

Members Council Meeting 30 June -1 July 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), Michal Čudrnák (MC), Olimpia Curta (OC), Robert Davies (RD), Milena Dobрева (MD), Killian Downing (KD), Maria Engberg (ME), Barbara Fischer (BF), Karin Glasemann (KG), Evelien Hauwaerts (EH), Susan Hazan (SH), Pilar Irala-Hortal (PIH), Vera Kriezi (VK), Loa Steinunn Kristjansdottir (LSK), Georgia Manolopoulou (GM), James Morley (JM), Marta Musso (MM), Clemens Neudecker (CN), Fred Saunderson (FS), Nienke van Schaverbeke (NvS), Steven Claeysens (SC), Peter Soemers (PS), Frederik Truyen (FT), Dafydd Tudur (DT)

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), Ad Polle (AP), Nicole McNeilly (NM)

Guests Altheo Valentini (AV), Marie-Veronique Leroi (MVL)

Apologies Maria Drabczyk (MD), Antje Schmidt (AS), Hans van der Linden (HvdL)

[Chat](#) of both days

Meeting recordings:

- [Meeting recording 30 June](#)
- [Meeting recording 1 July](#)

1. Welcome and introduction

[Presentation](#) (Slides 2-7)

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 receive Europeana Initiative updates and to discuss activities related to the ENA Strategy and town hall meetings, as well as ENA Communities, and Diversity & Inclusion.

- [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, actions 1,3 and 5 were ongoing.

- [Welcoming new member to the MB](#)

Councillor AA expressed interest in joining the ENA MB and was added to the Board as the 6th member in June 2021.

2. Europeana Initiative - collaboration between ENA, EF, EAF

[Presentation](#) (Slides 8-29)

- [Foundation updates: Governance/funding scheme update and operations](#)

HV gave an update on the most recent activities in terms of governance and funding schemes of the Europeana Initiative (EI). He presented the new EF Senior Management Team, gave an update on the DSI4 progress, and EF roadmaps for 2020 and 2021 as well as the preparations of the new DSI implementation plan, which include topics such as Metis, AI/machine learning, Disparity & Inclusion, and facilitation of the EF Green team. The overall current objective is to excel in user engagement, powered by good infrastructure, data quality and ongoing capacity bundling efforts. Various improvements have been made to the Europeana portal in an effort to better engage audiences and partners.

HV and SH explained the Europeana Initiative's recent activities related to the [European Bauhaus](#), and joint conversations between the ENA MB and the EF on restating ENA's position within the Europeana Initiative. The common objective is to leverage the full potential of ENA when talking about the European 'Digital Public Space', development of a shared Capacity Building framework, and the Europeana Community Pact. It is also important to ensure the full participation of ENA in the upcoming tender preparations - the ENA, EF and EAF being integral part of the offer to the EC will work together to explore steps towards creating the common 'data space for cultural heritage' and Europeana's role in it.

- [Aggregators' Forum \(EAF\) update](#)

MVL, the new Chair of the EAF, updated the Council on the progress in the following EAF activities that took place over the past three months.

- Spring meeting 2021 (20-21 May): 83 participants, 35 aggregators participated
- Election of two new Steering Group members (MVL and Nicole Emmenegger)
- Review and update of accreditation scheme (waiting for final approval)
- Two new accredited aggregators: Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture & Estonian e-Repository and Conservation of Collections
- Discussions about recovery and resilience, D&I, artificial intelligence, and the Aggregator User Group

- Aggregators' FAIR event (16-17 June) targeting CHIs - 260 registrations, around 80 participants took part in panel discussions, training sessions, ignite talks, and presentations.

3. **ENA Strategy & MC town hall meetings**

Presentation (Slides 31-76)

In an effort to allow Councillors to actively shape the meeting agenda, the Councillors were invited beforehand to share ideas they would like to see reflected during this meeting's discussions in the [Council Chamber](#) document, building on a series of town hall meetings that have taken place over the past 3 months. Councillors will also have an opportunity to raise their ideas and express opinions during an 'Open mic' session at the wrap up of the meeting on the 2. day.

This session revolved around strategic topics related to developing the role of ENA within the European Initiative (EI) in both short-medium and long- term. RD outlined the following ongoing discussions that have been taking place since spring:

- EI working together to develop the future tender proposal (strengthening the role of ENA as a partner in the tender)
 - Formulating a shared vision for a Digital Public Sphere/Space (also as inspired by New European Bauhaus conversations) - together with the EF Advisory Board, where GA represents the MC
 - Jointly developing the ongoing capacity building strategy
 - Joint planning to support diversity and growth of ENA (together with EF and EAF)
 - Reconceptualizing the public face of ENA on Pro.
- *Supporting capacity building and digital transformation*

StB provided an update on the development of the EF Capacity Building Framework based on various components such as structured approach to Capacity Building, organisational and institutional changes, capability building, partnerships, and communities. A lot of progress was made over the past year.

The current proposal is to create a Capacity Building playbook. To that end, a Capacity Building Task Force that is expected to kick off in early autumn, should work on developing a vision for the Digital Public Space for Culture 2030, and possibilities under the EC Digital Europe Programme (DEP) (marrying the new European Bauhaus with the European data spaces for culture to design digital transformations fit for purpose).

The Councillors took part in a few Mentimeter questions, and were invited to fill in the [survey on Capacity building](#) exploring possibilities for a searchable index of capacity building related training courses for the cultural heritage sector. Finally, Councillors were invited to contact StB by email if they had any questions and input to make. The call for the Capacity Building Task Force will be made via Basecamp in the coming weeks.

→ **Action 2021-06: MC - to contact the Office if interested in joining the Capacity Building Task Force (DONE).**

- [Breakout group discussion: Developing the ENA vision for Digital Public Space for Culture 2030](#)

GA invited the Councillors to join the breakout groups and instructed them to discuss the following questions:

1. How do you imagine your ideal digital public space?
2. Do you agree with the proposed vision? Do you have any overall comments?
3. How do you see Europeana's role in 2030?
4. What do you think is the role of the MC in this vision?

The discussions were captured in the jamboard frames of the group [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#).

- [Harnessing the potential of ENA members: Membership Working Group update](#)

The ENA Membership WG officially kicked off its work in spring and has already been involved in the following activities:

- Review of the [2021 ENA satisfaction & impact survey](#) (15 - 30 June)
- Preparing and approving its own [brief](#) and clarifying its mission - which is to guarantee that it is worthwhile to be a member of ENA, together with ensuring an added value of being actively involved
- Setting the priorities in terms of improving the existing ENA customer journey and getting to know the profiles of ENA members better - following the results of the 2021 ENA survey
- Review, classification and initial implementation of some of the New Professionals Task Force recommendations - the WG will set priorities, coordinate and monitor their implementation
 - Setting a long term goal of facilitating the development of a New Professional Programme.

- [ENA Mechanisms: Governance Working Group update](#)

TB, KG, LSK, SH, RD, KD and FS are the current Group members, and RD was appointed the WG Chair. Since March, the Group was involved in the following activities:

- Review of the relevant New Professionals Task Force recommendations
- Appointing the 2021 Elections & Voting Committee
- Setting the 2021 MC election campaign timeline.

- [ENA Climate group update](#)

BF, KD and PS summarised the past actions, and updated the Council on the most recent activities of the Climate group. KD explained the [Climate Action Map](#), and together with BF then presented a Proposal [to formalise the status of the Group as an ENA Working Group](#) with a potential of becoming a future ENA community. The proposal was submitted to the Council for consideration

and approval. Its objective is to raise awareness and allow Europeana be the leader and take responsibility for collective climate action. The Group proposed establishing a memorandum of understanding on climate action between the ENA and EF.

Decision: The Council supported the formalisation of the group as a formal ENA Working Group for the time being with a view of creating a formal community in the future, and committed to take this issue forward as one of the ENA priorities.

4. Q&A & wrap-up of the day

AA wrapped up the first day of the meeting.

Day 2

In the introduction to the 2. day of the meeting, HV on behalf of the EF expressed full support for taking an active stand on climate change and willingness to back that up with concrete activities. If that takes the form of a community, and the ENA feels that it has a high priority, the EF is committed to finding a way to support that in alignment with the EF staffs' performance and development plans. He suggested the ENA considers it a mid-term commitment (September onwards). In the short term, the common focus of attention can be on drafting a memorandum of understanding, or any other similar type of formal document. The EF is willing to work with ENA towards a shared commitment of Europeana to reduce the carbon footprint of the digital transformation of the sector, and to specify the common priority actions against that. Depending on the scope of this commitment and level of accountability, the EF and ENA can together draft a work plan/roadmap with concrete actions. The Council welcomed and appreciated this response.

5. ENA Communities

[Presentation](#) (Slides 79-97)

- [Community updates and Q&A session](#)

The chairs of the six communities gave an update on the community activities since March 2021. The updates are described in detail in the [Progress report 2020/2021](#). Councillors were invited to actively involve with communities of their interest as much as possible.

- [Communicators survey results](#)

PS explained the results of the Communicators Community survey, which was running in April-May 2021. It could serve as an example for other communities and be used as a common future survey format across ENA.

- [Task Force final reports review](#)
 - [Storytelling Task Force](#): final recommendations & lessons learnt were presented by the TF chair, Beth Daley
 - [Copyright community Task Force](#) final recommendations were presented by the TF chair, Juozas Markauskas
- [Community breakout groups: Cross-community space](#)

In this session, a cross-community space was created for the SGs to assess the progress made since the last meeting, and review of the initial ambitions. They were also invited to think about additional mutual points of interest in the existing 2021 work plans. The discussions were captured in each of the breakout groups.

- [EuropeanaTech & Europeana Research](#)
- [Europeana Education & Europeana Copyright](#)
- [Europeana Communicators & Europeana Impact](#)

6. Diversity & Inclusion (D&I)

[Presentation](#) (Slides 99-102)

SH chaired the session dedicated to updating the Council on the most recent activities around the topic of D&I in the ENA. These activities included:

- Some of the Councillors had a meeting with Jass Thethi (1 June), who managed to facilitate uneasy conversations, navigated through personal approaches and was able to contribute valuable knowledge and expertise.
- Running a well structured series of training workshops with Lauren Vargas for the EF staff, ENA and EAF representatives with an aim to get a better understanding of what being inclusive and diverse means in practice. The workshops provided tools, techniques and approaches to help Europeana identify and develop a value system and a collective understanding of establishing a safe space in digital conversations and beyond, in an effort to create a common Europeana [Community Pact](#). The first draft should be ready in the coming weeks / months. The Pact should be reviewed every 6 months as a living 'umbrella' value framework for the Initiative. Councillors were invited to access the workshop material in a dedicated [Basecamp project](#).
- Code of Conduct revision - the progress of revision has been put on hold in light of the Community pact development, which will feed into the Code of conduct for the ENA.
- [EI Diversity & inclusion Task Force](#) recruitment process - Representatives of the EF, ENA and EAF together will look for their representatives on this TF. The Council will be invited to put forward two of its ENA representatives in the coming months.
- New Professionals Task Force recommendations have been published and have been under active review of the Membership WG.

→ **Action 2021-07: MC - to reach out to SH if interested in being part of the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force (DONE).**

7. Q&A & wrap-up of the day

[Presentation](#) (Slides 103-114)

- *ENA Budget update; Transparency, accountability and democracy*

FT updated the Council on the state of the ENA budget spending. There was again a risk of a substantial underspend of the budget, FT therefore encouraged the communities to spend their money. The use of the budget was flexible and could be used for additional new ideas.

FT explained that the MB has been looking into ways to strengthen the “council” aspect of the MC, by improving procedures allowing each councillor to have more impact. The idea is to develop a pragmatic participatory space where members of both ENA and EAF can help shape the agenda of meetings, put forward ideas for discussion, hold these discussions and ultimately make decisions, eg. by implementing a robust voting system. Having this kind of participatory and voting space could also help Europeana position itself as a leader in the sector. Besides a review of the current Code of Conduct the aim is also to define procedures for the steps that need to be taken when the Code of Conduct is infringed. This involves all pillars of the Europeana Initiative. The preliminary search for tools was completed, but the understanding of the specific requirements is still open.

→ **Action 2021-08: MC - to contact FT if interested in taking part in the transparency discussion, or knowing about useful decision making tools (ONGOING).**

- *Open mic / common wrap up*

During the Open mic session, the floor was given to HA to contribute to the discussion on climate action. He discussed the role of the CH-sector in addressing the current climate issues and the possibility of taking inspiration from the past, and how ENA can help the society to go through these challenges. He presented some ideas for the MC or ENA members on how to actively reach out to small and medium CHIs, allowing them to personally assist the process of Digital Transformation. The stakeholders could be inspired by some of the following examples:

- Taking current challenges and investigate historical examples
- Tackling several challenges together in an integral approach
- Connecting people and ideas, present and past, to help society address the major challenges of today.

Councillors wrapped up the meeting by acknowledging that a lot of tremendous work was done across different areas over the past few months, and they appreciated that a major step forward was taken in one day in the area of climate action. They concluded that these kinds of achievements give a real meaning to the role of a Councillor representing a large community, which is also what sets Europeana apart from other heritage networks.

The next meeting will again take place in digital form in December 2021.

→ **Action 2021-ongoing: ZM - to inform the Council about the date of the next meeting (ongoing).**