

30th EuroClio General Assembly

Saturday 22 April 2023, Vilnius, Lithuania

Draft Minutes

Welcome and introduction

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

EuroClio President Lars Peter Visti Hansen opens the General Assembly with words of welcome to all delegates as we host EuroClio's second hybrid (face-to-face in Vilnius and online) General Assembly.

Introductions of the Board Members follows: Lars Peter Visit Hansen (President), Ann-Laure Lieval (Vice-President), Bistra Stoimenova (Treasurer), Juraj Varga (Board Member), Frank van den Akker (Financial Advisor), Ute Ackermann Boeros (Secretary).

Lars Peter Visti Hansen presents the agenda for today, which is also available online.

Decision: The 30th EuroClio General Assembly Agenda approves the agenda for the General Assembly.

2. Check official delegates.

Secretariat Staff Member Alice Modena takes the floor to check the attendance of the official delegates, with video recording.

3. Approval of the [minutes of the General Assembly 30 April 2022](#).

All delegates will have received the minutes and Lars Peter Visit Hansen invites the delegates to virtually raise their hands if they have any objections to the presented minutes.

Decision: The minutes have been approved.

Finances & Board Reporting

4. [Financial report 2022](#) and background information by the Board Treasurer (pages 29 – 56).

Board Treasurer Bistra Stoimenova takes the floor to introduce the Board and Financial Report for 2020.

Total income for 2022 is EUR 1 521 032. This income is about EUR 700 000 more than last year. Projects remain the largest source of income (53%), followed by core funding (30%).

Total expenditures for 2022 are about the same. Direct project expenditures and personnel costs account for the largest shares.

The Treasurer explains the importance of the two operating grants, the EU's European Remembrance Operating Grant (EUR 300 000) and the Open Society Foundation's Core Support Programme 2021-2022 (approx. EUR 160 000). This funding supports the main activities and covers the core costs of EuroClio. 2022 is the first year of the new EU core funding scheme. The Treasurer informs that 2022 is the last year of funding from the Open Society Foundation.

Bistra Stoimenova then presents an overview of the projects and the funding for each, both those led by EuroClio and those where EuroClio is a partner to a project led by another organisation. Additionally, EuroClio worked on five projects in strategic partnerships and in consultancy roles with other organisations. Finally, EuroClio worked on three long-term initiatives (projects which go beyond set temporal periods): Contested Histories, In Europe Schools, and Historiana.

The Treasurer then introduces the Membership Fees. Income received through membership fees in 2022 is EUR 13 292. This is EUR 727 less than the previous year. This is largely due to a decrease in collected individual membership fees. Treasurer Stoimenova explains that the total income of membership fees is only about 1 percent of total income.

As for contingencies, EUR 20 000 was budgeted in 2022. Only EUR 6 468 were spent.

The total net positive result for 2022 is EUR 10 502. These funds will be added to the operating reserve. The reserve is meant to be used for tax and legal exposures, continuity, project contingencies and liquidity. At the moment, it stands at EUR 112 020. Liquidity was adequate throughout the year 2022.

The Treasurer Bistra Stoimenova opens up for observations, clarifications and feedback from the participants.

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp asks for a clarification on the fact that the core support from the Open Society Foundation is in its last year and whether this implies a risk. The treasurer explains that EuroClio may try again with the OSF in the future, but that the 3-year commitment from the EU provides a certain security in the meantime.

Lóa Steinunn Kristjánsdóttir comments that the 'Other' expenses is rather high and that there is no further information on what this expenditure implies. Bistra Stoimenova explains that the expenses are related to auditing expenses, expenses by EuroClio Ambassadors, and general activities.

Peder Jacob Ellehave Kragh asks about the overtime hours by staff and the fact that this is not compensated monetarily. The Treasurer explains that there is a decrease in overtime hours by the Secretariat compared to previous years.

5. [Budget 2023](#) by the Board Treasurer (page 23)

The Treasurer explains that there is an expectation for a positive result and that the budget is similar to last year's.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Treasurer Bistra Stoimenova opens the floor for observations, comments and feedback on the 2023 budget.

There are no observations, comments or feedback.

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

Ulrich Bongertmann takes the floor as a member of the Audit Committee. Bongertmann explains the committee consists of three members, himself, Espen Kirkegaard Espensen and Kati Hynönen. He explains the role of the Audit Committee and that they may ask questions from the Board and Secretariat and that a meeting with Board and Secretariat staff members takes place yearly.

All members of the audit committee had received and had been able to study all materials in advance of this year's meeting. During the meeting Executive Director Steven Stegers explained in great detail the Annual Financial Report 2022 and the Budget 2023. Additionally, Bistra Stoimenova introduced some more details on specific issues, e.g. the future reliability of the grants and incomes. The committee asked for some clarifications about the Annual Report and other financial issues: Differences between the estimated and actual costs are based on more online meetings. All the questions were answered and the Committee is pleased to inform that the present financial situation of EuroClio is stable.

The Audit Committee is pleased to note that the Sri Lanka project demonstrates the growing interest outside of Europe in how to manage historical work in an international context. The Committee also discussed the fairness of the level of wages paid by EuroClio in the context of the Netherlands, and is pleased to see that the staff and the Board are highly motivated to further develop EuroClio.

The Audit Committee asks the Secretariat and Board to present a strategy for collecting membership fees more effectively. The Committee recommends to the Board and Secretariat to do background checks on new candidates for membership to ensure that they are democratic bodies. The Audit Committee recommends that a separate meeting of the Membership Committee is held.

The Audit Committee can approve the Annual Financial Report with a positive result and propose to the General Assembly to approve the Annual Financial Report.

7. Presentation of [EuroClio's activities in 2021](#) by the Executive Director ([page 4-20](#))

Executive Director Steven Stegers takes the floor and explains that this has been a busy year. Funding has nearly doubled, but we do not have twice as many staff members. He continues with an introduction of the current staff members and mentions that there are also four Young Professionals working at the Secretariat in The Hague. He also mentions the many volunteers that help conduct our work.

The Executive Director also explains that in 2022 another staff member, Jade Botha, was working with EuroClio and leading the work on the Contested Histories initiative. This initiative maps more than five hundred cases of contested sites in 123 countries. The initiative has also opened up for collaborations with a number of partner organisations, such as Atrium and Uncomfortable Oxford.

Deputy Director Alice Modena takes the floor and shares some of EuroClio's work on the development of new educational resources. These include those developed through the Historiana narrative The Art of Questioning, as well as the In Europe Schools and Teaching European Histories initiatives. Alice Modena encourages all members to try and test these educational materials.

Project Manager Catherine Savitsky takes the floor and speaks on the Learning History that is not Yet History II project, tackling the sensitive and difficult history of the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia and the 1990s Balkan Wars. This project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is a continuation of the project that won the 2019 Global Pluralism Award. She also speaks on the Online Teaching in the Visegrad Region project, which has produced a teaching guide on how to effectively teach online and in blended formats - with examples based on the shared socialist past of Central Europe. The teaching guide is available on EuroClio's website. Catherine Savitsky also introduces the work with the Global Impact Institute on the development of a theory of change, enabling EuroClio to better measure the impact of its projects and initiatives.

Catherine Savitsky finally speaks on EuroClio's increased global presence, with a teacher seminar organised in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and a partnership with the North East Asian History Foundation for a smaller project in Seoul, exchanging experiences on the creation of cross-national education materials.

Project Manager and Communications Officer Andreas Holtberget takes the floor and introduces EuroClio's work in Sri Lanka, where a project funded by the GIZ is bringing together history educators and historians from across the island, jointly developing educational materials while promoting a change in how history teaching is currently conducted in the country. He also mentions the EuroClio Podcast, which is also devoted to global issues of history education. Deputy Director Alice Modena then introduces the current initiative creating a global network of like-minded organisations.

Lars Peter Visti Hansen then opens the floor for comments. The Secretariat receives applause for their work in 2022.

8. Approval of the annual and financial report for 2022.

Lars Peter Visti Hansen 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 2022 is approved.

9. Approval of the budget for 2023.

Decision: The budget for 2023 is approved.

10. Discharge of EuroClio Board.

Decision: The dischargement of the EuroClio has been approved.

Official Procedures

EuroClio President Lars Peter Visti Hansen presents the procedure and rules for voting.

All voting members will have received individual 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 amount of votes depends on the size of each association. Each voting code must be submitted separately. **There are 61 valid votes in total.**

Secretariat Staff Member Catherine Savitsky is invited to explain the online voting system. Official delegates connecting online will have received the amount of votes they are entitled to in an email.

There are no immediate questions on the voting procedures.

11. Appointing the Voting Committee.

Lars Peter Visti Hansen requests volunteers for the voting committee. He 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. Joke van der Leeuw-Roord (Netherlands)
2. Paolo Ceccoli (Italy)
3. Peder Jacob Ellehave Kragh (Denmark)

12. Re-Election of EuroClio Board Board Member Ann-Laure Liéval

Board Member Ann-Laure Liéval is standing for reelection and hopes to continue working for fulfilment of the mission and vision of EuroClio.

13. Election of a [new EuroClio Board Member](#).

There are 10 Candidates for one new Board Member position.

Lars Peter Visti Hansen invites the candidates to present themselves. Tom Marabello, An Lavens and Tina van der Vlies present their candidatures online.

Harri Beobide and Simona Stankutė present their candidatures in person in Vilnius.

Murshid Mohamed Buhary submitted a letter in support of his candidature, which is read out. Brisejda Lala presents herself through a video message. There are no further presentations of prospective board members.

A comment is raised asking the Board to do more preparation work in advance of the voting on new Board Members. Lars Peter Visti Hansen explains that we in the past had much fewer candidates. He also explains the rationale for the election and the terms of Board Members.

14. Re-Election of Audit Committee Member Kati Hynönen and election of a new Member

Kati Hynönen has reached the end of her first term and is up for re-election.

Ulrich Bongertmann has reached the end of his second term. Frans van Rumpt (Netherlands) offers his candidature.

There are no objections. Frans van Rumpt is elected as Audit Committee Member by acclamation.

15. [Voting on applications for Membership](#)

EuroClio President Lars Peter Visti Hansen explains that this year we have 3 applications for membership. The applications for Associated Membership are however not complete and are therefore not eligible at this point. The coming year the membership committee of the Board will review the application process.

Convoi 77 (France) is applying for full membership. Their President, Georges Mayer, present the organisation online. The organisation works on holocaust education. He explains that the main motivation for joining EuroClio is the opportunity to share and learn from organisations across Europe.

Planning: 2023 and beyond

16. [Action Plan 2023](#)

Executive Director Steven Stegers takes the floor, presenting some of the activities planned for 2023. He first mentions the opportunity offered through the European Union Operating Grant providing additional funding for re-granting opportunities to EuroClio members. This means that for the first time in history, EuroClio can offer grants to its members. The re-granting scheme is done in partnership with the Evens foundation and does not require co-financing from Members.

The Executive Director then speaks on EuroClio's partnership with the Council of Europe, both in coordinating research for the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe, on the European Innovation Days on history education, and in the organisation of the Annual Fora on History Education by the Intergovernmental programme on history education at the CoE. Steven Stegers finally thanks Jean-Philippe Restoueix from the Council of Europe for his active participation in this year's Conference.

Deputy Director Alice Modena takes the floor and speaks on the future plans for professional development. These include the Seeking Justice: From Nuremberg to The Hague programme, the EuroClio Summer School in Albania, a thematic seminar scheduled for Autumn, a training course

on communications done with the House of European History, as well as the next Annual Conference which will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria. She also highlights the upcoming online opportunities, including on creating eLearning activities on Historiana and a collaboration with UNESCO on addressing anti-semitism.

Alice Modena finally introduces the new projects that EuroClio will begin work on this year: SENSEI (School education for sustainable equal inclusion), 360 Degrees of Democracy, and Making Visegrad History Digital (led by CEDIN).

Project Manager Paula O'Donohoe takes the floor to speak on the Who Were the Victims of the National Socialists project. Funded by the EVZ Foundation, the project has just published its toolkit - available on EuroClio's website. As part of the project, students have developed videos related to their local World War II history.

Official Procedures

17. Report of the Voting Committee.

Peder Jacob Ellehave Kragh takes the floor on behalf of the Voting Committee, sharing their report.

61 votes were received. One voting code was invalid, while two votes were cast twice and thus declared invalid. There are therefore 58 valid votes.

Re-Election of EuroClio Board Member Ann-Laure Liéval

There were two votes against the re-election of Board Member Ann-Laure Liéval. 54 voted in favour, while two abstained.

EuroClio Board Member Ann-Lauren is re-elected to the Board.

Election of new Board Member:

The results are as follows: An Lavens (Belgium) received two votes. Brisajda Lala (Albania) received nine votes. Harri Beobide (Spain) received 35 votes. Simona Stankutė (Lithuania) received five votes. Tina van der Vlies (Netherlands) received seven votes. All other candidates did not receive any votes.

Harri Beobide has received 60% of the votes and is voted in as new Board Member of EuroClio by majority vote.

Re-election of one Audit Committee Member:

Kati Hynönen received 58 votes in favour of her reelection.

Kati Hynönen is re-elected to the Audit Committee

Voting on applications for membership of EuroClio:

Convoi 77 (France) is applying for full membership of EuroClio and received 56 votes in favour, with two abstentions.

Convoi 77 is admitted as a new full member association.

18. Second round of voting (if necessary)

A second round of voting is not necessary.

19. Announcement of new Board Roles.

Lars Peter Visti Hansen informs that he is stepping down as President of the Board. He will continue as a Secretary of the Board. Ute Boeros Ackermann will be the Vice-President, Juraj Varga will be the Treasurer and Lars Peter Visti Hansen will be the Secretary.

Bistra Stoimenova is the new EuroClio President as of 22 April 2023.

20. Announcement of Annual Conference 2024

Alice Modena announces that the next EuroClio Conference will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria on 25-27 April 2024. The title and theme is “(Be)longing: Confronting our past”

Any other notified business

21. Any other notified business

Harry Rogge from EUROGEO takes the floor online. He informs that EUROGEO will hold its Annual Conference next week. He expresses his desire to work together as geographers and historians.

The GA is concluded with a presentation by students involved in the Who Were the Victims of the National Socialists project.