

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES 2020

# ATTENDEES

- Management Board of Europeana Network Association including;
  - Marco de Niet - Chair
  - Georgia Angelaki - Vice-chair
  - Fred Truyen - Treasurer
  - Sara Di Giorgio
  - Susan Hazan
  - Rob Davies
  - Stephan Bartholmei
- Members Council
- Participating Members of Europeana Network Association
- Harry Verwayen - Executive Director of Europeana Foundation
- Representatives of the Europeana Office.

# OPENING & INTRODUCTION

The General Assembly meeting was held as an online meeting on 11 November 2020. The session was chaired by the [Management Board](#) members and focused on important Network Association (hereinafter referred to as ENA) formalities. Marco de Niet, the Chair, welcomed around 80 attending members, and gave an overview of the core governance-related matters on the agenda. Georgia Angelaki presented the minutes of the General Assembly meeting 2019. The highlights of the ENA activities were presented by Stephan Bartholmei, and the priorities for 2020 were outlined by Rob Davies. The financial reports were presented by Fred Truyen, and the elections together with the approval process of formal documents was launched by Susan Hazan. Finally, Sara Di Giorgio reflected on the composition of the Management Board in 2021.



Europeana 2020, Europeana, Netherlands, CC BY

# APPROVAL OF FORMAL DOCUMENTS

Minutes of the General Assembly meeting 2019

[Minutes of the General Assembly meeting 2019](#)

As part of the provisional voting procedure, the General Assembly was invited to ask questions, comment and approve the minutes of the Europeana General Assembly Meeting 2019. 98% of the attending Members approved the minutes.

Annual Report 2020 and Activity Plan 2021

[Network Association Annual Report 2020](#)

2020 was a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which did not allow for any physical meetings since March 2020. This resulted in the organization of numerous webinars, online meetings and workshops for the ENA and the wider Network. It was also the first year of six ENA communities being fully active, with eight Task Forces running throughout the year. The ENA gained 600 new members, including an increasing number of members from outside Europe. A membership campaign was carried out between June and November, and an ENA Impact Assessment and

Satisfaction Survey was conducted in June 2020. ENA also actively engaged in activities of the Europeana Initiative related to the capacity building and Digital Transformation in the cultural heritage sector, it let its voice heard in the European Commission's consultation processes, and strengthened its relations with Europeana Aggregators' Forum.

### [Network Association Activity Plan 2021](#)

ENA's main objective for 2021 is the empowerment of its members so that they can seize digital opportunities and provide a positive contribution to their own network. Through the ENA communities and in collaboration with the Europeana Foundation and the Europeana Aggregators' Forum, ENA will keep supporting Europe's digital transformation. ENA also aims to strengthen its communities, and

become more inclusive for young professionals and people of all kinds of backgrounds, while keeping the existing network engaged and active. A strong possibility during 2021 is the formation of a Working Group on Membership to tackle a range of these issues. We will also make sure that our activities are as sustainable and climate neutral as possible.

Following the presentations, the General Assembly was invited to approve the Annual Report 2020 and Activity Plan 2021. 97% of the attending Members approved the Activity Plan, and 100% the Annual Report.

# Financial Reports

## [Network Association Financial report 2019](#)

Fred Truyen presented a Financial Report for 2019, and provided a 2020 budget update together with a proposed budget for 2021.

The Budget for 2019 was approved by the Europeana Network Association General Assembly on 5 December 2018. The Association operation budget consisted of three categories of expenses: travel costs related to the Members Council and Management Board, other costs, and funding for the Communities and Task Forces. In total, the Association spent €11,433 less than budgeted. The overspend on the travel and meeting costs of the Members Council and Management Board was due to organising two additional Management Board physical meetings. Other costs mainly consisted of costs for elections and promotional material, and were lower than in 2018. The underspend is

primarily due to the Communities and Task Forces spending significantly less than anticipated. The overspend on other costs mainly consisted of venue and catering costs for the Members Council meetings and was partially balanced by a corresponding underspend for travel costs.

Over the period of January - September 2020, the Association only spent € 351. This is much less than budgeted and we foresee that only up to 36% of the budget will be spent by the end of the year. The significant underspend is primarily due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and thereby communities and Task Forces spending less than anticipated. Communities were asked to relocate their unspent 2020 budget to activities that do not include travel, or to transfer their budget to 2021. After the final figures of 2020, ENA will return a substantial amount to the Foundation to be able to re-allocate this budget towards other parts of the network.

## Launch of 2020 elections and voting

### [Network Association Provisional Budget 2021](#)

The proposal for the 2021 budget is based on the Foundation's contribution to the activities of the Association amounting to €49,500 per year, similar to 2020. The operation budget will consist of the same three categories of expenses. Due to the likely continuation of the COVID-19 crisis, there might be an underspend in the first part of 2021, however, hopefully the budget can be used as intended in the second part of the year. All funding for the 2021 budget comes from the Europeana DSI4 budget and has been secured at this stage.

The General Assembly was invited to approve the Financial Report for 2019 together with a proposed budget for 2021. The Members approved both reports. 9 and 11 abstentions were recorded respectively.

This year, 35 candidates came forward to compete for nine open seats on the Members Council. The elections and voting process was initiated during this session and would be open for a week. Susan invited the present ENA members to cast their vote electronically as well, and to contact [network@europeana.eu](mailto:network@europeana.eu) in case of any problem with the voting email or the URL link.

The attendees said goodbye to the departing Board members - Marco, Sara, and Stephan - and thanked them for all their brilliant work, time and dedication to the ENA over the past few years.



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