

## CALL TO LIBRARIES OF THE REGION

Libraries are unable to efficiently function as isolated islands, so they must link with each other by placing special emphasis on knowledge and culture. In doing so, they provide conditions for dialogue and collaboration which further provides the basis for the development of not only a single country but also of the international community as a whole.

South Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans have enormous development potentials which cannot be fully realised if an appropriate information infrastructure is not provided. COBISS.Net is a joint project of the institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro which have taken on the responsibility for developing national library information systems based on the COBISS platform. Hitherto collaboration has yielded positive results and we, therefore, trust that the importance and future prospects of COBISS.Net are essential, both for the development of the region and for its successful integration into the EU.

This is why we invite libraries, those in the countries that have already been using COBISS as the national library information system and those in the countries of South Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans where COBISS is not yet present to reconsider their development strategies and take part in the joint COBISS.Net project. We believe that this is the way that the libraries in the region would ensure the infrastructure in order to most quickly achieve the level of library and information services offered in the EU, and to allow the exchange of bibliographic information essential for research, education and culture. What we offer are broad experience and readiness for collaboration and support.

In Skopje, 9 March 2006

*Dr. Ismet Ovčina, director*

National and University Library, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Borko Zafirovski, director*

National and University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski", Skopje, Macedonia

*Mag. Lenart Šetinc, director*

National and University Library, Ljubljana, Slovenia

*Sreten Ugričić, director*

National Library of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

*Jelena Đurović, director*

Central National Library of the Republic of Montenegro, 'Djurdje Crnojevic' - Cetinje

*Mag. Tomaž Seljak, director*

Institute of Information Science, Maribor, Slovenia