

28th EuroClio General Assembly 2021

Saturday 10 April 2020, online via video conference due to ongoing Coronavirus pandemic

Welcome and introduction

1. Welcome and confirmation of the [agenda](#)

EuroClio President Riitta Mikkola opens the General Assembly with words of welcome to all delegates as we host our second online Assembly.

Introductions of the Board Members: Riitta Mikkola (President), Lars Peter Visti Hansen (Vice-President & Treasurer), Frank van den Akker (Board Member), Ann-Laure Lieval (Secretary). Riitta Mikkola informs that Denis Detling has stepped down.

Secretariat Staff Member Alice Modena takes the floor to introduce how the video conference and the online voting will work.

Ann-Laure Lieval presents the agenda for today, which is also available online.

Decision: The 28th EuroClio General Assembly Agenda approves the agenda for the General Assembly.

2. Check official delegates.

Alice Modena checks attendance with recording running, in place of the usual signed attendance sheet. The recording is paused after attendance has been validated.

3. Approval of the [minutes of the General Assembly 4 April 2020](#).

Board Secretary Ann-Laure Lieval presents the minutes of the 27th EuroClio General Assembly (online) of 2020. Everyone will have received the minutes and the Secretary invites the delegates to virtually raise their hands if they have any objections to the presented minutes.

Nana Tsikhistavi of the Georgian Association votes blank as she has not seen the minutes but does not object.

Decision: The minutes have been approved.

Finances & Board Reporting

4. [Certified financial report 2020](#) and background information by the Board Treasurer.

Vice-President and Treasurer Lars Peter Visti Hansen takes the floor to introduce the Board and Financial Report for 2020. The auditors have approved the financial report.

Total income for 2020 was EUR 637.612. Projects remain the largest source of income, followed by core funding. The Treasurer explains that the COVID-19 pandemic has had implications on the budget with the largest effect being the cancellation of the Annual Conference and other seminars and subsequent lower income coming from professional development.

Total expenditures for 2020 are EUR 621.073. Personnel costs and direct project expenditures account for the largest shares.

Lars Peter Visti Hansen then presents an overview of the projects and the funding for each, followed by an overview of the seven projects where EuroClio is participating as a partner. The Treasurer explains the importance of the two operating grants, the Europe for Citizens Remembrance Strain Grant (EUR 200.000) of the European Union and the Open Society Foundations (EUR 58.000). They are vital for the operation of EuroClio. EuroClio has assurances from both main organisations that these operating grants will continue to exist in the coming years, with EuroClio remaining eligible to apply.

The Treasurer then introduces the Membership Fees. There has been a welcome increase in individual memberships. Total membership fees make up about 2% of total income, about EUR 13.000, but is important as the funds are un-earmarked.

As for contingencies, 10.000 was budgeted in 2020. Approximately 2.000 were spent for the cancellation of the in-person Annual Conference.

The total net result for 2020 is EUR 16.539. These funds will be added to the operating reserve. The target for this reserve is EUR 100.000. Now, it stands at EUR 79.043. Liquidity was adequate throughout the year 2020.

The Treasurer Lars Peter Visti Hansen opens for questions and feedback from the participants. A question is on the origin of project funds and whether all are from Erasmus+. Steven Stegers, Executive Director, clarifies the situation where most are Erasmus+ but some partner projects are from the Connecting Europe facility of the EU (e.g., Opening up Historiana) or a wider variety of donors (e.g., In Europe Schools)

5. [Budget 2021](#) by the Board Treasurer

For 2020, the aim is to have a positive result of EUR 14.450. The budget assumes EUR 10.000 in contingencies. The ambition is to increase the activity of EuroClio, including by adding staff to the Secretariat.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Vice-President, and Treasurer Lars Peter Visti Hansen opens the floor for questions on the 2020 budget. There are no questions, objections, or comments.

6. Report of the Audit Committee by a member of the Audit Committee.

Madis Somelar takes the floor as a member of the Audit Committee. Madis Somelar explains the committee exists of three members, Madis Somelar, Ulrich Bongertman and Bistra Stoimenova. He explains that a meeting with staff and board members took place in March. During the meeting Executive Director Steven Stegers explained in detail the budget and the plan for 2021.

Last year, more information was requested for membership fees. Deputy Director Alice Modena explained this in more detail during this year's Audit Committee meeting with the Board and Secretariat.

The Committee advises that the General Assembly can approve the Annual Finance Report.

Madis Somelar explains that the Committee supports the ambitions for 2021. The Committee would like to recognise the Secretariat and the Board for the success of the Online Annual Conference 2020

and that negative consequences of the cancellation of the Belgrade event was minimal. Overtime hours were reduced, which is positive.

The Committee requests that that joining year is added to future reports, in order to see how long Members have been part of the Association. They also ask that staff email addresses be added. The Committee suggests to the Secretariat that an online event is organised to discuss how collaboration between members and different countries can increase. Recommend that the tradition of background checks of potential new members is continued.

7. Presentation of [EuroClio's activities in 2020](#) by the Executive Director

Executive Director Steven Stegers takes the floor and introduces the Secretariat staff, which has grown in 2020.

Contested Histories programme director, Marie Louise Jansen, takes the floor to introduce the Contested Histories project. The initiative focuses on education materials but also on recommendations for policymakers and has established a collaboration with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Deputy Director Alice Modena takes the floor. She speaks about the first ever online Annual Conference, which was organised in lieu of the Belgrade event that was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The online format was overall a highly positive experience with more than 190 participants joining from across Europe and beyond. Alice Modena also introduces the Online Course on Online Teaching that was launched in Spring 2020. The course remains available online. More than 350 individuals participated in the course series.

She then explains the work of the Football Makes History project. A [website](#) was launched and has been populated with a variety of educational resources. The website also includes several articles and 100+ life stories of individuals with a link to football and whose lives can help tackle issues of social exclusion. As part of the project, five videos have been produced. This includes a video documentary, and interview with David Goldblatt and a video about the football match played at the summit of the Kilimanjaro.

Alice Modena finally talks on the Learning to Disagree project, which has now ended. A teacher's guide, available in a variety of languages, is now available on EuroClio's website. It contains 12 ready-to-use teaching strategies for use in the classroom when discussing controversial topics.

Executive Director Steven Stegers then takes the floor and introduces the Historiana platform and the new additions and improvements that have been added in 2020. This includes a comparing and contrasting tool, a tool for highlighting texts and one for discovering connections. A new web developer, USE media, has joined as a project partner.

Steven Stegers then shares news of the Crossroads of Cultures project, where a publication has now also been made available in English. 10 lessons most relevant for an international setting have been added.

Communications and Outreach Officer Andreas Holtberget takes the floor and introduces the outreach work of 2020, including the launch of a [EuroClio Podcast](#), a revamping of the [EuroClio Bulletin](#) and the continued sharing of news, opportunities and reviews on the EuroClio website and on social media - Facebook, twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. The social media and newsletter have seen steady growth in members/recipients during 2020.

Discharge of the Board

8. Approval of the annual and financial report over 2020.

Riitta Mikkola takes the floor to introduce the procedure and that virtual hands should only be raised if delegates are not in favour of the approval.

Decision: The Annual and financial report for 2020 are approved.

9. Approval of the budget for 2021.

Decision: The Annual and financial report for 2020 are approved.

10. Discharge of EuroClio Board.

Decision: The dischargement of the EuroClio has been approved.

Official Procedures

Alice Modena presents the procedure and rules for online voting. In 2020, the Board has waived the membership fee of three members.

All voting members will have received special voting codes by email. Voting is done by adding the codes to the online form that has been shared with everyone. Only full members with a representative present that have paid the full fee have the right to vote. The number of votes depends on the size of each association. Each voting code must be submitted separately. There are 57 votes in total, distributed across 29 member associations.

Alice Modena informs that we have reached quorum and can proceed with voting. There are no questions voiced.

11. Appointing the Voting Committee.

President Riitta Mikkola requests volunteers for the voting committee. She informs that only participants at the General Assembly that do not cast votes can volunteer as Committee Members.

The following Voting Committee is appointed:

1. Loa Kristjansdottir (Iceland)
2. Harry Rogge (Netherlands)
3. Joke van der Leeuw-Roord (Netherlands)

12. Election of two [new EuroClio Board Members](#).

Riitta Mikkola informs that she is stepping down as President, whereas Denis Detling has done so already. There are therefore two openings.

The seven candidates for two positions present themselves: Alessandro Camiz, Bistra Stoimenova, Claudio Marquez, Elisabete Pereira, Juraj Varga, Maria Georgiou, Ute Ackermann-Boeros.

13. Re-election of [one Audit Committee Member](#).

There is also a re-election of one audit committee member. Ulrich Bongertmann is asking to be re-elected and present himself.

14. Voting on [applications for Members Associations](#).

Board President Riitta Mikkola introduces the applications made by two organisations to join EuroClio as full members: Centre for Education and Innovations (CEDIN) and Terraforming.

Juraj Varga takes the floor to introduce CEDIN, an organisation he started with other colleagues in Slovakia. The organisation was started to develop teaching materials and conduct teacher training programmes. <https://cedin.sk/>

Misko Stanisic takes the floor to introduce Terraforming. It is an independent organisation based in Novi Sad, Serbia. They work on holocaust education with a particular focus on microhistory. Terraforming wishes to strengthen its international aspect of their work and find new partners. <https://terraforming.org/about-terraforming/>

There is additionally one application for an Association Member Status.

Fernande Raine takes the floor to introduce Got History. It is an organisation based in Boston, USA. Their projects aim to improve the experience of young people in America with regard to history education. <https://www.got-history.org/>

Alice Modena shares the online voting form and clarifies questions from participants.

Interactive Session

Alice Modena takes the floor to introduce the interactive sessions and the Padlet contribution tool on the below issues:

15. Members services and needs.

16. Member recruitment.

Official Procedures

17. Report of the Voting Committee.

Loa Kristjansdottir takes the floor on behalf of the Voting Committee, sharing their report:

Election of new Board Member:

Alessandro Camiz received 1 vote. Bistra Stoimenova received 41 votes. Claudio Marques received 6 votes. Elisabete Pereira received 6 votes. Juraj Varga received 16 votes. Maria Georgiou received 19 votes. Ute Ackermann-Boeros received 25 votes.

Bistra Stoimenova and Ute Ackermann-Boeros are voted in as new Board Members of EuroClio by majority vote.

Re-elections for the Audit Committee:

Ulrich Bongertmann receives 55 votes in favour, with two abstentions.

Ulrich Bongertmann is re-elected to the Audit Committee.

Voting on applications for membership of EuroClio (Full Membership):

Centre for Education and Innovations (CEDIN) receives 53 votes in favour, with two abstentions and two votes against.

CEDIN is admitted as a new full member.

Terraforming receives 53 votes in favour, with two abstentions and two votes against.

Terraforming is admitted as a new full member.

Voting on applications for membership of EuroClio (Associated Membership):

Got History receives 51 votes, with six voting against.

Got History is admitted as a new associated member.

Riitta Mikkola congratulates the new Board members.

19. Second round of voting.

As Bistra Stoimenova is now joining the EuroClio Board, President Riitta Mikkola informs that we will need a new member of the Audit Committee. She calls on the participants to express their interest in the Zoom Chat.

Kati Hynönen and Maria Georgiou indicate their willingness to stand for election. Riitta Mikkola asks the two candidates to present themselves.

EuroClio Secretariat Project Manager Catherine Savitsky nominates Loa Kristjansdottir of the Voting Committee to share the results.

39 valid votes were cast. Kati Hynönen received 29 votes, while Maria Georgiou received 10 votes.

Kati Hynönen is the new member of the Audit Committee.

Planning: 2021 and beyond

19. Announcement of the new President and new Vice-President.

Riitta Mikkola takes the floor as she leaves the EuroClio Board. Her first meeting was in Malta in 2006 and she has now been in contact with EuroClio for 15 years. Between the figures and the results, she stresses the importance of the human aspect of her involvement. Riitta thanks everyone for the many opportunities for sharing experiences and contacts with colleagues from across Europe, with a hope to meet in person again in the near future.

Lars Peter Visti Hansen will now take over as EuroClio Board President. The new President thanks Riitta Mikkola for the peaceful transfer of power and offers his thanks for her hard work for EuroClio. Lars also stresses the human factor and thanks everyone for their contributions to our Association.

The new Vice-President Ann-Laure Lieval takes the floor and thanks Riitta Mikkola and congratulates Lars Peter Visti Hansen and the new Board Members.

Executive Director Steven Stegers takes the floor to thank Riitta for her excellent work on behalf of the Secretariat. Riitta Mikkola has been our first “Online President” and the Secretariat will be happy to present her with an online gift - a digital cultural tour of Europe.

20. [Action Plan 2021](#) by the Executive Director.

Steven Stegers introduces the 2021 Action Plan.

Advocacy

The Council of Europe has approved the establishment of a Observatory on History Teaching in Europe. EuroClio individual member, former French MEP Alain Lamassoure, has been selected as the chair of this Observatory. The Observatory will organise an Annual Conference, of which the first one will be on pandemic and history teaching. A full report will be presented every three years.

EuroClio have been asked by OSCE ODIHR to contribute to the sharing of their newly developed teaching materials and will advocate to also join their new projects focusing on anti-discrimination.

As for the revision of EuroClio’s Manifesto, the aim is to present this at the 2021 General Assembly involving the wider community.

Research

EuroClio will celebrate 30 years next year and the plan is to publish a History of EuroClio publication in connection with the anniversary. This work is done by research trainee students at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Research is also continuously conducted on the needs of teachers and educators across Europe. EuroClio has also entered a partnership with Impact Institute, who will help develop key performance indicators to measure impact of the work.

Marie Louise Jansen then takes the floor and expands upon the Contested Histories research that is being conducted. There are more than 200 cases now researched. In 2021, a new website - contestedhistories.org - will go live and present educators with all the research conducted.

Projects

Steven Stegers takes the floor again to emphasise the work started for the Contested Histories Onsite project, led by the Memory Studies Association. The project will use the research by the Contested Histories project to design tours for educators and the general public.

He then introduces the Critical History project. The role of EuroClio is to find best practices for teaching on four topics and to contribute to a Study Guide. The project is led by Mare Oja of Tallinn University.

He continues with an introduction to the new collaboration with the German development agency GIZ on history education in Sri Lanka. EuroClio is, together with a local team and the ISHD, developing innovative didactic materials for use in the local post-conflict context.

He then introduces the oral history project My Story/Your Story with the Belgian organisation Vredescentrum. The aim is to scale up beyond the context of Antwerp to make the project applicable internationally.

The Executive Director then introduces the continuation of the Learning History that is not yet History project, recipient of the 2019 Global Pluralism Award. The project is continuing to develop materials tackling the 1990s Balkan Wars with support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The result will be 12 lesson plans and a teachers guide (including on dealing with emotions).

Secretariat Project Manager Eugenie Khatschatrian takes the floor and introduces herself and the project In Europe Schools. In 2019, EuroClio partnered with the Dutch public broadcaster VPRO. Inspired by the tv series *In Europe*, the project focuses on the development of student-led documentary videos through an online school matching system. Now, 112 schools are participating in the project. The partnership with VPRO has concluded, but EuroClio will continue the project and expand it with new themes and partnerships.

Secretariat Project Manager Katria Tomko then takes the floor and introduces the Sharing European Histories. The project has designed five teaching strategies available on sharingeuropeanhistories.eu. The strategies are available in English with more languages coming soon. An animation on the project is also being developed, as well as a self-paced course with live webinars.

Secretariat Project Manager Lorraine Besnier takes the floor and expands on the plans for Historiana. The DSI4 project centres on spreading the word about Historiana and increasing usership. There are webinars and a self-paced course in the pipeline, as well as a train-the-trainer programme to certify new Historiana trainers to host local workshops.

Professional Development

Alice Modena then resumes the floor to introduce the World Congress of School History Teachers, which will take place in either a hybrid way or on-site in Moscow, Russia, in October 2021. EuroClio will organise some of the sessions for the conference. A call for participation will open up soon and will be shared in the EuroClio newsletter.

She then introduces the next EuroClio Annual Conference. The theme is "What is history for?" and it will be hosted in Bologna, Italy, by CLIO '92. The exact date in 2022 will be confirmed soon.

Alice Modena finally introduces the concept of Thematic Focus areas which will guide EuroClio's work on outreach and professional development in the coming year: Football and History, Fragility of Democracy, Fake news and Propaganda, Decolonising History, Freedom of Speech, Remembrance Education, Prejudice and Stereotypes.

Any other notified business

21. Any other notified business

Harry Rogge from European Association of Geographers - Eurogeo takes the floor. He stresses the wish to have more collaboration between geographers and historians and is happy to announce that Steven Stegers will also present at their next Annual Conference.