Public précis of 30 March 2022 Supervisory Board meeting

Action proposed: Board to approve for publication on Europeana Pro

Attendees
Martina Bagnoli (MB), Taja Vovk van Gaal (TVG), Marco de Niet (MdN), Kerstin Herlt (KH), Wim Nieuwenhuijse (WN), Brid Dooley (BD), Anne Torreggiani (AT), Harry Verwayen (HV), Albert Verhaar (AV), Shadi Ardalan (SA)

Some discussions are omitted from the précis of the minutes as they are deemed confidential to the Supervisory Board at this point in time. The public meeting papers and documents referred to in these minutes can be seen on Europeana Pro.

Opening
The meeting was held online on 30 March, 2022, chaired by Martina Bagnoli (MB). Seven board members attended the call forming a quorum. The proposed agenda was adopted by the Supervisory Board.

I. Minutes, actions and decisions from 9 February

The board approved the minutes of 9 February 2022 meeting Paper 1A and the public précis of those minutes Paper 1B. The board agreed it's not necessary to include the actions and decisions of the meetings in the agenda as a stand alone section but it's useful to have them listed on basecamp for reference and record.

Decision 1: The board agreed to correct mistranslated Article 7.4 of the statutes: "The Supervisory Board appoints the Advisory Board, based on nominations that can be made by any of the boards: Supervisory Board, the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board."
The board also approved to complement this correction, by adding a corresponding clause about the Advisory Board membership working group in the internal rules (page 6): "The Supervisory Board appoints the Advisory Board, based on nominations that can be made by any of the boards: Supervisory Board, the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board. The Membership Working Group of the Advisory Board, in which all three boards are represented, will prepare and submit the formal nominations." A more detailed process for nominations of new members of the Advisory Board will be developed and proposed by the current working group for inclusion in the terms of reference of the Membership Working Group.

II. Tender

The board discussed the call for the tender, the outcome of the tender workshops and other preparation in progress.

Supporting Ukraine

Europeana has joined forces with other initiatives in a few areas to support colleagues in Ukraine: The ENA’s Members Council reached out to Ukrainian ENA members. Europeana issued a statement of solidarity and endorsed other initiatives with Europa Nostra, NEMO, 4CH, and Time Machine. After due diligence, Europeana also supports SUCHO.org initiative and SUM and Collection Day Training. We are planning a series of workshops. Including discussions on e-archiving. With Ukrainian content in Europeana we’ve created editorials. And the Europeana Foundation made a small donation to GIRO 555. It’s taken a while to learn what’s needed and how Europeana can help: Visible demonstration of the relevance of Ukrainian culture and its relation to Europe; practical know-how to capture, safeguard and make accessible (digital) cultural heritage; coordination of activities, funding, network of support are among the needs. Our strength lies in developing longer term sustainable activities. More concerted actions across the Europeana and a strong (ethical) framework to handle this and similar crises are needed. Two sector wide collaborations are proposed: 1) Support for Ukraine Digital Cultural Sector Working Group to manage & make recommendations on a pipeline of actions (design/develop/filter); and to monitor & evaluate progress versus expected outcomes. 2) Share experiences into the Heritage at Risk Task Force, acting as a live case study. The proposal will be shared with the ENA and EAF leadership. The WG starts work immediately, and the Task Force will kick off in June. In principle, the board supports the proposal as important and great thinking. However, some of the highlighted activities fit under umbrella organisations and
associations - such as UNESCO and Blue Shield - EF should connect with. There is also the question of available resources, and some hesitancy about the Heritage at Risk Task Force, which is very output oriented. The board suggested focusing instead on specific areas Europeana leads (digital and network), making it network oriented and developing recommendations.

III. Europeana Foundation management, operational and business plan

Europeana DSI-4 Year IV activities are in progress and EF is generally doing well in the KPIs. The traffic to europeana.eu is improving and the visitor satisfaction is more than 75%. The network grows at a constant rate. The tier 2 data quality metric is lower than the target. The percentage of visitors returning is below the target.

Hybrid working
COVID-19 measures in the Netherlands have been lifted, with more colleagues working in the office. We are implementing hybrid Working policies in the second quarter 2022. The redesign phase 1 started. A lot of EF’s hybrid working culture has been driven by the staff through online dialogues and surveys and based on principles of flexibility and trust.

Finance & financial sustainability

The Board discussed the Europeana Foundation finances, cashflow, funding, and the preliminary figures for the 2021 annual report.

IV. Board evaluation - Paper 3 and exit interviews with Elisabeth Niggemann and Joke van der Leeuw Roord, former chair and vice-chair of the Foundation.

The board ran out of time, therefore the discussion on evaluation was deferred to the next meeting in June. Evaluation will be discussed in the beginning of the next meeting.

V. Any other business and closing

Decision 2: The remote meetings of 30 June and 30 November will be extended to 2.5 hrs. Priority topics will be discussed earlier in meetings. The all day meeting on 29 September coincides with Europeana 2022 and might be rescheduled.
The précis of the minutes is a public document on Europeana Pro.