

31st EuroClio General Assembly 2024

Saturday 27 April 2024, Sofia, Bulgaria

Draft Minutes

Welcome and Introduction

1. Welcome and confirmation of the agenda

EuroClio President Bistra Stoimenova opens the General Assembly with welcoming remarks to all the attendees.

Bistra Stoimenova presents the agenda for the day on the projector screen.

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp asks for more clarification pointing out that the agenda for the day was not available online beforehand as it usually is, and suggests to do that the following year for more clarity and transparency.

Bistra Stoimenova agrees with her, apologising for the inconvenience and explaining that the reason for this will be discussed later during the General Assembly.

She suggests showing the agenda again on the projector screen so everybody can take the time to go through it.

Vassiliki Sakka states that Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp does not disagree with the content of the agenda but with the fact that delegates did not receive any information about the General Assembly beforehand, as it usually happens.

Bistra Stoimenova apologises for the inconvenience and asks the delegates to approve the agenda by raising their hands to continue with the General Assembly.

Decision: The 31st EuroClio General Assembly Agenda approves the agenda for the General Assembly

2. Check of the Official Delegates

Bistra Stoimenova checks the attendance of the official delegates.

EuroClio Staff Paula O'Donohoe and Executive Director Steven Stegers explain that only the official delegates have to sign the participant list, and ask if everybody has signed.

Vassiliki Sakka still has to sign her presence on the participant lists, so she proceeds to do so.

Bistra Stoimenova asks the Official Delegates to raise their hand, 34 Official delegates are present at this General Assembly, with the right to vote.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2023.

EuroClio Staff member Paula O'Donohoe gives the copies of printed Minutes of the General Assembly 2023 to the participants.

Bistra Stoimenova suggests postponing the approval of the minutes of the General Assembly 2023 to an extra online General Assembly in June.

Steven Stegers explains that the idea of having a second online General Assembly is to postpone the approval of the minutes from the 2023 General Assembly, since delegates did not have the time to read them.

Decision: The approval of minutes is postponed to June.

Finances and Board Reporting

4. Update on the audit

Executive director of EuroClio Steven Stegers explains that EuroClio usually makes a full annual report approved by External auditors, this year EuroClio managed to prepare one but with some pending questions, due to the fact that it was in correspondence with the reporting for the European Operating Grant.

Steven Stegers explains that the main reason why this happened is because the Secretariat suffered the departure of two project managers, Alice Modena and Catherine Savitsky, and the work of the organisation was managed by 4 people.

Steven Stegers explains the good relation between EuroClio and the European Commission reassuring the delegates about not having met the initial deadline with the Annual Report.

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp expresses her gratitude for the explanation of Steven and the whole work and effort of the Secretariat, however she underlines the need to have had the agenda of the General Assembly, the minutes beforehand and an explanation for the second online General Assembly.

Bistra Stoimenova explains the rarity of the situation and apologizes.

Kati Hynonen, part of the Audit Committee remarks the fact that there is no information about the audit online and requires more transparency even in this extraordinary situation.

5. Finances 2023

Board Member and Treasurer Juraj Varga takes the floor to introduce the Finance of EuroClio for 2023.

Juraj Varga shows and explains that the income is similar to the year before, with 1.4 millions euros, where more than 50% of income comes from the projects, less than 5% from consultancies and 1% comes from membership fees and events, while the rest is represented by the European Operating Grant.

Juraj Varga shows and explains then the Expenditures of EuroClio for 2023, where the staff costs represent circa 40% of expenditures, project expenditures almost 30% other expenditures do not reach the 30%, while minor percentages, such as 5% and around 2% are given respectively by the Regranting and Depreciation.

The Treasures explains that the Continuity Reserve is at the moment stable, with 110 thousands euros, the recommendation from the auditors is to continue increasing the reserve since the budget rose in the last few years of circa 1 million of euros.

Juraj Varga affirms that the plan for 2024 resembles those from the two years before, where the majority of the income comes from the operating grant and projects.

The Treasurer also apologies for this extraordinary situation about the lack of the Annual Report by the auditors.

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp asks for more information about the Operating Grant from the EU in the future years.

Juraj replies that the Operating grant includes also the years of 2025, 2026, after that the budget for the EU will change so they will proceed giving other guidelines.

Peder Jacob Ellehave Kragh asks about the overtime hours by staff and the fact that this is not compensated monetarily. Steven Stegers takes the floor and explains the agreement with the staff and EuroClio, where staff can take up to 15 days as holidays.

6. Budget

7. EuroClio's Activities in 2024

Steven Stegers explains the updates at the Secretariat and the need of new people, he presents the new staff:

- Ivan Milovanov (Project Manager and Professional Development Coordinator)
- Giorgia Busato (Project Support Officer)
- Theano Ioannidou (Financial Officer)

Steven Stegers tells also about the move of the Secretariat to the new office in The Hague, the news about the studio, and the possibility to rent it and have it as a source of income.

The Executive Director shows some quotes and pictures from the Annual Conference of 2023 in Vilnius.

Steven Stegers explains the EuroClio Regranting Scheme, where for the first time EuroClio could grant money to its member Associations.

Steven Stegers explains and presents the events from the Regranting Scheme: Pan European Gathering and the other 5 Regional Cooperation Grants.

The Executive Director tells about the project EuroClio has in Sri Lanka, History That Connects, and also underlines the complexity of the situation in the country, languages, and acts of violence. This year, 6 of the Sri Lankan teachers will go to The House of Cooperation in Cyprus.

Steven Stegers talks about the War on Education Documentary, mentioning the screenings, the translations in different languages (supported by friends of EuroClio Foundation), the fact that it is also going to the cinemas, at the Council of Europe, NY, USA and many other locations.

Official Procedures

8. Decision on the voting procedure

Bistra Stoimenova presents two ways to decide on how to vote: by raising the hand or by ballot.

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp suggests asking that question for each point the delegates have to vote on.

The official delegates decide to vote by secret ballot.

The following Voting Committee is appointed:

- Bojana Dujkovic-Blagojević (Bosnia Herzegovina)
- Harry Rogge (The Netherlands)
- Peder Jacob Ellehave Kragh (Denmark)

9. Re-election of 2 Board Members

Board Member Lars Peter Visti Hansen presents the procedure for the re-election of the Board Members.

Bistra Stoimenova stands for reelection and says she wants to continue contributing to EuroClio's work and also being more responsible in the next 3 years.

Vice President Board Member Ute Ackermann Boeros also is standing for reelection and explains how she enjoys the work in the Board and the Secretariat and how she wants to help EuroClio develop further in the following 3 years.

The Official Delegates vote

Trainee Martina Dierking and EuroClio Staff Paula O'Donohoe collect the votes from the Official Delegates.

10. Voting on Application for Membership

Bistra Stoimenova presents the next step, namely voting on the Application for Full Membership and leaves the floor to Board Member Ann-Laure Liéval.

Ann-Laure Liéval presents the association that wants to apply to become Full Members and Associated Members.

Application for Full Membership:

- National Council for History Education, NCHE, represented by Jessica Ellison: NCHE is a nonprofit professional organisation that elevates the importance of history teaching and learning through professional learning, community building, and advocacy. The NCHE is based in the United States

Jessica Ellison presents the National Council for History Education to the General Assembly.

- Association for the Didactics of History (ADD): Bringing together teachers of history didactics at faculties educating future teachers and other persons and subjects related to the field and subject, supporting an interdisciplinary and constructivist approach to building historical literacy as an integral part of active citizenship.

Juraj Varga explains the association since he has been in contact with them in Historiana team

- Flemish Association for History Teachers (VVLG): The representative body for Flemish teachers' history across the educational networks. Inspiring both substantively and didactically to introduce the most recent developments in history education, to offer a forum for consultation, and to defend the interests of the profession. The VVLG is based in Belgium

Stephanie van Brussels presents the Flemish Association for History Teachers To the General Assembly.

Founder of EuroClio Joke van der Leeuw-Roord remarks the fact that the Flemish Association for History Teachers had already been an EuroClio member in the past.

Applications for Associated Membership:

- The Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF):

Assisting teachers, students, and the general public in understanding the origins and outcomes of the Korean War, the challenges that soldiers faced while fighting it, and its rich legacy promoting democracy and freedom in the world today, which is exemplified by South Korea's simultaneous achievement of rapid economic development and substantive democratisation in late 20th century.

The KWLF is based in South Korea

Jongwoo Han represents The Korean War Legacy Foundation and he introduces the Foundation and how it got in contact with EuroClio.

- Logopsycom:
Creating and using alternative methods or tools (digital or not) to accompany schools, VET centres, educational organisations, youngsters and parents.
Logopsycom is based in Belgium
- Flemish Institution for Cultural Heritage:
The focal point for the cultural heritage sector. Support and help you grow: that is our mission. We work for and with heritage workers from archives, heritage libraries, heritage cells, organisations focusing on intangible heritage, national service organisations and museums. Policymakers, municipal cultural and heritage services are also important target groups.
FARO is based in Belgium

Steven Stegers shows the video clip prepared by FARO to explain the organisation.

Vassiliki Sakka asks whether the FARO organisation is a non-governmental organisation or a professional organisation. Ann-Laure Liéval explains that FARO is a government organisation.

Bistra Stoimenova announces that it is time to vote for the Full and Associated Membership.

EuroClio Staff Member Paula O'Donohoe collects the votes from the General Assembly.

11. Voting on Internal Rule Change

Steven Stegers explains the idea of change in internal rules discussed with the board:

At the moment the General Assembly elects THREE people to represent the full members to review the financial management and policy in order to advise the General Assembly to approve the financial report. The members of the Audit Committee can be elected for a term of TWO years, with the possibility of being re-elected at the end of the first term for another TWO-years.

Proposed change: The General Assembly elects FOUR people to represent the full members to review the financial management and policy and advise the General Assembly to approve the financial report. The Audit Committee members are elected for a term of FOUR years.

If this change is accepted, the term for all audit committee members who are already elected, will be extended automatically to 4 years.

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp says that 4 years are very long for people working in the Audit Committee. Bistra replies the aim is to have people with specific skills, experienced people and committed to work on that for 4 years.

The General Assembly votes and Paula O'Donohoe collects the votes.

Bistra Stoimenova closes the rounds of votes.

Planning: 2024 and Beyond

12. Action Plan 2024

Steven Stegers presents this section explaining the following points:

Annual Conference 2024

Educators Share: Asking Educators about moments that were challenging for them in their career. Recordings are usually recorded in The Hague but also during International Events such as the Annual Conference.

The aim is to use these stores for professional development, but they are also opportunities to understand teaching in other countries, with a variety of different topics.

Learning History that is not yet History 2, Toolkit & Learning Activities

One of the next steps is to create a Toolkit on how to teach about very sensitive topics, how you react to parents and other topics.

Monument(al) Challenges Toolkit:

Equip teachers and students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to address exclusion, marginalisation and societal injustices through history education.

A set of adaptable resources for teaching complex histories that adapt twelve case studies from Contested Histories.

Facts not Fiction - Young Historians Show What We Can Learn from the Past:

Students across Europe will step into the shoes of public historians to research their local history of different groups of victims of Nazi persecution and present their work through exhibitions, guided tours, graphic novels and podcasts.

The project will also offer teacher training on place-based learning methodology

Training for archivists, museum educators and tour guides to workshops on how to better support teachers and students in their learning process.

The Contested Histories Map is ready now with more than 100 case studies.

13. Outlook beyond 2024

EU Operating Grant 2026-2028:

Steven Stegers explains that EuroClio is now in the 3rd year of a 4 year framework of the Operating Grant.

It started at first with 300 thousand EUR and it increased to 550 thousand EUR.

There will be a new call at the end of the year for the EU Operating Grant, for this reason the Secretariat and the Board is now reflecting on the expectation on the Operating Grant from 2029.

Steven Stegers informs the official delegate that this year EuroClio will need the help of its members to respond to an EU survey and to explain why European Remembrance matters.

Research Fellows:

Independent researcher and PhD students from different disciplines and backgrounds, working in the field of history education. They are given a grant, as well as training to do research at EuroClio. The research fellows help make sure that EuroClio's projects and measures are evidence-based and target the actual needs and priorities of European history educators.

Every year 3 working papers will be produced by the Research Fellows.

Support educational Reform:

EuroClio is being asked to support educational reform, especially by the Ministries of Education.

The goal from 3 years from now is also to work with people involved with curriculum design.

Educational Material - Adapting rather than Creating:

The aim is to adapt and translate material that we already have.

SENSEI and Online courses:

A network of teachers, teacher trainees, teacher trainers, and others working on and interested in inclusive education;

A set of recommendations for Teacher Training Institutes on teaching inclusion and diversity;

A module for Teacher Training Institutes on inclusive education

A webinar series and a self-paced course on Inclusive Education

Professional development opportunities for educators.

Changing Democracies:

Changing Democracies aims to collect untold stories from across Europe about recent transitions to democracy and explore how they can lead to critical reflection and dialogue about democracy today.

14. Annual Conference 2025

Juraj Varga announces that the next EuroClio Conference will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia on 3-5 April 2025. The title of the theme is: "Patterns in History?"

Juraj Varga announces also the presence of Sam Wineburg as Keynote speaker at the Annual Conference in 2025.

Bistra takes the floor, asks if there are other businesses, and the voting committee is here.

Results of the Voting

Peder Jacob Ellehave Kragh presents the results of the voting:

Voting on Board members:

Bistra Stoimenova gets reelected for her position as Board Member with **27 votes in favour, 6 contrary, and 1 absent.**

Ute Ackermann Boeros gets reelected for her position as Board Member with **30 votes in favour, and 4 contrary.**

Voting on Full Members

The National Council for History Education gets elected as EuroClio full member with **34 votes in favour**

The Association for the Didactics of History gets elected as EuroClio full member with **34 votes in favour**

The Flemish Association for History Teachers gets elected as EuroClio full member with **34 votes in favour.**

Voting on Associated Members

The Korean War Legacy Foundation gets elected as EuroClio Associated member with **34 votes in favour.**

Logopsycom gets elected as EuroClio Associated member with **26 votes in favour, 7 against and 1 abstained.**

The Flemish Institution for Cultural Heritage gets elected as EuroClio Associated member with **33 votes in favour and 1 abstained.**

Voting on Change of the internal rules

The change of the internal rule gets approved with **19 votes in favour and 15 against.**

Lóa Steinunn Kristjánsdóttir asks by which majority the voting has been counted. Bistra Stoimenova replies that the simple majority is employed in these types of voting. Loa asks about the percentage?

Bistra Stoimenova thanks everyone for voting.

Any other business?

Harry Rogge from EUROGEO takes the floor and announces that EUROGEO will hold its Annual Conference in May.

Bistra Stoimenova announces the end of the General Assembly.