EIFL 2024 General Assembly Speakers' Bios

Listed in order of first appearance on the agenda

Emilija Banionytė

Library Director at the Vilnius County Adomas Mickevičius Public Library, Chair of the EIFL Management Board

Emilija Banionytė is a professional librarian. She worked at the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences Library for more than 30 years, after graduating in LIS at Vilnius University in 1984. Since 2019 Emilija has held the position of Library Director at the Vilnius County 'Adomas Mickevičius' Public Library. Emilija is interested in all aspects of library activities. Special fields of interests are: library consortium building, licensing electronic resources and copyright for librarians. She is active in professional librarianship not only in Lithuania, but also internationally, as Chair of the EIFL Management Board, and expert at the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium.

Past positions held include EIFL Copyright Coordinator for Lithuania, President of the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium, President of the County Public Library Association, President of the Lithuanian Librarians' Association, Chair of the Library Board at the Ministry of Culture, member of the Board of Directors of SPARC Europe, member of the EBLIDA Expert Group Information Law, member of the IFLA CLM Committee.

Rima Kupryte

EIFL Director

Rima Kupryte is the Director of EIFL. Rima oversees the implementation of EIFL's overall organizational strategy and operations. Rima has been managing EIFL since its inception. Under her leadership, EIFL has grown into a thriving international organization working in more than 50 developing and transition economy countries.

Rima's deep knowledge of library infrastructure and international development has led to the strategic expansion of EIFL's key programmes which help people to access and use information for education, learning, research and sustainable community development. Rima joined EIFL from the Open Society Institute - Budapest (currently known as the Open Society Foundations), where she managed the Network Library Programme, supporting library development in approximately 35 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Africa.

In 2008, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) awarded Rima the IFLA Medal, one of the highest professional accolades, for her contributions to international librarianship.

Iryna Kuchma

EIFL Open Access Programme Manager

Iryna Kuchma is the Open Access Programme Manager for EIFL (EIFL-OA). Her responsibilities include the development, delivery and evaluation of a range of open access related activities. Achievements of EIFL-OA since Iryna joined in 2008 include establishment of more than 1,200 open access repositories and more than 4,100 open access journals in EIFL partner countries, opening up a wealth of new knowledge and research to the world. The programme also supported development of 208 open access and open science policies in EIFL partner and project countries.

Before joining EIFL, Iryna worked as an Information Programme Manager at the International Renaissance Foundation (part of Soros Foundations network) in Ukraine and also coordinated the Arts and Culture Programme there. In 2013, Iryna received the Electronic Publishing Trust (EPT) for Development Annual Award, in recognition of her 'efforts in the furtherance of open access to scholarly publications in the developing and emerging countries'. Iryna sits on the boards of the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), the Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS) and the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD). In addition, she serves on the advisory board of Open Access Week. Iryna co-chairs the OpenAIRE Training and Support Standing Committee, and is a member of the Coalition Publi.ca International Committee, the DSpace Community Advisory Team and the CODATA Policy and Legal Working Group. She was an Associate Editor for the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), and a member of the DOAJ Council. She served on the UNESCO Open Science Advisory Committee as an international expert, as a Rapporteur for the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Skills and Training Working Group, and on the EOSC Association Data stewardship curricula and career paths Task Force.

Teresa Hackett

EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme Manager

Teresa Hackett is the EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme (EIFL-IP) Manager. Since the launch of the programme in 2005, Teresa has successfully overseen the development and delivery of a unique service for libraries in EIFL partner countries that provides advocacy and technical support, resulting in improved copyright laws for libraries, education and research. At international level, EIFL-IP has under Teresa's leadership supported ratifications of the Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities in 26 developing and transition economy countries in Africa, Asia and Europe, more than a fifth of the total number.

Prior to joining EIFL, Teresa was Director of the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA); before that she provided support to the European Commission library research programme. Teresa was a member of the Committee on Copyright and

other Legal Matters of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) from 2011-2015 and the World Blind Union (WBU) Marrakesh Strategic Advisory Group.

In 2015, Teresa was awarded a Flash Grant as an agent of social change by the Shuttleworth Foundation for her work on copyright, and in2018, she was awarded an IFLA Medal in recognition of distinguished contribution to IFLA and international librarianship, particularly in the field of copyright. In 2020, EIFL was selected as a finalist for the ABC International Excellence Award for Accessible Publishing, in recognition of the work of the EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme.

Britt-Marie Wideberg

Licensing Programme Manager

Britt-Marie Wideberg oversees renewals of current licensing agreements and seeks new agreements for publisher/vendor content, open access publishing and research support services for EIFL partner countries. This includes reaching out to publishers/vendors, negotiating pricing, terms and conditions, and analyzing the effectiveness of agreements. Britt-Marie also organizes educational webinars for EIFL Licensing coordinators and librarians in our partner countries, and develops strategies and activities to raise awareness about licensing agreements and to encourage uptake.

Prior to joining EIFL in 2024, Britt-Marie worked at the National Library of Sweden, coordinating the Bibsam Consortium. The consortium has 95 participating institutions (universities and other higher education institutions, governmental organizations and research institutes) and 45+ agreements for 100 e-resources packages (e-journals, abstracts, indexing databases, reference works and e-books.)

She has been part of the Bibsam Consortium Steering Committee for ten years and has been a member of the Copyright Clearance Center Open Scholarly Communications Advisory Group.

Britt-Marie has also been an active partner in international collaborations, including OA2020, ESAC, ICOLC and served on SCOAP3 Governing Council (2017-2023).

Ramune Petuchovaite

EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme Manager

Ramune Petuchovaite is the EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP) Manager for EIFL. Her responsibilities include the development, delivery and evaluation of a range of activities that support innovative public library services that contribute to community development. In addition, Ramune has led development of a framework for capacity building for public librarians in Africa to integrate technology into their services and the EIFL-PLIP training-of-trainers programme to equip library staff with the necessary digital and training skills to train in their communities. Since 2014, EIFL-PLIP capacity building initiatives have reached over 2,200 librarians from public and community libraries already equipped with computers and the internet in Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda and Zambia.

Before she joined EIFL in 2012, Ramune served as Chief Specialist at the Division of Information Society Development of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, where she was responsible for coordinating implementation of the state-funded library renovation and modernization programme. During her term at the Ministry, Ramune worked on the US$36-million national 'Libraries for Innovation' project, co-funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which improved public access to computer and internet services in over 1,300 public libraries. Ramune has also lectured library and information students on library management, project management and other subjects at the Faculty of Communication, Vilnius University, Lithuania.

Niamh Brennan

Programme Manager, TCD Research Informatics, Trinity Innovation and Enterprise, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Niamh Brennan is Programme Manager Research Informatics in Trinity College Dublin where she works on research reporting, evaluation and impact. She is responsible for the development of Trinity's Research Support System and its institutional repository, TARA (Trinity's Access to Research Archive). Niamh Brennan is also Lecturer in 'Open Librarianship' and in 'Professional Development & Organisational Awareness' (MSc Information and Library Management) in Dublin Business School. She is the Course Coordinator TCD's compulsory doctoral module 'Research Integrity and Impact in an Open Scholarship Era' and its faculty and OER version, 'RIO'.

Niamh was an elected member of the board of SPARC-Europe (2013-2015) and a member of the European Commission Expert Group on Skills for Open Science, reporting to the European Open Science Policy Platform (expert group report published: September 2017). She is currently a member of the High Level Advisory Council of the SDG Academy which supports the design and dissemination of educational materials for sustainable development and advises the SDG Academy on education initiatives and new opportunities in educational offerings.

She is a member of Irish Open Access Publishing (IOAP) and is technical lead on PublishOA (2022-2024), the NORF-funded project investigating the feasibility of Diamond Open Access publishing for Ireland. She is part of the management team of the SCOIR project (Secondary publishing rights, Copyright, Open access, Institutional Rights Retention), 2023-2025, and is affiliate partner on PATTERN (Horizon Europe) which is developing Open and Responsible Research and Innovation training for researchers at all career stages

Milica Ševkušić

Project Coordinator for the EIFL Open Access Programme

Milica Ševkušić is a Project Coordinator for the EIFL Open Access Programme and a librarian at the Institute of Technical Sciences of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. In her capacity as the EIFL Open Access Coordinator she has been supporting Open Access journals in Serbia since 2014.

Her professional interests focus on Open Science, library services aimed at supporting research activities, training in academic services and tools, support to Open Access journals, information literacy and research ethics. ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2888-6611

Marcin Dembowski

Project Coordinator for the EIFL Open Access Programme Area Manager Poland, Turkey, Baltics & CIS Region, Oxford University Press

Marcin Dembowski has over 18 years of experience in the publishing industry, having worked with renowned academic publishers such as Emerald Group Publishing and Oxford University Press. Throughout his career, he has been actively involved in various projects aimed at promoting young researchers from Central and Eastern Europe, collaborating with organizations like BMDA (Baltic Management Development Association) and CEEMAN (Central and East European Management Development Association).

Since 2009, Marcin has been practicing Adizes Methodology and, as an Adizes Associate, he is responsible for the promotion and development of the Adizes methodology in Poland. He works with small and medium enterprises, assisting them with organizational transformation, including digital transformation.

Marcin holds multiple degrees, including an MBA from London Metropolitan University and an MA in Corporate Communication from the Rotterdam School of Management. He also possesses specialized and postgraduate diplomas in IT, digital transformation, and innovation from prestigious institutions such as the University of Oxford, Imperial College London, Dartmouth College, and ESCP Business School.

Colleen Campbell

Partner Development, the Open Access 2020 Initiative, Max Planck Digital Library, Germany

Colleen Campbell leads outreach and engagement in the Open Access 2020 Initiative, coordinated by the Max Planck Digital Library on behalf of research and academic organizations worldwide. Passionate about the exciting changes underway in scholarly communication, she leads activities that help stakeholders implement strategies to shift their investments away from paywalls toward a fair and sustainable open access publishing paradigm. Previously European Director for Strategic Partnerships at JSTOR and the digital preservation service, Portico, she has over 20 years' experience across all areas of the academic information sector. She is a frequent speaker at international conferences, serves as an elected member of the UKSG Main Committee, and is part of the LIBER Open Access Working Group. Colleen has a background in the humanities and lives near Florence, Italy.