

27th EuroClio General Assembly 2020

Saturday 4 April 2020, online via video conference due to ongoing Coronavirus pandemic

Welcome and introduction

1. Welcome and confirmation of the agenda



The EuroClio Board in 2019

EuroClio Board President Paolo Ceccoli opens the meeting with words of welcome to all delegates of this exceptional General Assembly taking place online during a tough period for everyone. Pandemic episodes have been turning points in history. We are now experiencing one ourselves. The Board President explains that we are hosting this General Assembly on the same day that it had been planned for the otherwise postponed Annual Conference in Belgrade, not only for statutory reasons and obligations, but also because we as an Association try to stay together

in such a strange time. The Board President emphasises that EuroClio has done well, including financially, over the last year but that we are now facing completely new challenges.

Introductions from the Board Members Riitta Mikkola (Vice-President & Treasurer), Denis Detling (Board Member), Lars Peter Visti Hansen (Secretary) and Frank van den Akker (Board Member) follows.

Secretariat Staff Member Alice Modena takes the floor to introduce how the video conferencing software, Zoom, works. Participants are kindly asked to keep themselves muted when not speaking. Parts of the meeting will be recorded to ensure that we meet requirements for democratic elections.

Alice Modena checks attendance with recording running, in place of the usual signed attendance sheet. The recording is paused after attendance has been validated. A list of attendants has been added at the end of the minutes.

Board President Paolo Ceccoli encourages the delegates to approve of the General Assembly Agenda.

Decision: The 27th EuroClio General Assembly Agenda approves the agenda for the General Assembly.

2. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly 6 April 2019 in Gdansk, Poland

Board Secretary Lars Visti Hansen presents the minutes of the 26th EuroClio General Assembly in Gdansk in 2019. Everyone will have received the minutes and the Secretary invites the delegates to virtually raise their hands if they have any objections to the presented minutes.

Decision: The minutes have been approved.

Finances and & Board Reporting

3. Certified financial report 2019 and background information by the Board Treasurer

Vice-President and Treasurer Riitta Mikkola takes the floor to introduce the Board and Financial report for 2019.

The Finance Committee, with Riitta Mikkola and Frank van den Akker, meet regularly with Alice Modena and Steven Stegers of the Secretariat to check on finances. The total income for 2019 is about €800.000. The main sources of income are projects (almost 50%) and core funding (about one third). Smaller contributions come through partner projects, consultancies and membership fees. Treasurer Riitta Mikkola also highlights the Black Sea project and how the losses arising from that project have now been fully covered, with the case closed in 2018.

Riitta Mikkola then speaks about the Operating Grants. This includes the Europe for Citizens programme on European Remembrance from the European Union. The future of the programme is uncertain, as is much in Europe at the moment, however the Treasurer is optimistic that it will continue as before. The other operating grant is from the Open Society Foundations, supporting the general mission of EuroClio, also outside of Europe.



EuroClio Projects in 2019

Riitta Mikkola continues by introducing the main projects of EuroClio, most of which are financed



Membership Fees Income in 2019

from the European Union and the Treasurer explains how the funds generated through these must also be spent on project outcomes.

The income through membership fees has increased with more than €3.000 compared to 2018 and although small, the Treasurer informs that this type of income is very important for EuroClio as it can be spent on what is needed most for its mission.

As for expenditures, the Treasurer explains that most of these are directly related to the projects. The second biggest expenditure is staff, at about one third.

Regarding overtime by staff, the amount of hours used has been stable. A difference compared to the period before 2018 is that the staff members who had overtime, were absent in up to 15 days in 2020 as a compensation. The remaining hours have been waived by staff.

The other costs include the loss of income resulting from the bankruptcy of CDRSEE - the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in South-East Europe, who was leading the ePACT project in which EuroClio was a partner. The complete loss of income is taken in 2019 and is covered by the contingencies. The CDRSEE bankruptcy will therefore have no impact on the year 2020.

Treasurer Mikkola finally introduces the status of EuroClio's operating reserve. The target is 100.000€ and at the end of 2019 we are at €65.204.

The Board Treasurer and Vice-President then opens the floor for questions or comments. No questions were raised.

4. Budget 2020 by the Board Treasurer

For 2020, the aim is to have a positive result of 18.100€. Operating Grants are included in this budget. The budget has, overall, increased since last year. The Board's priority is to secure new sources of funding from non-traditional donors, such as family foundations. The ambition of the Board is to increase the number of staff.

At the moment, due to the coronavirus, several projects have been placed on hold. This includes the Annual Conference. For the moment, the financial consequences of this is limited. The main impact of the pandemic so far has been the cancellation of the international seminar that was planned as well as the extra hours spent by staff in mitigating the effect of the cancellations or postponements.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Vice-President and Treasurer Riitta Mikkola opens the floor for questions on the 2020 budget. Marjaan de Groot intervenes with a comment expressing her happiness of the positive developments on EuroClio's budget. There are no further questions.

5. Report of the Audit Committee by Madis Somelar

Madis Somelar takes the floor as member of the Audit Committee. He explains that a meeting with staff and board members took place in March. All materials were received and there was ample time to look them over and discuss. All questions from the Audit Committee were answered. The Audit Committee learnt that the present financial situation of EuroClio is stable and the Committee can approve the Annual Finance Report with a positive report and encourages the General Assembly delegates to do the same.

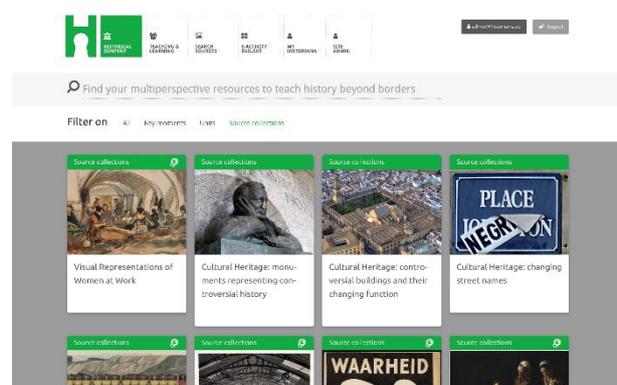
Audit Committee Member Somelar invites delegates to present any questions.

Bojana Dujkovic asks whether we can treat the questions on the five recommendations from the Audit Committee to the General Assembly.

Executive Director of EuroClio's Secretariat, Steven Stegers then elaborates on the five requests. The first request was on the Black Sea project, which was one of the biggest projects EuroClio has done. Due to a procurement mistake, some funds had to be paid back to the donor, but this was completed in 2018 and had no effect on the 2019 budget. The second question has been on overtime hours for staff. There has been no increase and these remain stable. There is a hope to recruit more staff to alleviate the situation. The third request concerned the strategies for collecting membership fees. Steven Stegers informs that the Secretariat at the moment are conducting a review of the activity levels of member association and there will be a possibility to waive membership fees for those who are not in a financial situation to contribute. The fourth question concerned the background checks conducted on potential new member requests. Steven Stegers highlights that there is the opportunity to raise questions on new members during the General Assembly and encourages the delegates to do so when considering this year's applicant. Finally, the Executive Director informed that the role and purpose of Ambassadors has been updated, with a new description now available on the website.

6. Presentation of EuroClio's activities in 2019 by the Executive Director

Executive Director Steven Stegers takes the floor to introduce the activities of 2019. In terms of research outputs, EuroClio is working together with young researchers from several universities in Europe and North America to do research on contested sites in public spaces. This is part of the Contested Histories project, and will also be used also for developing educational materials. The work on this project has furthermore captured the interest of the High Commissioner for National Minorities of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).



A screen grab from Historiana, showing the source collections that have been added to the portal

There has also been developments in the form of new source collections for Historiana, in collaboration with Europeana. EuroClio has also produced research and educational materials in connection with projects, though most of these will be finalised and published in 2020.

Among the projects managed in the past, Learning History that is not yet History, was nominated and won the Global Pluralism Award. The Executive Director congratulates the team members from the Western Balkans involved.

Alice Modena then assumes the floor and presents on Professional Development. EuroClio has conducted three international trainings in the past year: The Annual Conference in Gdansk, Poland, Summer School in Balkan hosted at the national History Museum of Slavonia in Osijek, Croatia, and finally the Thematic Seminar on Teaching European Integration History at the House of European History in Brussels. The latter was a great success with a full house and waiting list of participants. The planned re-run for 2020 is postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.



26th Annual Conference
Gdansk, Poland



5th Annual Summer School,
Osijek, Croatia

Thematic seminar
"Teaching
European
Integration. How
and Why?"
Brussels, Belgium



EuroClio's Professional Development Courses in 2019

Andreas Holtberget takes the floor and presents on EuroClio’s collaboration with the UN International Residual Mechanism for the Criminal Tribunals (MICT), where EuroClio, national Member Associations and individual teachers are helping to train history teachers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia, introducing the archives of the former Tribunal and how it can be applied in the classroom. The project will continue to also include Croatia in the future.

EuroClio’s advocacy efforts towards the establishment of the new Observatory on History Education in Europe (History Observatory for Peace in Europe, HOPE) under the auspices of the Council of Europe is then presented. EuroClio is supporting the French initiators of the project, led by former Minister and MEP Alain Lamassoure. Alain Lamassoure, member of EuroClio, then takes the floor and elaborates on the HOPE project. He has been entrusted with the task to finalise the project and updates on the fact that the project is likely delayed somewhat due to the current pandemic. Work is ongoing in trying to secure more support from states that have not signed up yet, primarily in Northern Europe. Alain Lamassoure has been working on the project for two years and EuroClio will play a role once it is up and running.



EuroClio
Inspiring History and Citizenship Educators

EuroClio's New logo, launched during the General Assembly

Andreas Holtberget returns with an update on EuroClio’s new logo, explaining its logic and rationale.

The review of activities for 2019 is ended with a call for questions by the delegates. Vassiliki Sakka takes the word and asks about

further information on consequences for events and projects due to the current pandemic. Executive Director Steven Stegers answers that virtually all projects are now on hold. There is however an understanding among donors for this and the Secretariat is doing its best to conduct as much as possible of its work online.

Discharge of the Board

7. Approval of the annual and financial report over 2019

Paolo takes the floor to introduce the procedure and that virtual hands should only be raised if delegates are not in favour of the approval.

Decision: The Annual and financial report for 2019 are approved.

8. Approval of the budget for 2020

Decision: The budget for 2020 has been approved.

9. Discharge of EuroClio Board

Decision: The dischargement of the EuroClio has been approved.

Official Procedures

Alice Modena presents the procedure and rules for online voting. All voting members will have received special voting codes by email. Voting is done by adding the codes to the online form that has been shared with everyone. Only full members with a representative present that have paid the full fee have the right to vote. The amount of votes depends on the size of each association. Each voting code must be submitted separately.

Alice Modena informs that we have reached quorum and can proceed with voting. There are no questions voiced.

10. Appointing the Voting Committee

Board President Paolo Ceccoli requests volunteers for the voting committee. Alice Modena informs that only participants at the General Assembly that do not cast votes can volunteer as Committee Members.

The following Voting Committee is appointed:

1. Loa Kristjansdottir (Iceland)
2. Harry Rogge (Netherlands)
3. Marjan de Groot (Netherlands)

Alice Modena of the Secretariat explains that a separate virtual room will be created for the volunteers to count the votes together with Catherine Savitsky from the Secretariat.

11. Election of one new EuroClio board member

Board President Paolo Ceccoli informs that he is finishing his second term and that the election of a new Board Member will be conducted to replace his membership of the Board.

The two candidates, Gijs van Gaans (Netherlands) and Ann-Laure Liéval (France) are given the floor to briefly present themselves.

12. Re-election of two audit committee members

There is also a re-election of two audit committee members. Madis Somelar (Estonia) and Bistra Stoimenova (Bulgaria) are both asking to be re-elected and present their cases.

13. Voting on application for full membership of EuroClio

Board President Paolo Ceccoli introduces the application made by the Hungarian Historical Society Teachers' Division (MTTTT). Their representative to the General Assembly, Richárd Fodor, presents himself and the society he represents. Their members are mainly secondary teachers, however also several university lecturers. The Society organises workshops and conferences and the overall aim of the board elected in 2019 is to change the way history education is currently conducted in Hungary. MTTTT hopes to join international projects by being part of EuroClio and to promote their outcomes in Hungary.

Board President Paolo Ceccoli thanks the representative from Hungary and invites questions from the delegates. Madis Somelar raises the question of how we can ensure that a potential new member is adhering to democratic rules. Richard Fodor of MTT answers with an explanation of the functioning of the Society's Board and democratic procedures.

Madis Somelar follows up with a question on funding and the number of existing history teachers' associations in Hungary, with the representative from Hungary explaining that his Society is a branch of a larger organisation with a long and established history and that he is aware of three other such organisations.

Vassiliki Sakka follows up with a question on whether the Society targets secondary education and whether it is a state-controlled organisation. Mr. Fodor replies that the Society primarily targets secondary school educators but also includes a few university professors and that the Society is not under state control.

Official Procedures

14. Report of the Voting Committee

Alice Modena from the Secretariat informs those present that this part of the General Assembly is recorded for record-keeping and as evidence of the fact that democratic procedures have been adhered to. Catherine Savitsky from the Secretariat then calls upon Marjan de Groot to report on behalf of the Voting Committee . There were 56 votes cast. Out of these 2 were invalid. Three decisions were taken:

Election of new Board Member:

Gijs van Gaans received 6 votes.

Ann-Laure Liéval received 48 votes.

Ann-Laure Liéval is elected as new EuroClio Board member by majority vote.

Re-elections for the Audit Committee:

Bistra Stoimanova receives 53 votes in favour, with 1 abstention.

Madis Somelar receives 54 votes in favour.

Bistra Stoimanova and Madis Somelar are both re-elected to the Audit Committee.

Voting on applications for membership of EuroClio (Full Membership)

The Hungarian Historical Society Teachers' Division (MTTT) receives 36 votes in favour, 12 abstentions, and 6 votes against.

The Hungarian Historical Society Teachers' Division (MTTT) is admitted as a new full member.

Planning: 2020 and beyond

15. Announcement new President and new Vice-President

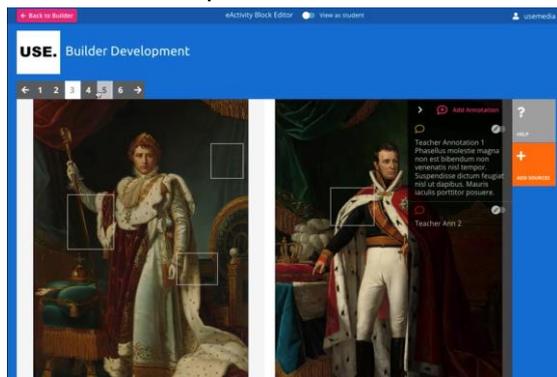
Current President Paolo Ceccoli announces that Riitta Mikkola will be the EuroClio Board's new President, with Lars Peter Visti Hansen assuming the role of Vice-President.

16. Action Plan 2020 by the Executive Director

Executive Director Steven Stegers introduces the action plan for 2020 and beyond. Among the main priorities for the Secretariat is to listen carefully to what EuroClio's membership wants and needs, which will be crucial for our mission to inspire history educators.

The Secretariat is also planning a review of the EuroClio Manifesto. Ideas on teaching have changed over time and the Secretariat will aim to update the Manifesto to better reflect the current situation and current research in the field. The Secretariat is counting on EuroClio Ambassadors and EuroClio members in helping to make these updates.

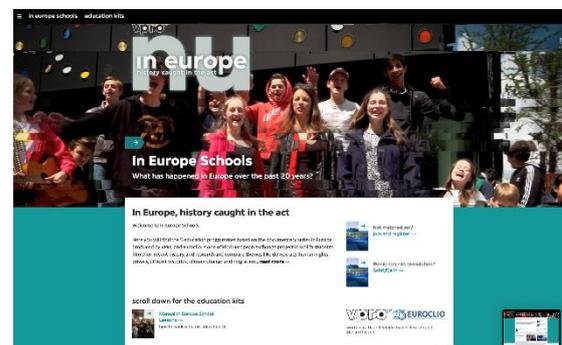
The Secretariat is also working on continuously improving the Historiana platform. To that end, a new web developer has been involved and new tools have been added to improve usability.



Two new building blocks that will be developed in 2020 for the Historiana eActivity builder

Secretariat staff are also working on the publications for the Learning to disagree and Football Makes History projects.

Among the projects that will continue is the partnership with VPRO, a Dutch public broadcaster. As part of the project, students are challenged to make their own documentaries through school partnerships. Many schools from the EuroClio network have already been involved and the Secretariat is planning to do a new round of school matching in September. Interested delegates can register on the EuroClio website.



The landing page of the In Europe Schools website

Alice Modena takes the floor and talks about professional development plans for 2020. The Secretariat is planning to host a series of workshops. Staff are facing some challenges due to the ongoing pandemic, however the aim is to organise workshops for the Football Makes History and ReTHINK projects, with additional Historiana also on offer. 2020 will also feature the first piloting of the EuroClio Masterclass. Finally, the Secretariat is introducing a series of online activities, including the very recently launched online course on online teaching.



The logo of Past Times, EuroClio's new podcast

Andreas Holtberget then presents plans for outreach and exchange: 2020 will witness the first piloting of a new EuroClio podcast and the Secretariat will continue its effort in producing engaging online content in the form of reviews, in-depth articles and opportunities. The review section has been expanded to go beyond books to also include other media such as podcasts, museum exhibitions and (video) games.

Junior Project Manager and Fundraiser Catherine Savitsky then introduces herself and the new Learning History that is not yet History II project. This is a continuation of the project that won the Global Pluralism Award and will focus on the creation of four new lesson plans on how to teach about the recent war using the

recommendations from LHH1 and a multinational approach. The Secretariat is currently fundraising for the expansion of the project.

Board President Paolo Ceccli then re-opens the floor for questions.

Bojana Dujkovic takes the floor and thanks the presenters for the overview. Ms Dujkovic comments that the coronavirus will likely affect the work of NGOs across Europe both for this and the next year. The situation with the donor community is in her understanding that the right of education will be in focus and that this perhaps is a good time to rethink donor needs.

Executive Director Steven Stegers answers that the Secretariat is monitoring the situation closely with our main donors, OSF and the European Union. At the moment, EuroClio is applying for Erasmus+ projects and the understanding is that these will likely go ahead as usual. The Executive Director emphasises however, that we should certainly not underestimate the current challenge, however remain hopeful that the situation will normalise.

Frank van den Akker takes the floor and stresses that the Board sees funding as the number one current priority.

Bojana Dujkovic follows up with another question concerning the online meetings of Ambassadors and whether further such meetings are planned. Steven Stegers replies that the Secretariat staff are planning three meetings during the span of a year.

Bistra Stoimanova intervenes and expresses her appreciation for the current focus on online activities and courses.

17. No additional round of voting is necessary.

18. Any other notified business

The EuroClio Annual Conference for 2020 will be held in April. This means that there will be two Annual Conferences over the span of one school year due to the pandemic. No decision on location and exact dates have been made yet. There have been two candidates in the tender process and the Secretariat will announce the result of the process in the next newsletter and in a message to Members.

EuroClio's new Board President Riitta Mikkola takes the floor and welcomes Ann-Laure Liéval to the Board and expresses her gratitude to the work done by Paolo Ceccoli over several years of involvement with EuroClio and its Board.

Executive Director Steven Stegers concludes with some final words of thanks to Paolo Ceccoli for his leadership, particularly during this testing time.

Closure of the General Assembly 2020.

List of attendees

Name (Original Name)	Can vote?	Member Association
Alain Lamassoure		Individual Member
Andreas Holtberget		EuroClio Secretariat
Ann-Laure Lieval	YES	French Association of History and Geography Teachers
Ansis Nudiens	YES	Latvian History Teachers' Association
Audur Thora Björgulfsdottir	YES	History Teachers' Association of Iceland
Bistra Stoimenova	YES	Bulgarian History Teachers' Association
Bojana Dujkovic - Blagojevic	YES	Association of Teachers and Professors of History EUROCLIO - HIP
Catherine Savitsky		EuroClio Secretariat
Cristina Iulia Gila		Romanian Society for Historical Sciences
Daniela Zunzer	YES	Swiss History Teachers' Association
Dea Maric	YES	Croatian History Teachers' Association
Denis Detling		Croatian History Teachers' Association, EuroClio Board
Domas Boguševičius		Individual Member
Dorin Stanescu	YES	Romanian Society for Historical Sciences
Elisabete Pereira		Individual Member
Emiliyan Metodiev		Association Footura
Frank van den Akker		EuroClio Board
G. Rósa Eyvindardóttir	YES	The Association of Sociology Teachers in Secondary Schools in Iceland
Gentian Dedja		Albanian History Teachers' Association
Gijs van Gaans		Association of Teachers of History and Civics - Netherlands
Guido Lessing	YES	Luxembourgian Association of History Teachers
Hanna Ylönen	YES	Finnish History Teachers' Association
Hannes Olafsson		The Association of Sociology Teachers in Secondary Schools in Iceland
Harri Beobide	YES	Federation of Basque Schools
Harry Rogge		n/a
Helen Snelson	YES	The Historical Association - United Kingdom

Hellen Janssen	YES	Association of Teachers of History and Civics - Netherlands
Ina Nyfelt	YES	Swedish History Teachers' Association
Ioanna Dekatrii		Association for History Education in Greece
Jelka Miranda Razpotnik		Slovenian History Teachers' Association
Jennie Henton		Individual Member
Jonathan Even-Zohar		Individual Member
Karsten Korbøl	YES	Norwegian Historical Association
Koray Unur		Individual Member
Lars Peter Visti Hansen	YES	Danish History Teachers' Association, EuroClio Board
Lidija Suica	YES	Education for the 21. Century
Lóa Kristjánsdóttir		History Teachers' Association of Ireland
Lorraine Besnier		EuroClio Secretariat
Luis Horrillo Sánchez	YES	Federation of Spanish History and Geography Teachers
Madis Somelar	YES	Estonian History and Civics Teachers' Association
Manuela Lucchesu		Individual Member
Marat Gibatdinov		History Teachers' Association of Tatarstan
Marco Tibaldini	YES	Clio'92 - Association of Research Group on History Teaching and Learning
Marek Kozubel		Institute of National Remembrance – Public Education Office
Maren Tribukait		Georg Eckert Institute
Marian Heesen		Association of Teachers of History and Civics - Netherlands
Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp		Association of Teachers of History and Civics - Netherlands
Martin Liepach	YES	Association of History Teachers of Germany
Miguel Barros	YES	Portuguese History Teachers' Association
Miloš Vukanović	YES	Association of History Educators of Montenegro
Olfa Mahmoud		Individual Member
Paolo Ceccoli		National Institute Parri – Milano, EuroClio Board
Polina Verbytska		All-Ukrainian Association of Teachers of History and Social Studies “Nova Doba”

Rauf Rajabov		Public Union of Azerbaijan History Educators
Richard Fodor		Hungarian Historical Society Teachers' Division
Riitta Mikkola		Finnish History Teachers' Association, EuroClio Board
Sungho Kang		History NGO Forum for Peace in East Asia
Teodora Nikolova		Bulgarian History Teachers' Association
Ulrich Bongertmann		Association of History Teachers of Germany
Valentin Schönherr		Swiss History Teachers' Association
Vassiliki Sakka	YES	Association for History Education in Greece
Vesna Teršelič	YES	Documenta – Center for Dealing with the Past
Yosanne Vella	YES	History Teachers' Association (Malta)
Zsolt vodli	YES	Association of Hungarian History Teachers