



LIBER ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS: LAUSANNE 3 JULY 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of Participants at the LIBER Annual Conference 2024 in Limassol.

Wednesday 3 July 2024

1. Formal Opening of the Meeting of Participants

The 2024 Meeting of Participants was opened by Julien Roche, the LIBER President, who welcomed attendees and then handed the stage to Anja Smit. Anja Smit, the Secretary General, provided a brief overview of the meeting procedures.

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 voting process. She stated that closed ballot voting will begin on Wednesday, July 3rd, and will close on Thursday, July 4th, at 9 a.m. The results of the nominations will be announced during the Meeting of Participants on Thursday, July 4th, 2024.

Thursday, 4 July 2024 Meeting of Participants

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

3. Opening Remarks (Julien Roche, President)

LIBER President, Julien Roche, welcomed the attendees 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 favour (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 at 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 in operating costs



compared with 2022. Hilde assured the meeting that LIBER remains a healthy and strong organisation. 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 favour (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](#), summarising the organisation's highlights for 2023-2024. She expressed gratitude to partners and stakeholders, emphasised 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 favour.

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 to reclassify the tiers for membership fees and invited questions from the audience.

In response to a question about the rationale behind the reclassification changes, Hilde explained that since 2019, the Participant membership fee has been structured into three tiers based on the GDP per capita and the population of the countries where the Participants' institutions are located. Since 2019, the GDP of some countries in the lower tiers has increased. The proposal aims to adjust the categories to prevent participants from being classified into a higher tier. However, because the GDP figures as of January 1, 2025, will determine the membership fee for that year, the exact numbers are not yet available.

Another question was by another on the need to approve a proposal, for which the practical implications for participants are not yet known. Hilde clarified that the vote on the proposal pertains to the methodology, and Martine added that this is due to working with the most recent GDP levels (January 1st, 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 in any other 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 the impact on 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 favour (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. Participants ratified the reappointments with 44 votes in favour (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.

Following the LIBER'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 was invited to the Board Meeting on Friday.

12. Questions from the floor

There were no questions from the audience. Julien thanked Lars Burman, the outgoing LIBER Executive member, for his tenure. 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