Europeana Network Association Members Council

Members Council Meeting 9 December 2021
Virtual meeting

MINUTES

Councillors
Henk Alkemade (HA), Georgia Angelaki (GA), Alexandra Angeletaki (AA), Cosmina Berta (CB), Ina Bluemel (IB), Petra Boettinger (PB), Larissa Borck (LB), Flavia Bruni (FB), Erik Buelinckx (EB), Tamara Butigan (TB), Jorge Cardoso (JC), Steven Claeyssens (SC), Francesca Condorelli (FC), Michal Čudrnák (MC), Olimpia Curta (OC), Robert Davies (RD), Milena Dobreva (MD), Killian Downing (KD), Maria Drabczyk (MD), Maria Engberg (ME), Vincenza Ferrara (VF), Barbara Fischer (BF), Karin Glasemann (KG), Evelien Hauwaerts (EH), Susan Hazan (SH), Melanie Imming (MI), Pilar Irala-Hortal (PIH), Nina Janz (NJ), Rebecca Kahn (RK), Ping Kong (PK), Vera Kriezi (VK), Loa Steinunn Kristjansdottir (LSK), Denise Melanie Lagrosa (DML), Hans van der Linden (HvdL), Chris de Loof (CdL), Antonio Davide Madonna (ADM), Georgia Manolopoulou (GM), Marianna Marcucci (MM), Anna Maria Marras (AMM), Alexandra Milanova (AM), James Morley (JM), Marta Musso (MM), Clemens Neudecker (CN), Vassiliki Sakka (VS), Fred Saunderson (FS), Nienke van Schaverbeke (NvS), Sofie Taes (ST), Frederik Truyen (FT), Dafydd Tudur (DT), Altheo Valentini (AV), Ines Vodopivec (IV)

Europeana office
Harry Verwayen (HV), Albert Verhaar (AV), Zuzana Malicherova (ZM), Julia Fallon (JF), Tamara van Hulst (TvH), Alba Irollo (AI), Isabel Crespo (IC), Ariadna Matas (AM), Shadi Ardalan (SA), Ad Polle (AP)

Guests Marie-Veronique Leroi (MVL), Maaike Verberk (MV)

Apologies Antje Schmidt (AS), Peter Soemers (PS)

- [Recording of the meeting](#)
- [Meeting slides](#)
- [Zoom chat](#)

1. Welcome and introduction

[Presentation](#) (Slides 3-10)

SH introduced the agenda covered in a common **slide deck**. Throughout the meeting, Councillors had an opportunity to pose questions and add comments in a separate Q&A document. The objective of the meeting was to provide the Councillors with an update on recent activities of the Europeana Initiative related to the Digital Transformation & Capacity Building, Diversity & Inclusion, ENA governance, budget, and Communities.

- *Review of previous meeting minutes and actions*

Minutes of the previous meeting were formally approved and will be published shortly. All the action points from the last meeting were completed, except for actions 1, 3 ,5, and 8, which were ongoing.

- *Announcement / welcome to the new Councillors*

The newly elected Councillors were welcomed at this meeting as observers: Vincenza Ferrara, Melanie Imming, Nina Janz, Rebecca Kahn, Ping Kong, Denise Melanie Lagrosa, Chris de Loof, Antonio Davide Madonna, Anna Maria Marras, Marianna Marcucci, Alexandra Milanova, Vassiliki Sakka, Sofie Taes, Altheo Valentini and Ines Vodopivec. The Council welcome back 10 of the current Councillors that have been re-elected for one more term: Henk Alkemade, Flavia Bruni, Steven Claeyssens, Rob Davies, Killian Downing, Maria Drabczyk, Loa Steinunn Kristjansdottir, Hans van der Linden, Clemens Neudecker, Dafydd Tudur, Jorge Cardoso, Francesca Condorelli. Their term will officially start on 1 January 2022.

2. **Europeana Initiative (EI) updates**

Presentation (Slides 11-35)

- *Foundation updates*

HV gave an update on the most recent activities of the EF in terms of governance and funding schemes:
- Changes in the Foundation Governance - election of the Supervisory Board members
- Overview of Europeana achievements and planned activities in the DSI-4 Year 3 and 4
- Europeana tender preparations and timeline under the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)
  - Europeana as part of the 'Common Data Space for Cultural Heritage' under DEP, reflecting on three EC priorities: growth in the reuse of content and data, adoption of larger scale and automated approaches to enrich and curate (3D) data, and Networks/partner development and cross-border cooperation.

The Council briefly reflected on ENA's role in the tender preparations and implementation of these priorities. RD suggested that the Europeana Initiative should capitalize on ENA' s potential as a 2-way receptor / provider of transformational expertise, and a vehicle for cross-border cooperation. Councillors will be invited to hold 2-3 workshops between mid January and end of March 2022 on ENA's contribution to the tender preparation to ensure a solid positioning of ENA (in relation to the EAF and National Strategies at a Member state level). More information will follow in January.

HV also updated the Council on the EF operations, and specifically on adoption of a hybrid working culture that will come into effect in 2022.

- *Aggregators' Forum (EAF) update*

MVL updated the Council on the progress in the EAF activities over the past three months:
- EAF autumn meeting took place on 26-27 October, and included a successful IIIF workshop
- The [accreditation scheme](#) has been revised
- Currently there are 40 aggregators
- Aggregator User Group has been active
- EAF has been involved in the following Initiative wide activities together with ENA:
  - Task Force on Capacity Building for Digital Transformation - Kerstin Arnold, Chiara Latronico are EAF representatives
  - Co-signing of the Europeana Manifesto for climate action
  - Diversity & Inclusion - initial discussions on making the data and collections more inclusive and diverse have been taking place, as well as looking into approaches to manage harmful content and discriminatory language.

3. ENA business: update on recent initiatives

[Presentation](#) (Slides 37-61)

- *ENA Budget update*

FT presented the current state of ENA budget as it was at the end of 2021, and the proposed budget for 2022. This year for the second time in a row ENA suffered from a significant underspend primarily due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and thereby communities and Task Forces spending less than anticipated. After the final figures of 2021 are delivered, 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.

In 2022, the Board proposes distributing the money in a way that is more adapted to the reality of reduced travel and increasing operational costs by proposing to divide the budget over: Governance costs, operational costs, Communities, and Task Forces. Next year's Community budget will need to accommodate the seventh community. The ENA will engage in a discussion with the Foundation to assess the most optimal use of the available resources in a sustainable and greener way. FT encouraged the new Council to look for ways to spend the available budget to strengthen the ENA operations by implementing the use of participatory/decision making digital software tools for the MC and the communities. The Board is going to provide recommendations to this end and it will be up to the Council to implement them. Councillors endorsed these ideas.

- *Plenary discussion: Recap on ENA General Assembly and Europeana conference*

JF presented key data gathered so far about the ENA General Assembly and Europeana 2021 conference.

- The ENA General Assembly was for the first time organised as a separate event from the Europeana conference. It welcomed 165 people from Europe, Philippines, Israel, Iceland,

Egypt, Peru and Ghana. A space was given to introduce the ENA governance and communities to the new audience.
- The Europeana 2021 welcomed 800 people in 3 days (per day)
  - 3 keynotes, 12 panel members, 33 parallel sessions and 67 speakers
  - People joined from: Europe, Russia, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Mexico, USA, Canada, Brazil, Pakistan, Japan, Taiwan, Israel, Argentina, United Arab Emirates, South Africa

JF explained the speaker's appointment: the keynote speakers and panelists were invited, reviewed and offered financial support, only one speaker asked for a fee. Those who came in through open call for proposals were asked whether they needed additional support to deliver their session but nobody requested it. The process was supervised by the Selection and Programme Committee where ENA was represented to ensure it was fair and unbiased. The overall analysis of the feedback received in the conference survey will be shared with the MC early next year.

- *Climate action: Climate manifesto & launch of the community*

BF and SA updated the council on actions taken toward creation of the Climate Action manifesto and the community since summer. Following the decision to formalise the Climate Group, BF, KD, PS, SH and HV and SA from the Foundation met on 9 August to deepen their understanding / expectations of each other; what EF/ENA bring to the table collectively and steps to co-create their shared vision/position on climate action and formalising the community. A series of workshops were organised to inform the joint Europeana position statement, the manifesto, and the construct of the community. SA was appointed as Community Manager.

The [Europeana Climate Action Community](#) was announced at the ENA General Assembly on 3 November, and positioned around building on the work of the Climate Action Group. At Europeana 2021 on 11 November, Europeana announced its [Climate Action Manifesto](#) as a joint action of the 3 pillars of the initiative. Through the manifesto ENA, EF and EAF agree to advocate for and embed working practices that minimise the digital cultural heritage sector's impact on the climate and environment. The Manifesto is considered one of the main achievements of the year and one of the occasions that the 3 pillars of the Initiative worked together so closely and in a timely manner.

The community had 45 members at the time of this meeting, around half of them were existing ENA members. The current focus is on the promotion of community sign up, and the next step will be to install the Steering Group (SG) from among the community members, including representatives from the EAF and EF in January / February 2022. The appointment as well as organisation of a community summit is foreseen to take place in March. A work plan will be formulated by June. BF encouraged the Councillors to [join the community](#), actively engage, step up for the SG, and help shape the work plan.

- *Digital Transformation & Capacity Building activities*

A video update of the [Capacity Building Task force](#) was provided to the Council. The Culture 24 has the role of a facilitator, and the Task Force consists of representatives of ENA, EAF, EF and independent members. Open consultation workshops have been taking place to gather a wider input from the sector, and to map digital activities and skills needed, as well as personal and organisational perspectives. The Task Force will develop a digital transformation action plan and is expected to complete its work in March 2022. RD and VK are ENA representatives in the group.

- *Diversity & Inclusion (D&I): progress made over the past year*

  - *Community Pact development with Lauren Vargas*

The Community Pact is a co-created action between the ENA, EAF and EF, to set out the first attempt at an agreement of how members interact digitally with each other. It sits as a set of higher level principles, under which we find other more formalised documentation such as codes of conduct. A set of Inclusive Conversation and Community Guidelines have been developed to be used at Europeana events - Councillors found them very useful. The Pact development took longer than expected but it will be validated and open to collective input, and it is considered a continuous approach - the Council will be able to contribute to it by the end of December or in January 2022.

  - *Coming up: D&I Task Force*

The Task Force will provide recommendations that can contribute towards defining a strategy and plan to enable the EI vision for an intersectional, diverse and inclusive Europeana ecosystem and the sector. The Community Pact provides a framework for discussion to be held in the Task Force and with a wider network and communities. The nominated members are:

- EAF: Valentina Bachi and Julia Welter
- ENA: Killian Downing and Susan Hazan
- EF: members of EF D&I xTeam
- 2 more additional members to be added
- Marco Rendina (ex-EAF Chair) supports and oversees the balanced membership

The Task Force is expected to start latest in January 2022. Councillors can contact the Office if they wish to be actively involved in this strand of work.

- *ENA Membership Working Group update*

SH introduced the current members of the Working Group and updated the Council on its most recent activities. The last meeting took place on 15 October 2021. The group repeatedly reviewed the New Professionals TF recommendations list, worked on the first iteration of an ENA Buddy system for new professionals, and started discussing possibilities for creating an ENA Mentoring programme. The group will also actively work with the EF MarComms team on revision of the ENA Pro pages and the sign up form.

- *ENA Governance Working Group update*

The Council was invited to review and discuss the List of proposed requirements/selection criteria for MC candidates. Various Councillors made a remark that the wording should not potentially discriminate based on profession or career stage, e.g. against students or retired professionals. The word "professional" should be rephrased and make it more inclusive, such as 'volunteer' or 'member'. The proposal will be revised by the group and brought back to the Council next year.

4. **ENA Communities**

Presentation (Slides 62-85)

In the initial plenary session, the chairs of the six communities gave an update on the community activities since July 2021 - the updates are described in detail in the Progress report 2020/2021. They then presented their Community work plans for 2022:

- Europeana Copyright Community
- Europeana Education Community
- Europeana Communicators Community
- Europeana Impact Community
- Europeana Research Community
- EuropeanaTech Community

Councillors were invited to discuss the work plans in the breakout groups, and also to get involved with communities that they usually don't interact so much.

5. Q&A, wrap-up and next steps

Presentation (Slides 86-90)

During the 'Open mic' session, the (new) Councillors were encouraged to ask questions, and invited to discuss what ENA could do in the context of upcoming tender.

The Council said goodbye to those Councillors and Board members that will step down at the end of the year, and thanked them for their valuable contributions to the ENA and the Council over the past few years: Georgia Angelaki, Ina Blümel, Petra Boettinger, Erik Buelinckx, Tamara Butigan, Michal Cudrnák, Olimpia Curta, Maria Engberg, Barbara Fischer, Karin Glasemann, Susan Hazan, Pilar Irala-Hortal, Vera Kriezi, James Morley, Marta Musso, Antje Schmidt and Frederik Truyen.

They were a very valuable part of what ENA has built and achieved. The Board has acted as a team under difficult circumstances while maintaining a great energy, passion and creativity.

There will be 4 open seats on the Board, and Councillors will be invited to step forward in the MB elections between 10 December and 9 January 2022. The Council will electronically vote between 17 and 23 January. A transitional meeting between the leaving and the new Board members will take place at the end of January 2022.

The end of meeting