



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES 2023

ATTENDEES

- Management Board of Europeana Network Association including
 - Rob Davies - Chair
 - Sofie Taes - Vice-chair
 - Milena Dobрева - Treasurer
 - Marianna Marcucci
 - Fred Saunderson
 - Dafydd Tudur
- Members Council
- Participating Members of Europeana Network Association
- Representatives of the Europeana Foundation
- Europeana Aggregators' Forum

OPENING & INTRODUCTION

The [General Assembly meeting](#) was held as a half day online meeting on 29 November 2023. The sessions were chaired by the [Management Board](#) members and focused on important Network Association (hereinafter referred to as ENA) formalities. Rob Davies as the Chair, together with Albert Verhaar on behalf of the Europeana Foundation and Tom Miles on behalf of the Europeana Aggregators' Forum, welcomed 156 attending members, and gave an overview of the core governance-related matters on the agenda.

As the Europeana Initiative found itself at the heart of the common European data space for cultural heritage, the meeting provided an opportunity for ENA members to explore how they can contribute and help shape it. The [programme](#) revolved around two strategic topics: the Europeana Initiative Country Groups pilot action, and the topic of culture versus cultural heritage in the data space. Attending members then went through the process of provisional approval of formal ENA documents, and launched the 2023 Members Council elections and voting.

STRATEGIC TOPIC 1: COUNTRY GROUPS PILOT

Participating members had an opportunity to learn more about how they can help champion the data space and the Europeana Initiative in their own countries, as they were presented with the new Country Groups initiative that ENA was going to launch together with the Europeana Aggregators' Forum and the Europeana Foundation. The Country Groups aim to improve impact at country and regional level by acting as local hubs of knowledge and expertise. Ad Polle explained what Country Groups are, the plan of actions foreseen for 2024 for the first three pilots - in Bulgaria, Italy, and Slovenia. Participants were invited to share their views and feedback in a QANDR exercise to help shape further action in terms of how to continue the pilot work, and how to follow the pilot action with a

second group of countries. Participants expressed their overall level of support, assessed an option of an organisation flux and expansion of the Country Groups, and voted on priorities that the Groups should be ideally dealing with together with activities they found most relevant.

STRATEGIC TOPIC 2: CULTURE VERSUS CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE DATA SPACE

Rob Davies Marco de Niet led the participants through assessment of the current professional practices and experiences with digital heritage, as well as expectations of the development and use of the data space. They outlined the current state-of-play and implications for further implementation of the data space. It was envisaged that the data space will eventually include a wider variety of data types than the current digital content of Europeana. These might be about any aspect of tangible or intangible Cultural Heritage - its creation, description, storage, presentation/performance, transmission, access, preservation, reuse, rights etc. - or possibly even more widely drawn from across the whole spectrum of cultural activity, including data coming from scientific or other fields which eventually constitutes our heritage.

ENA Community representatives - Carola Carlino, Loa Steinunn Kristjansdottir, Corinne Szteinszneider, Nienke van Schaverbeke, Makx Dekkers, Steven Claeysens, and Fred Saunderson - were invited to share their ideas on what content they expect to provide, or find in the data space. Following these contributions, participants were encouraged to reach out to the ENA Management Board if they wish to contribute further into these discussions over the coming months.

APPROVAL OF FORMAL DOCUMENTS

Dafydd Tudur and Fred Saunderson presented the minutes of the General Assembly meeting 2022, the highlights of the ENA activities in 2023, the priorities for 2024, and the financial reports, and then guided the members through the provisional approval process of these formal documents. The online Members Council elections and voting were then launched by Marianna Marcucci.

Minutes of the General Assembly meeting 2022

[Minutes of the 2022 General Assembly meeting](#)

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 2022. 98% of the attending Members approved the minutes.

Annual Report 2023 and Activity Plan 2024

[ENA Annual Report 2023](#)

The Annual Report provides an overview of key achievements in terms of ENA membership, collaboration efforts, community membership and highlights, ENA governance, budget and communications.

[ENA Activity Plan 2024](#)

The Activity Plan outlines current key themes for discussion in the ENA in line with the [revised ENA Strategy 2024](#), elaborates on specific priority actions for 2024, the current organisation of work in the ENA, and events and activities per quarter as foreseen throughout the year.

Financial Reports

Following the presentations, the General Assembly was invited to approve the Annual Report 2023, Strategy 2024 and the Activity Plan 2024. All the attending Members approved the Annual Report, 84% approved the ENA Strategy (12 abstentions), and 80% approved the Activity Plan (19 abstentions).

[ENA Financial Report 2022](#)

On behalf of ENA Treasurer Milena Dobрева, Dafydd Tudur and Fred Saunderson presented the Financial Report for 2022, and provided a 2023 budget update together with a proposed budget for 2024.

In 2022 in total, the Association spent €31,585 less (33 %) than budgeted. This is due to the fact that many activities, meetings and events took place online. This also included activities of the ENA Communities and Task Forces, which also spent less than anticipated.

[Interim 2023 ENA budget update](#)

Up to the end of September 2023, the ENA spent 30% of the total budget. Most of the cost categories are underspent. Based on the current overall

forecast, it was expected that the underspend at the end of 2023 will be around €36,000. The amount that has been kept in reserve is dedicated to support the new Country Groups that effectively will start in 2024.

[ENA Provisional Budget 2024](#)

The proposal for the 2024 budget is based on the Foundation's contribution to the activities of the Association amounting to €85,585, which includes a forecast of the underspend for 2023. The structural annual budget for the ENA is €49,500 per year, in line with previous years. It has been agreed with the EF that any underspend of the ENA budget after the end of a calendar year, can be fully used for the year after, or to be held in reserve. In the new contract for the common European data space for cultural heritage, there is a budget set aside of

€25,000 for the Capacity and Community Building activities of the Europeana Initiative and the Network. In close collaboration, the ENA and the Foundation will work on a proper plan for the most optimal use of the available resources.

The General Assembly was invited to approve the Financial Report for 2022 together with a proposed budget for 2024. The Members approved the Financial Report by 91% and the 2024 budget by 83% (16 abstentions).

Launch of 2023 voting

The Assembly launched the 2023 Members Council elections and voting period. The voting period will run electronically from 29 November until 6 December 23:59 CET. Marianna Marcucci invited the present members to cast their votes, and to contact network@europeana.eu in case of any problem with the voting email or the URL link.

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

End of meeting



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