

32st EuroClio General Assembly 2024

Friday 29 November 2024, online

Draft Minutes

Welcome and introduction

Welcome and confirmation of the Agenda.

EuroClio Vice president Ute Ackermann Boeros opens the Extraordinary General Assembly with welcoming remarks to all the attendees.

Ute Ackermann says that most of the members of the board are in Brussels during the online GA. She explains that the session will be recorded if there are no objections. Nobody raised their hands so it is taken as an agreement.

Background to the extraordinary General Assembly

Executive director of Euroclio Steven Stegers explains that Euroclio Audit Report was not ready for the Annual Conference, due to the fact that the lack of staff made it impossible to manage it, as it was prioritised to finish the reporting for the European Operating Grant. During this period the Audit report was finished and audited by the External auditors. Also the Audit Committee analysed the information. All the associations have now received the Annual Report and everything is ready. There are no questions about this point.

Agenda

Ute Ackermann presents the agenda for the day and asks if there is any inconvenience in approving it.

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp reminds that during the GA in Sofia the minutes of the last GA were not approved because the delegates did not receive the information on time. She agrees on approving both the 2023 and 2024 GA minutes during the 2025 GA in Bratislava.

Ute Ackermann thanks for the procedure correction and assures next year everything will be on time. Then, she asks the delegates to approve the agenda. by raising their hands if there are any objections.

The agenda is approved.

Check official delegates.

Steven Stegers calls the names of the associations. Most of them confirm their assistance. There is a quorum to make decisions.

Finances & Board Reporting

Certified financial report 2023 and background information by the Board Treasurer.

Financial report 2023 and background information ([pages 32–56](#)).

Board Member and Treasurer Juraj Varga takes the floor to introduce the Financial Report. He starts explaining that all the assistants have received the Annual Report and had the opportunity to look into the financial report.

Juraj Varga explains that the income is similar to the year before, with 1.4 million euros. More than 50% of income, 51%, comes from the projects, 44% from operating grants, and the smaller bits, 3% from consultancies, 1% from membership fee, and another 1% from events. So, still, most of our income comes from the projects.

Juraj Varga explains then the Expenditure of Euroclio for 2023, the staff costs is less than 40%, project expenditures are 30%, other expenditures are 25%, regranting was 6%, and depreciation 2%.

The treasurer explains that the Reserve is at the moment stable. Some years ago we aimed at 100,000 euros as the reserve. Now, the recommendation is to be higher and Euroclio will tend to do it.

Budget 2024 (page 24).

Juraj Varga affirms that the budget for 2024 is a bit lower, but basically it's stable. Under 1.4 million euros. The real numbers will be presented at the next General Assembly in Bratislava. There are no observations, comments or feedback.

Report of the Audit Committee

Katy Hynonen takes the floor as a member of the Audit Committee. She explains she is a member of the Audit Committee, that they have made their report that she reads:

Audit Committee report on 2024.

Participants. Members of the Audit Committee, Kati Hynonen and Frans van Rumpt, met representatives of the Euroclio board, Harri Beobide, Juraj Varga, Frank van der Akker, and the Secretariat Executive Director of Euroclio, Steven Stegers, on November 13th, online via Zoom. A member of the Audit Committee, Espen Espensen, was excused.

First, we can state that all members of the Audit Committee received all the necessary materials: Budget 2024, membership fees 2023, and annual report 2023, and the following topics were on the agenda during our meeting: Welcome, certified annual financial report 2023, budget 2024, and other business.

During the meeting, Executive Director of Euroclio, Steven Stegers, explained the Annual financial report 2023. We asked a few questions, for example, the amount of individual members, and all our presented queries were answered.

We are pleased to see that the staff and the board are highly motivated to develop Euroclio, and are more impressed by all the projects, all the webinars, and series of podcasts, which were implemented last year. We learned that the present financial situation of Euroclio is stable, and has a reserve of 112,225 euros.

We are glad to learn that the board address towards an operating reserve that is equivalent to one-year core cost, that it is currently estimated at 300,000 euros. So, we can approve the annual financial report with a slightly positive result.

We propose to the General Assembly to approve the Annual financial report. The board and the secretariat apologize once more for the delay of the audit committee meeting, and promise to send us all the necessary documents on time next year. We truly understand the difficulties this

year, for example, lack of staff, due to which the usual timetable of the Audit committee was delayed. But we kindly recommend that if there are some delays in upcoming years, these issues will be informed to the members of the Audit committee well in advance, before the Annual conference.

All the documents as well as the information has been passed to Espen Espensen by email, because he couldn't make it to our meeting via Zoom.

Dated 19th of November 2024, and is approved or virtually signed by all of our members of the audit committee, that is Espen Espensen, myself, Kati Hynonen, and Frans Van Rumpt.

Presentation of EuroClio's activities in 2023 (page 4-23)

Steven presents the highlights of 2023.

Changes in staff in 2023. One of Euroclio members, the Deputy Director of Euroclio, Alicia Modena, moved to the National Archives. She has been replaced by a new colleague, Ivan Milovanov, and also another colleague, Theano Ioannidou, who is doing the finances, so that also helps Euroclio to be on time. This issue caused some problems but Euroclio managed to still acquire the operating grant on time.

New office. The Secretariat of Euroclio is moved to a new office in The Hague, better suited to host people. Now it is possible to have the Historiana meetings and the board meetings there. There is also a studio where they can record podcasts, or tutorials.

Annual conference in Vilnius. It was hosted by the Lithuanian History Teachers Association.

Euroclio Regranting Scheme. Together with the Evens Foundation, Euroclio could give some grants to its members to cooperate with each other. There were five regional projects and a Pan-European gathering in Bergamo. It was the first time that Euroclio could grant money to its member Associations. During the Bergamo Conference there were opportunities to invite members and official delegates. Anyway, Euroclio stopped re-granting at the regional level because it could only invite representatives of the European Union and Euroclio did not think it was fair.

Steven explains that the board is at the House of European History where Euroclio is planning to have the 2026 Conference. Euroclio will do its best to find financial support for representatives from outside of the European Union to be there.

Korean War Legacy Foundation: Euroclio now has a partnership with them. They will invite to their annual conference many members from the countries that had a role in the Korean War. They are also open-minded and would invite countries which participate in both sides of the war. It is a long-term partnership. Euroclio just signed an agreement to make a history textbook for the IB curriculum.

Steven shows a video with some testimonies of students during the Bergamo conference

Discharge of the Board

Approval of the financial report of 2023.

Ute Ackermann takes the floor to introduce the procedure. Virtual hands should only be raised if delegates are not in favour of the approval.

There are no hands raised, there are no objections, and the financial report 2023 has been approved.

Approval of the budget for 2024.

Ute Ackerman repeats the procedure, asking if there is any objection or questions,

Ida wants to ask a question. She asks about the timing of these numbers as we are closing 2024 now.

Steven Stegers answers that it is the estimation made at the beginning of the year and that the budget has not been updated. At this time of the year it looks that the results will be the same.

Ute Ackermann asks if there are more questions or objections. The budget for 2024 has been approved.

Discharge of the EuroClio Board.

Ute asks for questions or objections and there is no answer. The discharge of the Euroclio Board has been approved.

Planning: 2024 and beyond

Executive Director Steven Stegers takes the floor, presenting some of the activities planned for 2024 and beyond

Annual Conference in Bratislava in April 2025. Juraj, Maja and the whole local team is working with Euroclio, led by Ivan to make a very appealing Conference.

It will bring many educators from Slovakia together, and Euroclio hopes it will be an opportunity to create a Slovakian History Teachers Association.

Sam Wineburg, will be the keynote, and the topic is Patterns in History. A relevant topic taking into account what is happening now in society with democracy under pressure.

There will be a very rich on-site learning programme and also the possibility of doing some podcast recording in a local NGO studio, and of course, the General Assembly.

War on education. Euroclio has created a video to raise awareness about the situation that Ukraine is suffering. The war is still going on but there is now much less attention for it than before. It's the first documentary that Euroclio has produced. It's been showing so far in 20 cities, including the International Film Festival in Rome. Strasbourg, National television of Romania and many other places. It's translated in 10 different languages with support of the Friends of European Foundation and the Onderwijs Innovatiefonds NL It is a very evocative story; hopefully the war will be over by next year, but in the meantime, Euroclio has to get all the attention to make sure that there is support and attention on the impact of war on education, but also the role that history plays. Steven invites all the presents to campaign, to prepare an event, bring people together and present the film in schools, cinemas, etc.

The Observatory of History Teaching of Europe. Steven explains that Euroclio cooperates with this institution and that many new members are already joining, some as Montenegro as observers. He hopes that other countries will join the institution, and Euroclio can help with it. Euroclio is part of

the researcher group and if a new country joins the OHTE, Euroclio will help research on the history education of that country. There are country features but also the teachers are asked about their opinion on the state of history teaching in Europe. It helps Euroclio to develop our own research skills, and this is something that will be presented to the Ministries of Education. Actually Euroclio has people in the governing board and at the Scientific Advisory Council.

Any other notified business

Ute Ackermann announces the end of the General Assembly.