

MINUTES EUROCLIO Association General Assembly 2018
World Trade Centre, Marseille (France)

26 April 2018, 09.00 - 11.00



All documentation related to the General Assembly 2018 can be found at <https://euroclio.eu/general-assembly/>.

In the Booklet you can find:

- The Agenda for the General Assembly in 2018
- The minutes of the General Assembly in 2017
- The Annual Financial Report 2017
- Applications for Full Member Associations
- The Action Plan 2018

In the Presentation you can find:

- Breakdowns of the income and expenditure in 2017
- An overview of the total hours worked in 2017
- A map of the activities of EUROCLIO in 2017
- Rules for the official procedures from the statutes and internal rules
- Highlights from the Action Report 2017

EUROCLIO Association

General Assembly 2018

Université Aix Marseille Saint Charles

26 April 2018, 09.00 – 11.00

Welcome and introduction

1. Welcome and confirmation of the agenda

President Lóa Steinunn Kristjánsdóttir welcomes all delegates and conference participants to the 25th EUROCLIO General Assembly. Lóa explains the proceedings and requests the GA to approve the agenda.

Decision: The General Assembly (GA) approved the agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly 7 April 2017 in Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain (Annex 2)

Decision: The GA approved the minutes of the GA in 2017.

Finances & Board Reporting

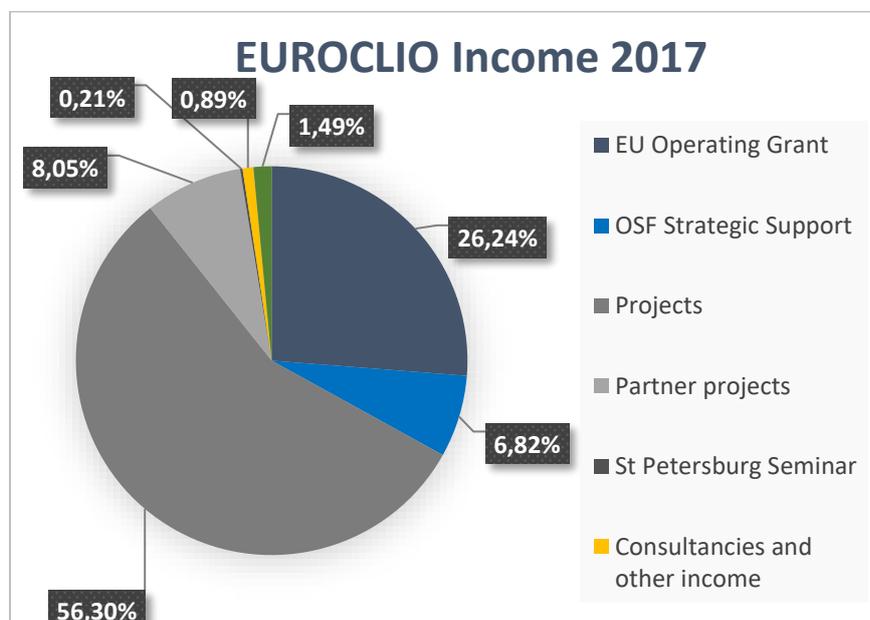
Lóa gives the floor to Vice President and Treasurer Mire Mladenovski.

3. Certified Financial Report 2017 and Background Information by EUROCLIO Vice President and Treasurer Mire Mladenovski (Annex 3)

Operating reserve

Mire Mladenovski (EUROCLIO Board Treasurer) presented the financial situation of EUROCLIO to the GA. He started out by stressing the importance of building an operating reserve in times of financial crisis. Several years ago the Board decided to establish an operating reserve of EUR 100,000. In 2017, EUR 9,000 was added to the operating reserve, which stands at EUR 48,000 as of now.

INCOME

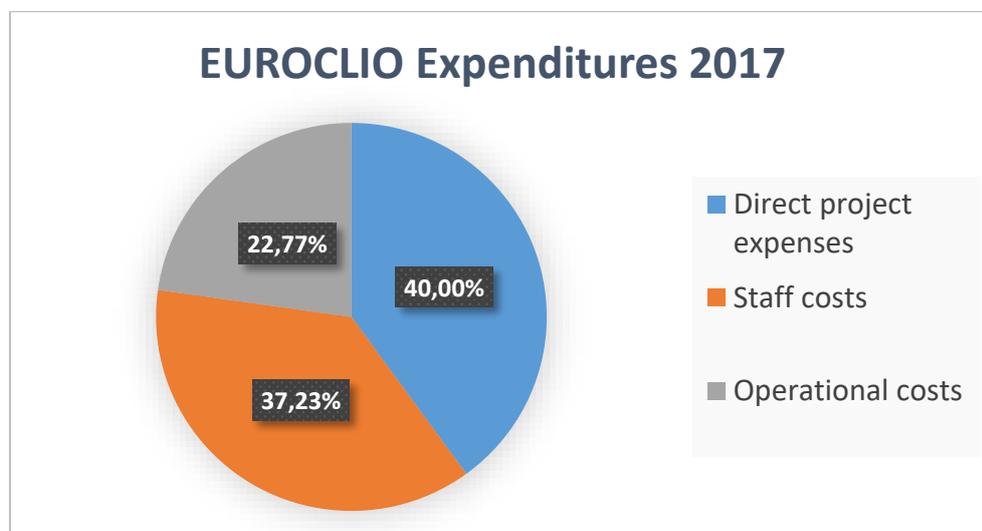


Visualisation of income generated by EUROCLIO in 2017.

Regarding income, Mire explained that in 2017 ten percent more income than expected was generated. The most important type of income for EUROCLIO is the Operating Grant it receives from the European Union, which amounts to EUR 200,000. In 2017 the 4-year cycle of the Operating Grant (2014-2017) came to an end, and EUROCLIO successfully applied for another cycle of support for the period 2018-2020. The Core Support from the Open Society Foundations Core Support (2016-2018) is similarly important. Although the Core Support will end this year, Mire explained that EUROCLIO is confident and hopeful that follow-up will be secured. Mire further stressed the wide variety of donor organizations that support the work of EUROCLIO, among them the EU, OSF, the Northeast Asian History Foundation and the Robert Bosch Foundation.

EUROCLIO generated some income through the organisation of activities such as the seminar in Saint Petersburg, in October 2017. Other types of income, such as membership fees (about EUR 10,000) may seem small, but they are important nonetheless, because they can be spent without permission from donor organizations, however EUROCLIO deems necessary. The total income in 2017 amounted to EUR 743,966.

EXPENDITURES



Expenditures by EUROCLIO in 2017

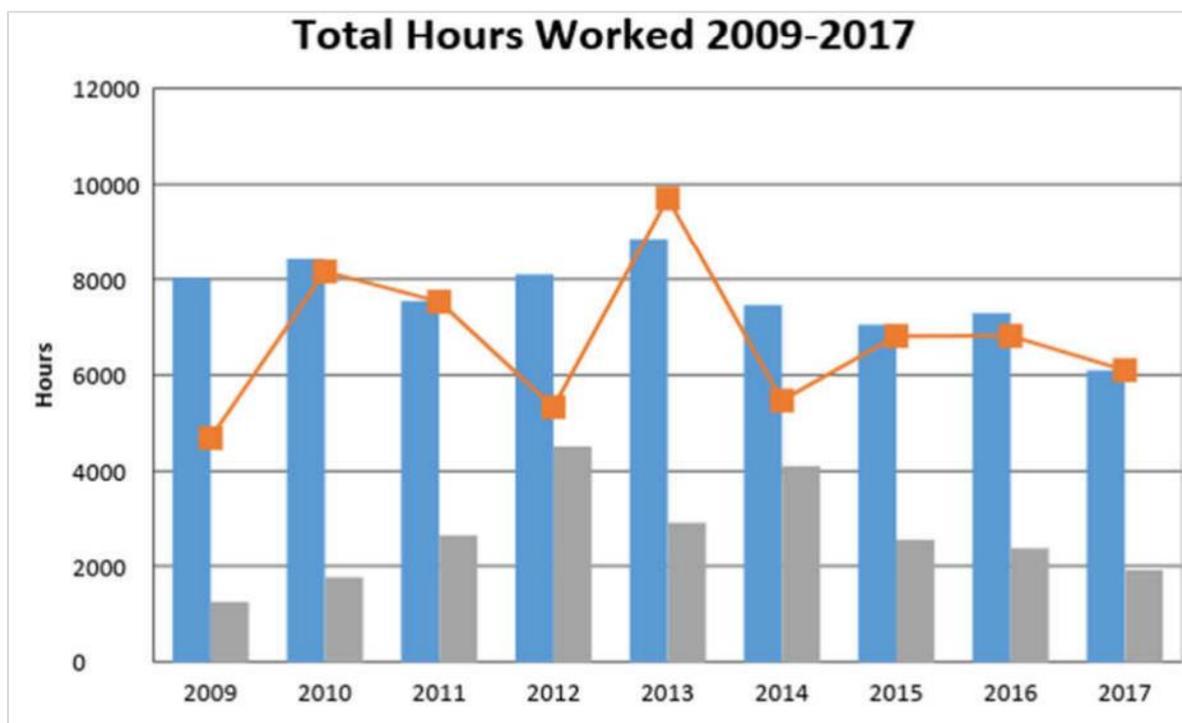
Expenditures

Following his discussion on income, Mire went on to discuss the expenditures. In 2017, EUROCLIO had three types of expenditures:

- 1) Direct project expenditures (EUR 300,000).
- 2) Staff costs (EUR 280,000) 37.3%. In 2017, overall, EUROCLIO Staff consisted of 4.2 FTE, whereas 4.4 FTE was budgeted. The small difference results from the departure of the highly valued staff member Aysel Gojayeva, in May 2017.
- 3) Operational costs (EUR 171,000), for office management, paper, toners, hardware, travel. Everything EUROCLIO needs to be a functional organization.

Mire explained that every year the expenditures of EUROCLIO are subject to an external audit, which is performed by the accountancy firm Mazars. The accountants of Mazars have

audited, reviewed, and approved the financial report of EUROCLIO. Upon approval of the GA, the EUROCLIO Board will sign the financial report.



Total hours worked by EUROCLIO Staff and Trainees in the period 2009-2017.

Staff and trainee hours

Following his discussion of the expenditures, Mire showed the GA a graph of the staff hours. Every year the EUROCLIO staff members work overtime. This is an area of concern. The figure above shows that historically, the amount of over-hours has been decreasing. Mire explained that EUROCLIO distinguishes between the hours worked by staff and trainees. About the EUROCLIO trainees, he mentioned: “We are very happy that we have become a challenging work environment for bright students from all over Europe and the world (like Alice for instance).”



Moore Stephens is the accountancy firm performing the external audit on Sharing History - Cultural dialogues on behalf of the European Union.

External audit of Sharing History - Cultural Dialogues

Mire explained that in the summer of 2017, one of EUROCLIO's projects, the *Sharing History - Cultural Dialogues* project that was implemented in countries around the Black Sea between 2011 and 2015, was subject to an external audit by the accountancy firm Moore Stephens. The audit took place within the context of the European Union's regular "residual error rate study" that the EU is obliged to perform every seven years. EUROCLIO's project, the biggest project ever implemented by EUROCLIO, was one of 115 selected projects to undergo the audit. Moore Stephens concluded that a part of the total expenditures of EUR 900,000 was not supported by the correct procedural evidence. Therefore, Moore Stephens concluded that project expenditures to the amount of EUR 74,000 are not eligible for funding. Their conclusion may lead to three possible outcomes:

- the EU issues a recovery order and EUROCLIO is obliged to return the full amount of EUR 74,000 to the EU;
- the EU does not issue a recovery order and decides to waive the full amount;
- or the EU issues a recovery order but decides to waive part of the amount. It is unclear when the EU will take a decision on a potential recovery order.

In the meantime, Mire explained, EUROCLIO has decided to play safe. The budget for next year (2018) includes the possibility of paying back EUR 74,000 in one instalment. He stressed that the budget was very difficult to realize, and that the Board and Secretariat have worked together to plan for this worst case scenario.

Questions from the General Assembly

Ineke Veldhuis-Meester (the Netherlands) expressed her concerns about the staff overtime. She asked what the Board can do to decrease this overtime. Mire shared these concerns, and replied that in the current period, with a financial crisis looming, there is no other option. The Board had decided that a vacancy will be announced as soon as there is clarity on the potential recovery order from the European Union and no funds have to be returned. Mire stated that usually at least 5 people work in the Secretariat. Perhaps less traditional funding mechanisms (for instance from private companies) might help to address this issue. Moreover, Mire stated that the EUROCLIO Board is helping the Secretariat as much as it can, with ad hoc support, to limit over hours.

Next, Ulrich Bongertmann (Germany) asked about the *Sharing History - Cultural Dialogues* project (the Black Sea Project) if Mire could explain more what went wrong. Mire answered that it is a matter of reading and interpreting legal language in the contract. For instance, when it was written "tender", EUROCLIO inquired with hotels and they sent offers. Instead, EUROCLIO should have used a different procedure to collect these offers. Mire stressed that Moore Stephens's conclusions are not final and that EUROCLIO has the right to appeal.

Bistra Stoimenova (Bulgaria) expressed her concerns about future audits like the one *Sharing History - Cultural Dialogues* was subject to, and said that the project indeed was difficult to manage because of the different countries involved. Mire answered that EUROCLIO had provided additional clarifications and explanations about its methods, and that its auditor concluded in their annual reportage that everything was correct, something that is being challenged by Moore Stephens.

Kiki Sakka (Greece) raised the question what role the accountancy firm Mazar plays in the mistakes made in the *Sharing History - Cultural Dialogues* project. Mire agreed that Mazar also carries responsibility in this.

Oscar van Nooijen (the Netherlands) added to the subject that the EUROCLIO Board had handled the situation very well, and that the accountancy firm Mazars should perhaps be replaced. Mire replied that the EUROCLIO Board was indeed considering that.

4. Budget 2018 by EUROCLIO Vice President and Treasurer Mire Mladenovski (Annex 4)

After the round of questions regarding the expenditures, Mire went on to present the budget for 2018. He touched upon a number of issues that have changed as compared to the previous year, such as the decrease in staff costs due to the departure of Executive Director Jonathan Even-Zohar. The Board has decided not to open any vacancy as long as the European Union has not communicated a decision regarding the audit of *Sharing History - Cultural Dialogues*.

Other expenditures that have been cut in order to improve the result for 2018, Mire explained, are operational costs and Board meetings. Mire: “According to this highly squeezed budget, we should have a result of minus EUR 5,000 in 2018.” The result will have a negative impact on the operating reserve.

The hiring of new staff is currently not foreseen in this budget, but depending on project applications granted from September onwards, this might change.

Questions from the General Assembly

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp (the Netherlands) asked what falls under the operational costs. Mire invited Jonathan to the front to elaborate a bit more on this. Jonathan explained that costs that fall under operational expenditures are things such as office rent, printing costs, maintenance of our websites, et cetera.

5. Report of the Audit Committee by Peder Kragh

Mire gives back the floor to EUROCLIO President Lóa who invites the President of the Audit Committee, Peder Kragh, to present the Audit Committee Report.

Audit Committee Report on 2017

Report

Members of Audit Committee Bojana Dujkovic-Blagojevic (Euroclio HIP) and Peder Jacob Ellehave Kragh (Danish History Teachers Association) meet representative of EUROCLIO Board Frank van der Akker, Mire Mladenovski, Executive Director of EUROCLIO Jonathan Even-Zohar and Deputy Director Steven Stegers in Marseille at the 23.rd of April 2018. The other member of Audit Committee Hanna Toikkanen (Finnish History Teachers Association) could not join us because of personal reasons, but she communicated via e-mail.

First of all we can state that all members of Audit Committee received all necessary materials and Annual Report and were able to study all documents.

During the meeting we asked a lot of questions about the Annual Report and the financial policy and received exhaustive answers and explanations.

Following topics were discussed during the meeting:

1. Financial result of 2017 and the Audit by Mazars
2. Budget 2018
3. Information about the audit of the Black Sea Project (2011-2015) and possible consequences

We went through the running projects and were informed about Board and Secretariat efforts for organizing several projects and programs for the better economic development of EUROCLIO. We appreciate the outstanding efforts of the staff.

The Audit Committee expressed their satisfaction with the continued attention paid by the secretariat and Euroclio Board on reducing the amount of extra hours the staff at EUROCLIO works without payment. We have received documentation for the staffs waiving of over-hours in 2017. The Audit Committee wishes that the Secretariat and the Board should continue to pay close attention to this situation.

We learned that the present financial situation of EUROCLIO is stable, despite the possible consequences of the external EU audit of the Black Sea project.

We can approve the Annual Financial Report.

We were very satisfied with the answers given by the Board and Secretariat members and would like to advise General Assembly to approve the annual financial report.

Marseille 23.rd of April 2018

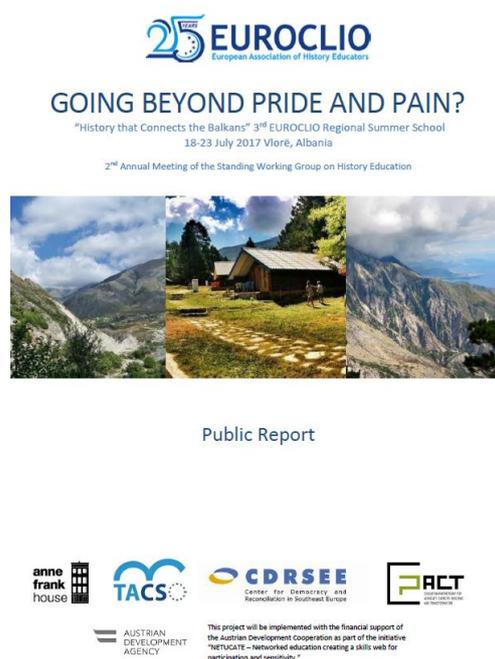

Peder Jacob Ellehave Kragh

Hanna Toikkanen

Bojana Dujkovic-Blagojevic

6. Presentation of EUROCLIO's Activities in 2017 by Jonathan Even-Zohar (Annex 6)

Lóia gives the floor to Executive Director Jonathan Even-Zohar, who presented EUROCLIO's activities in 2017. He highlighted a number of training events, such as the 2017 Annual Conference (led by Aysel Gojayeve), the 3rd Regional Summer School in Albania (led by Judith Geerling and Jonathan himself), and the thematic seminar in St. Petersburg (led by Jonathan).



Some projects were finalised in the course of 2017 (*Silencing Citizens through Censorship*, *Learning about (Y)our Past*, *Dealing with the Past in History Education*), while other initiatives moved into a second phase (cooperation in Kyrgyzstan, and the study visit to South Korea). New projects were initiated (*History Education beyond Borders*, *Learning to Disagree*, *Decisions and Dilemmas 3*, and *Rethink*).

Regarding Advocacy, Jonathan especially mentioned the work of EUROCLIO Founder and Special Advisor Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, who has continued the heavy-duty work within the Europeana Foundation Management Board and has represented EUROCLIO in a great number of occasions throughout 2017. The fight for better European Union-wide copyright regulations was continued by Programme Director Steven Stegers, as were advocacy efforts targeting the League of Arab States.

In 2017, outreach efforts were further structured and streamlined by Network Coordinator Jaco Stoop, and the website was further improved. Due to staff limitations, less time was spent on outreach in the previous year, but EUROCLIO remains very active online.

Discharge of the Board

7. Approval of the Annual and Financial Report 2017

Lóa requests the GA to approve the annual narrative and financial reports over 2017.

Decision: The GA approved annual narrative and financial reports over 2017.

8. Approval of the Budget 2018

Lóa requests the GA to approve the budget for 2018.

Decision: The GA approved the budget for 2018.

9. Discharge of EUROCLIO Board

Lóa requests the GA to discharge the non-executive Board.

Decision: The GA approved to discharge the non-executive Board.

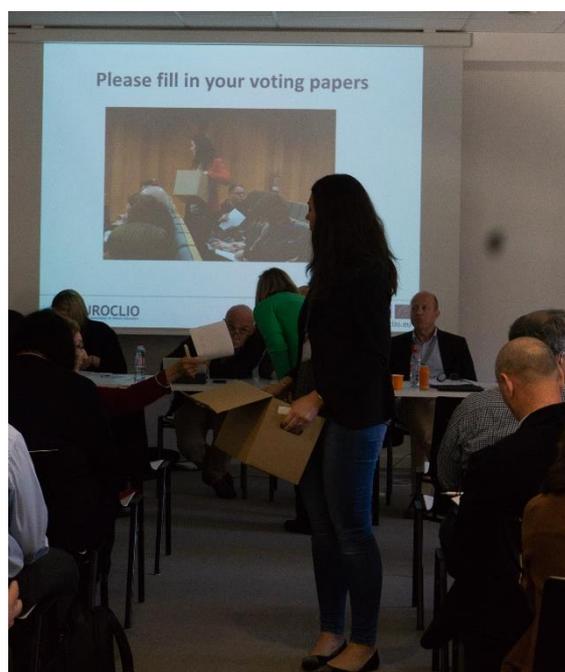
Official Procedures

10. Appointing the Voting Committee

Lóa explains the voting procedures, referring to the Internal Rules. From the total amount of 77 member organisations, 22 member organisations are represented at the GA. In between them, the 22 member organisations have 42 eligible votes. On request of Lóa, the GA appointed three members of the voting committee who volunteered.

Decision: The GA appointed the following volunteers to be a part of the Voting Committee:

- Jihane Francis Youssef (Lebanon)
- Teele Jurtom-Lukasin (Estonia)
- Tiina Kärkkäinen (Finland)



11. Election Two Audit Committee Members

Lóa explained that Hanna Toikanen and Peder Kragh are leaving their function as audit committee member as they have reached the end of their terms. They will therefore not stand for re-election. Lóa thanked Hanna and Peder for their years of dedicated work for the Audit Committee. After this, she asked the GA whether anyone was willing to run for election.

Two individuals responded, putting themselves up for election: Madis Somelar (Estonia) and Bistra Stoimenova (Bulgaria).

12. Re-Election EUROCLIO Board Member Riitta Mikkola (Annex 12)

13. Voting for EUROCLIO Member Organisations Applicants (Annex 13)

Questions from the General Assembly

Kiki Sakka (Greece) said that she was happy to be able to join EUROCLIO again from Greece in another form. The Panhellenic Association that she previously belonged to, is moving away from the EUROCLIO mission.

Questions were raised by Lars and Peder about Education for the 21st Century. Steven explained that it is an interesting case. Ulrich said that they have only 10 members, and wondered whether they would be able to pay the fee, so they can't become full members. Dean mentioned that there was no evidence of bad faith and that he wouldn't be voting against if he was voting.

Ina Nyfelt made a statement.

Madis asked the question whether museum can join. After Marjan cited from the statutes and internal rules, Kiki argued that EUROCLIO could benefit from such a member.

Ineke mentioned that organizations' statutes are needed in order to safeguard EUROCLIO.

Guido asked the difference between the two types of membership, to which Loa and Judith answered.

Maria asked a question about the contribution and dissemination of applicants.

Next, Idoia and Konstantin made statements.

Official Procedures

14. Report of the Voting Committee

The Voting Committee returned to the GA with the results.

Audit Committee

- Bistra Stoimenova and Madis Somelar were elected as members of the audit committee with 40 votes each in favour.

Re-election Board Member

- Riitta Mikkola was elected as Board Member with 35 votes in favour. 5 people abstained from voting.



EUROCLIO Member Associations (Full Membership)

- The National Museum of Korean Contemporary History was elected as full member with 22 votes in favour, 9 people abstaining and 10 votes against.
- The Swedish History Teachers' Association was elected as full member with 40 votes in favour.
- The Association for History Education in Greece was elected as full member with 40 votes in favour.
- Education for the 21st Century was elected as full member with 21 votes in favour, 12 people abstaining and 7 votes against.

EUROCLIO Member Associations (Associated Membership)

- The Holocaust Education Trust Ireland was elected as associated member with 33 votes in favour and 6 votes against.
- The History Education Department of Hamburg University was elected as associated member with 37 votes in favour, 1 person abstaining, and 1 vote against.
- The Gernika Peace Museum Foundation was elected as associated member with 38 votes in favour, and 1 vote against.
- The Cambridge International School of Tunis was elected as associated member with 36 votes in favour, and 3 votes against.
- The St. Petersburg Academy of In-Service Pedagogical Education was elected as associated member with 34 votes in favour, 1 person abstaining and 4 votes against.
- The Centre for Education and Innovations was elected as associated member with 35 votes in favour, and 4 votes against.

Planning: 2018 and beyond

16. Announcement new Presidency, new Vice-President, new Treasurer and new Secretary Board

President:	Mire Mladenovski
Vice President:	Paolo Ceccoli
Treasurer:	Riitta Mikola
Secretary:	Sinéad Fitzsimons

Board Member: Frank van den Akker

17. Stepping down Jonathan Even-Zohar as Executive Director

Lóa expressed that Jonathan had been very valuable to EUROCLIO. He had put a lot of effort into the association.

Then, Jonathan made a logistical announcement, saying that he might elaborate perhaps more in the evening. He said that he started as a very silly trainee, but that nevertheless Joke invited him to stay. He expressed that he was very happy because he landed in an organization that was, next to school and university, his real education. His experiences with travelling, meeting people, and teachers were extensive, and he recalled how tense they were when producing common materials. He looks back on 12 years of experience, 5 years as director and said it was time for a change. It became difficult to combine things, and therefore he needed to switch to a less constant mode.

Jonathan's speech met with applause.

18. Announcement of Steven Stegers as Acting Executive Director.

Steven took to the stage and expressed his gratitude to have been entrusted with this huge responsibility. He said that it is very good that EUROCLIO is so dynamic at the moment, and that the work is really meaningful. There is no other organization that is driven by so many agents of change. It is time to look forward, Steven concluded.

19. Action Plan 2018 by Steven Stegers (Annex 19)

Steven continued to elaborate on the Action Plan 2018, by stating that *continuity & legacy* is a challenge. We have Ambassadors, Board Members, but we rely on key individuals. We have to be financially robust. Regarding *democracy & membership*, Steven argued that members should be offered a variety of things. Moreover, Steven raised the important point of how to involve and activate membership. Then, for *impact & visibility*, Steven explained, EUROCLIO has a cause. Visibility is a real point of attention and he stated to fully endorse and support the Board on this and to realise a strategy in practice.



Other topics that were discussed:

- Operating Grant
- Research (Historical Content, L2D)

- International training (Kyrgyzstan, Hilversum, Serbia, Marseille, Summer school combined with Inclusion, national level training)
- Educational materials
- Applications (After Dictatorships, EUR-DSI4, Football, Re-Imagining Europe, Opening Up Historiana)

20. Forecast of the General Assembly 2019

Unlike previous Annual Conferences, the location of the 2019 edition was not yet known at the time of the Annual Conference 2018. After extensive research, EUROCLIO staff member Alice Modena came up with two biddings: Vilnius, Lithuania and Gdansk, Poland. After consultations with Sinéad and Mire, who are in the Annual Conference taskforce, the decision was made in October 2018 to go for Gdansk as its location. Gdansk can offer a varied cultural and historic programme, and budget-wise was more appealing. The 2019 edition of the Annual Conference has as one of its aims to increase accessibility by maintaining the Conference fee for participants relatively low. Also, the Conference will be shorter than previous Conferences.

Any other notified business

21. Any other notified business

Harry Rogge (Dutch National Film Festival for Students) took this opportunity to express his thanks and to congratulate EUROCLIO with its 25th anniversary. It is important that there is history and there is place. Historians and geographers are very close to each other. Harry invited a cooperation with EUROCLIO on many different projects that they are running, and urged EUROCLIO to attend its Annual Conference next year in March.



Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp said that she had been talking to several people who say they miss the Turkish colleagues in this Conference. She was wondering how to show our solidarity and whether a message can be sent in some semi-official way. Ineke replied that according to Semih Aktekin, everything was well, and she stressed to be aware of the danger of raising this. Kiki disagreed with Marjan's proposal, stating that Turkey is a very tricky situation, and there should be no interference every time a country is not able to attend the GA.

Mire, on behalf of the Board, stated that things like this have been discussed within the Board, and that they decided that there is no space for the Board to act. He stated that members should ask officially for the Board to discuss an issue. Even if the Board would have been asked to discuss the matter, Mire said that the Board should consider whether it is proper or not. Mire closed his argumentation by saying that no complaints have been received from Turkish members. Ulrich stated that no special measures should be taken. Lastly, Marjan asked what the Board could do in the future to help associations that were not present in the GA to attend this meeting anyway.

Closure of the meeting