International ISBN Agency

Agence Internationale ISBN

Agencia Internacional ISBN

Международное агентство  ISBN

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*International Standard Numbering System for Books, Software,*

*Mixed Media etc. in Publishing, Distribution and Library Practice*

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Republic of Serbia

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA**

19 December 2022

Dear colleagues

**2023 Regional meeting for Balkan agencies – Belgrade, Serbia**

In 2009 the first and very successful regional ISBN meeting took place in Tirana, Albania involving countries from the Balkan region and Ms. Enkelejda Gashi was our hostess. On that occasion it was agreed it would be a good idea to try to arrange more regular meetings as agencies from this part of the world do not have many opportunities to meet and discuss the problems they are facing. Following on from that, we have been kindly hosted in Slovenia (twice), Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Republika Srpska and Romania.

The impact of COVID on the world has meant that it has been very difficult to hold face-to-face meetings since the most recent Balkan Regional Meeting that took place in Ljubljana in 2019. That situation has now improved and, in fact, the International ISBN Agency was able to hold its first Annual General Meeting in person in 3 years in Oslo, Norway in September 2022. So, we think that the time is now right to start to think about regional meetings again.

**Now, the** **National Library in Belgrade, Serbia in cooperation with the International ISBN Agency invites colleagues from the Balkan region to attend the 2023 Regional Seminar**.

It is proposed that the Regional Seminar takes place on**:**

**Wednesday 14th June and Thursday 15th June 2023.**

**The meeting will last for one and a half days. The International ISMN Agency has also agreed in principle to participate at the meeting and so as well as the sessions on ISBN we hope that it will also include a session that is specifically dedicated to ISMN matters**. All refreshments and lunches on both days during the meeting will be kindly covered by the National Library in Belgrade. In addition, the International ISBN Agency will organise and pay for a dinner at the end of the first day of the meeting.

The language in which the meeting will be held is English, but the meeting itself will be designed as a workshop, where everybody can express his/her own views and there will be ample time for discussion. The National Library will also arrange for a translator to be available to help during the meetings.

The content of the meeting will be provided primarily by the International ISBN Agency and the International ISMN Agency but **please let us have any suggested topics or issues that you would like included in the agenda**. We also very much want to hear about progress in your own countries with regard to ISBN and welcome your questions. We will circulate the agenda closer to the meeting but need to know if you will be able to attend the meeting first in order that we can commence making arrangements.

**Please let us know if you will be able to attend the meeting. If the proposed dates are a problem for you, or If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to Stella.**

We attach a registration form – **please would you complete and return this by** **31 March 2023** to let us know whether or not you are able to attend this important meeting. **Please include the names of all your attendees (both ISBN and ISMN delegates)**. If you don't yet know your travel arrangements, you can leave those sections of the form blank. **Please send your completed form to Stella Griffiths – [stella@isbn-international.org](mailto:stella@isbn-international.org).** If you require a more personalised invitation for visa or funding application purposes, please let Stella know.

My colleagues at the Serbia National ISBN Agency and I are looking forward to meeting you again very soon.

We hope for very positive responses from you.

Your sincerely

A picture containing letter

Description automatically generated

Ms Stella Griffiths

Dr Dragana Milunović

Ms Perunika Djoković

Ms Ana Savić