

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES 2021

# ATTENDEES

- Management Board of Europeana Network Association including;
  - Susan Hazan - Chair
  - Rob Davies - Vice-chair
  - Fred Truyen - Treasurer
  - Georgia Angelaki
  - Milena Dobрева
  - Alexandra Angeletaki
- Members Council
- Participating Members of Europeana Network Association
- Representatives of the Europeana Office.

# OPENING & INTRODUCTION

The General Assembly [meeting](#) was held as an all-day online meeting on 3 November 2021. The sessions were chaired by the [Management Board](#) members and focused on important Network Association (hereinafter referred to as ENA) formalities. Susan Hazan and Rob Davies as the Chair and the Vice-chair welcomed around 120 attending members, and gave an overview of the core governance-related matters on the agenda.

Marco de Niet presented the governance structure of Europeana and the ENA to the newly joining members. The session was followed by the general introduction to the ENA Communities by Georgia Angelaki and Community Steering Group members. Susan Hazan then presented the minutes of the General Assembly meeting 2019 as well as the highlights of the ENA activities in 2021, and the priorities for 2022 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 Alexandra Angeletaki & Milena Dobрева.

The afternoon part of the meeting revolved around parallel sessions, where the seven ENA Communities had space to discuss their upcoming Work Plans and Task Forces. This was followed by an interactive plenary panel session, where Georgia Angelaki, Rob Davies, Susan Hazan, Fred Truyen, and Councillors Cosmina Berta, Tamara Butigan and Peter Soemers discussed the topic of 'engineering the network' and engaging ENA members in the work of Europeana. They also shared their personal experiences and evolution of being an ENA member. This session was moderated by Marco de Niet & Milena Dobрева. The meeting ended with a social activity in [Gather.Town](#), where members could get to know each other and meet a buddy - a volunteer from the Members Council available to provide guidance to the members in various languages.

# APPROVAL OF FORMAL DOCUMENTS

Minutes of the General Assembly meeting 2020

[Minutes of the General Assembly meeting 2020](#)

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 2020. 97% of the attending Members approved the minutes.

Annual Report 2021 and Activity Plan 2022

[Network Association Annual Report 2021](#)

In 2021, ENA defined its first formal set of strategic priorities for the year to come:

- Supporting capacity building and digital transformation
- Harnessing the potential of ENA members
- Inclusivity and Diversity (I&D)
- Collaboration - ENA, Europeana Foundation, Europeana Aggregators' Forum and wider networks
- Transparency, accountability and democracy
- Funding and payments
- ENA Mechanisms

The six [ENA communities](#) have continued to successfully inspire and direct their activities. At this meeting, the seventh ENA community was officially launched - the Europeana Climate Action Group. Throughout the year, ENA also ran the following Task Forces and Working Groups:

- Digital Leadership & Innovation' development programme
- Developing the Europeana Capacity Building Framework
- Digital Transformation Task Force, first meeting led by Jane Finnis
- A cross-Initiative Task Force on Diversity & inclusion
- ENA Membership Working Group

The decision to embrace diverse and inclusive representation in the network was one of the focal points for the Members Council in 2021. The formation of the ENA Strategy and restating ENA's position within the Europeana Initiative resulted in monthly cross-Initiative Strategy meetings where ENA worked together with the Foundation and the Aggregators as the three pillars of the Europeana Initiative. ENA also contributed a White Paper on [Digital Public Space for Culture 2030](#), brought into context of the [Porto Santo Charter](#), and the [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative.

## [Network Association Activity Plan 2022](#)

In 2022, ENA will aspire to accomplish the following activities:

- Develop ENA's role within the Europeana Initiative
- Be part of the European Commission's contract re-negotiation
- Contribute actively, on more equal terms, to new EI 'cross-initiatives'
- Further benefit its members from being part of the Europeana family
- Be an exemplary model for the whole cultural heritage sector and beyond
- Build on its powerful instruments: Members Council, Communities, Working Groups and Task Forces
- Extend ENA's potential as a 2-way receptor/provider of transformational expertise

Furthermore, the overall focus in 2022 and beyond will be on:

- Communication with members - transparency, participation, diversity, democracy
- Information flow on members' preferences - onboarding for new members
- Cohesive long-term customer journey, professional engagement and progression
- New Professionals Task Force recommendations
- Buddying, mentoring, leadership academy and fellowships

Following the presentations, the General Assembly was invited to approve the Annual Report 2021 and Activity Plan 2022. 91% of the attending Members approved the Activity Plan, and 95% the Annual Report.

# Financial Reports

## [Network Association Financial report 2020](#)

Fred Truyen presented a Financial Report for 2020, and provided a 2021 budget update together with a proposed budget for 2022.

In total, the Association spent €44,610 less (90%) than budgeted. This large underspend is due to the fact that all the planned meetings and events took place online, due to the Covid-19 pandemic travel-related restrictions. This also included activities of the Communities and Task Forces, which also spent significantly less than anticipated. Although the Communities had the opportunity to use their budget for various community activities, most of it remained unspent. From the total underspend, an amount of €10,870 has been transferred to the 2021 annual Association budget. The remaining unspent amount will be returned to the Europeana Foundation as part of the overall Europeana Digital Service Infrastructure (DSI4) budget.

Over the period of January - September 2021, ENA only spent € 6,581€. It was foreseen that only up to 44 % 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. After the final figures of 2021, ENA will return a substantial amount to the Foundation to be able to re-allocate this budget towards other parts of the Network, which will also directly benefit the ENA.

## [Network Association Provisional Budget 2022](#)

The proposal concerns the budget spending for the first 8 months of 2022 and is based on the Foundation's contribution to the activities of the Association amounting to ~€50.000 per year. The Association budget proposed for these 8 months amounts to 9/12 of €50.000 = €37.500. It is

## Launch of 2021 elections and voting

suggested to distribute the money in a way that is more adapted to the reality of reduced travel and increasing operational costs of the ever more maturing organisation. It was proposed to divide the budget over: Governance costs, operational costs, Communities, and Task Forces. There might nevertheless be a serious underspend. The Association will engage in a discussion with the Foundation to assess the most optimal use of the available resources. There is an opportunity to invest into making our operations stronger, more sustainable and greener.

The General Assembly was invited to approve the Financial Report for 2020 together with a proposed budget for 2022. The Members approved both reports by 88% and 83% respectively.

This year, 73 candidates came forward to compete for 27 open seats on the Members Council. The elections and voting process was initiated during this session and would be open for a week. Milena Dobрева and Alexandra Angeletaki 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 Management Board members - Susan Hazan, Rob Davies, Fred Truyen and Georgia Angelaki - and thanked them for all their brilliant work, time and dedication to the ENA over the past few years.





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