Kalydy Academy of Sciences, Hungary, Sara Lammens Royal Library of Belgium. The Meeting of Participants subsequently ratified the reappointments with 44 votes in favor (100%).

### **11.2 Meeting of Participants Elections (Anja Smit)**

Two nominees, Carme Fenoll Clarabuch from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia Library in Spain and Thomas Kaarsted from the University Library of Southern Denmark, expressed their interest in serving on the LIBER Executive Board, in accordance with the foundation's statutes, rules, and regulations.

The results of the closed ballot were officially announced, with Thomas Kaarsted being declared the new appointee with a majority vote. He has been invited to the Board Meeting on Friday.

## **12. Questions from the floor**

There were no questions from the audience. Julien thanked Lars Burman, and the Participants applauded him for his six years of service as a Board Member.

## **13. Invitation to the 2025 LIBER Annual Conference hosted by the Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire, Lausanne, Switzerland from 2 to 4 July 2025**

LIBER President Julien Roche invited the audience to the next Meeting of Participants in Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire, Lausanne, Switzerland from 2 to 4 July 2025

LIBER President Julien Roche closed the Meeting of Participants.

**Anja Smit, LIBER Secretary-General**

*July 2024*



#### **NOTE ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS**

*Under the Statutes of the LIBER Stichting, the Meeting of Participants is the equivalent of an Annual General Meeting, at which LIBER Participants (i.e. Members) assemble to receive information about the operation of the LIBER organisation, including its Annual Report and Accounts, and have an opportunity to question the LIBER Executive Board and its Officebearers, discuss policies and make suggestions to the Board. Appointments to the LIBER - Executive Board are also made at the Meeting of Participants. The papers for the Meeting of Participants are issued with the LIBER May Mailing. All Annual Conference delegates are welcome to attend the LIBER Annual Meeting of Participants. Voting rights are, however, reserved to LIBER Participants. A Dutch Stichting cannot have members or levy a membership fee, and so a Member= a Participant; a membership fee=an annual contribution fee; and the Annual General Meeting= Meeting of Participants.*

