

## **National Libraries Study Group – Salzburg, 7 July 2025**

*Submitted by Ruprecht Langer – Chair*

Following the founding of the Study Group in 2024, the 2025 IAML Conference in Salzburg provided the first opportunity for an in-person constitutive session. Rather than presenting a fixed agenda, group chair Ruprecht Langer chose to use this initial meeting as a forum to discuss issues relevant to (national) libraries and to establish a format for future gatherings.

The nine attendees represented, or spoke on behalf of, various European institutions, including national libraries, music archives, state libraries, and national IAML branches.

Each participant was invited to briefly outline the situation of their respective institution or country, and to highlight key topics they wished to address within the Study Group.

For most participants, the Study Group itself already serves a valuable function, offering a platform for the international exchange of ideas. It may also contribute to creating momentum for initiatives at the national level. This can be facilitated through formal networks as well as the possibility of receiving quick and informal support through personal connections. In both cases, it is essential to understand the political context of other countries and libraries, including their collection mandates, legal deposit frameworks, library structures and national networks, as well as funding.

### **Key topics identified for future discussion include:**

- Cybersecurity
- Defining national music collections
- The use of AI and the management of AI-generated media
- Collecting e-scores, including machine-readable formats
- Opportunities for international cooperation
- Legal deposit of born-digital media

### **Looking ahead:**

The group emphasizes that participation in the NLSG is open to all interested individuals. It is not limited to staff from national libraries, but rather to anyone dealing with issues typically associated with national libraries, such as those outlined above.

Future meetings will begin with brief updates from all attendees, fostering mutual understanding and helping to identify shared concerns. This will be followed by a focused discussion on one or two of the key topics raised. Finally, new priority topics for the following year's meeting will be selected.



The participants of the initial study group meeting in Salzburg (from left to right): Pello Leiñena (Eresbil – Basque Music Archive), Paula Quint (Netherlands Music Institute), Marie Cornaz (Belgian National Library), Jürgen Diet (Bavarian State Library), Ruprecht Langer (German National Library), Ferenc János Szabó (National Branch Chair, IAML Hungary), Mathias Auclair (French National Library), María Teresa Delgado Sánchez (Spanish National Library), Dominic Bridge (British Library). Photo: Unipark Nonntal, Salzburg.