Europeana Network Association Management Board

27 January 2021, 14:00 - 17:00 CET
Virtual meeting

MINUTES

Attendees Marco de Niet (MdN), Georgia Angelaki (GA), Fred Truyen (FT), Susan Hazan (SH), Rob Davies (RD), Milena Dobreva (MD), Stephan Bartholmei, Sara Di Giorgio (SdG), Albert Verhaar (AV), Harry Verwayen (HV), Zuzana Malicherova (ZM), Julia Fallon (JF), Merete Sanderhoff (MS)

Actions

➔ **Action 2021 recurring: ZM - to share the minutes of the previous and this MB meeting with the MC and on Pro, and update the list of actions on Basecamp.**
➔ **Action 2021-01: MB - to think about the remaining unassigned tasks and inform SH about their interest to take on some of them.**
➔ **Action 2021-02: SH/RD - to evaluate the collected feedback on the draft ENA strategy, revise the document, and share it with the MC for an open discussion.**
➔ **Action 2021-03: HV/AV/MS - to keep the Board informed about further developments regarding the activity and funding assignments under DEP.**
➔ **Action 2021-04: GA - to report back to the MB on activities and decisions of the EF Advisory Board.**
➔ **Action 2021-05: SH/RD/ZM - to draft the MC meeting agenda and share it with the Board.**
➔ **Action 2021-06: ZM - to send out a Doodle poll with tentative dates for the MB - EAF SG meeting and the next meeting in February 2021.**

Meeting of the previous and new Management Board members (chaired by MdN)

1. Handover of the previous Board

- *Looking forward from 2020, useful advices and lessons learnt*

The members welcomed MD to the Board. They reflected on the ENA developing over the past two years, and shared their personal experiences and lessons learnt from being on the Board.
- SB appreciated the support and understanding of the Board members in difficult times, enjoyed the experience of being part of the EF Board, and appreciated seeing ENA developing its democratic dimension and expanding into collaboration with the EAF. He wished the new Board to have the opportunity to have a social gathering and discuss issues in person for a day or two, which the previous Board didn't manage to do.
- SH was thrilled to see great progress, especially in the worm of the communities, and the amount of talent and great people involved in a lot of great activities on a voluntary basis, helping and supporting each while having culture at the center of their lives.

- RD also recognized the great potential of the ENA and its role within the Initiative, was excited about ENA's initial work around inclusivity and diversity, and was looking forward to keeping working together.
- FT appreciated the way the group has been able to work together and bridge activities of the ENA with those of the rest of the Initiative, and the ongoing progress in the work of the communities being ENA's main vehicle.
- GA enjoyed working with the group and appreciated the amount of skills and expertise it carries, and expressed the need to strengthen the networking potential and capacity building.
- MdN recognized the fact that ENA provides a very stimulating environment and activities that people also find useful in their own daily work, and expressed concern about the lack of active involvement of some Councillors in the community work.
- SdG also appreciated the professional and personal support found in this group and from the Europeana office, and advised to maintain a close collaboration, and to focus on best practices while keeping the bigger picture in mind.
- HV and AV found the strength of ENA in its communities, and reminded of its important role in the way EC perceives Europeana as a whole. They recommended supporting the common work around I&D, and tapping into the membership potential.

2. Appointment of the new chair, vice-chair and treasurer

The Board appointed SH the new Chair and RD the new Vice-Chair. FT will remain the ENA Treasurer.

3. Farewell to the leaving members

The Board said goodbye to its leaving members MdN, SdG and SB. They wished the remaining members luck with their upcoming endeavors.

Meeting of the new Management Board members (chaired by SH)

1. Approval of the 2021 community work plans

The members went through the final community work plan assessment in terms of activities and requested budgets. They were very much impressed with the amount of successful initiatives, interesting activities and growing memberships and collaborations, and appreciated continuous efforts of the community SGs, particularly those of the managers and chairs.

- EuropeanaTech - is the most established and one of the biggest communities but it is not necessarily the most active one. The main topics of focus have been contribution to the Tech Insight publication, and activities of the AI TF. The capacity of the SG to take on more work is limited and the activities depend on skills and topics of interest of the SG members, and what topics are trending at a given moment. The community has been a breeding ground for people's involvement in projects, cross EI TFs etc.

- [Europeana Research](#) - as a consequence of ongoing issues throughout 2020 and SH's and MdN's intervention, the SG has been partly renewed but further changes to its composition might be required. It is becoming the largest community that needs to encompass different areas of interest.
- [Europeana Impact](#) - the community has shown leadership, it organised a successful series of webinars throughout 2020, and has been making progress with the playbook, which is being actively used in different projects across the ecosystem.
- [Europeana Communicators](#) **-** PS and the SG have been doing great job, the community members are not very proactive but they are supportive. The Storytelling TF has been very successful.
- [Europeana Copyright](#) - the community has been very active, organised successful webinars series in 2020 as well as public domain translations sprint. The community TF work is also being concluded.
- [Europeana Education](#) - the community has been successfully connecting educators and teachers with the CH sector. Bringing NEMO onboard the SG has helped to further support these efforts. Initially, the community ran a survey to find out who the members and their interests were, which has helped drive the community agenda.

The Board agreed that a common format of a survey / assessment of pressing issues could be regularly (as often as the community finds appropriate and useful) sent out to the members of all the communities following a template created by the Communicators. The next step should be to analyse the ENA impact assessment report also with regards to the communities. SH suggested creating informal KPIs for communities to give them extra motivation to reach their goals.

There haven't been any new TF proposals, and the Board discussed whether there should be an effort to have ongoing TF activities and issue calls for new ones as soon as the active ones conclude their work. The TFs should grow organically not under pressure, and the format might not be equally applicable to all the communities (e.g. Tech vs. Education) therefore it might not be necessary to have active TFs every year if communities find other more useful tools. Whatever activity the SG comes up with, it needs to be something that members find highly relevant and based on the amount of work and commitment they can dedicate to it.

The Board approved the community work plans and their requested budgets.

2. Monthly re-current items

The members went through recurrent items that the Board discusses on a monthly basis:

- [General task division](#) - most of the responsibilities and tasks have been distributed among the members, the remaining ones will be re-assigned by the next meeting. The members should always keep the mindful boundaries in mind when taking on extra workload.
- What is expected from the [MB and the secretariat](#)
- Regular meeting agenda items, which include:
  - [ENA Communities](#), [TFs and WGs](#)
  - Approval of new membership requests
  - Strategic issues, ENA budget

→ **action 2021-01**: MB - to think about the remaining unassigned tasks and inform SH about their interest to take on some of them.

3. Vision/Manifesto for ENA in 2021

The Board did a team exercise aiming to specify the strategic direction and key topics for ENA to address in 2021/2022 captured in this document. The present members collected ideas and rated specific topics according to the level of priority / importance using Jamboard. A similar exercise can be used for the MC meeting in order to gather feedback from the Councillors with adding a statement to each of the seven commonly defined priority areas.

HV then presented the Board with an update on relevant developments and Europeana's position in the new Digital Europe Programme (DEP) and importance of collaboration and transparency in it. Regarding transparency, the members agreed that there is never enough, the leadership will always be accused of not being transparent enough but it is good to assess critically whether these assumptions are really justified - is it an issue of democracy or transparency? There is a "how" (manner of working together) and "what" (content) component to the level of transparent decision making.

The Europeana Initiative needs to make a shift to DEP as the new funding mechanism. What is expected from Europeana and what amount will be available will be part of a highly political discussion. Some of the priorities captured in the current 2020-2025 Strategy may need to be slightly altered in practice (e.g. higher importance of data over capacity building). ENA will continue to be funded through DEP as part of the common budget, but there will be changes to the original structure with core service, which may have impact on ENA funding too in terms of the amounts and targets. The new tender will be open in the 4. quartile of 2021, and HV will share more information with the Board in the coming weeks.

Because of the new finding structure, the governance structure for Europeana at the EC has also slightly changed. MS explained that the existence of the DCHE Subgroup, where she has been representing ENA, is going to be terminated due to the change in the mandate of the DCHE. It wasn't specified how ENA should be represented from now on. The end of the mandate came as a surprise as it had been expected that it would be extended. The construct of DCHE is also up for renewal but it is crucial for Europeana to keep its contact with the member states. HV will send a letter to relevant contacts at the EC, which remain the same under DEP; then will discuss with MS and Marco Rendina how to best approach this situation - possibly by signing a common letter representing the common EI position. HV has been working on various scenarios regarding data and capacity building projects where the changes in funding will have consequences for the Initiative. The platform will remain the main executive body focusing on the three given strategic priorities, although the digitising as such could be eventually outsourced, and for now it remains unclear which activities will be emphasized and assigned most funding.

The EF Advisory Board is going to explore eight topics that should be driving its activities in the upcoming period. Some may be similar or different from the ENA priorities (some activities are more relevant from EF point of view than from ENA's such as focus on end users) although there should be a broad alignment (e.g. nurturing participatory culture, agency for change, etc.). The work around digital transformation remains a common point of attention for the Initiative, but some other topics such as climate change haven't yet been conceptualized in terms of priorities (despite EF's will to become as climate neutral as possible).

→ **Action 2021-02**: SH/RD - to evaluate the collected feedback on the draft ENA strategy, revise the document, and share it with the MC for an open discussion.
→ **Action 2021-03**: HV/AV/MS - to keep the Board informed about further developments regarding the activity and funding assignments under DEP.
→ **Action 2021-04**: GA - to report back to the MB on activities and decisions of the EF Advisory Board.

4. Preparation of the MC meeting in March 2021

The members Identified a few key agenda topics for the next MC meeting: looking forward to the activities of the communities in 2021, ENA Strategy, progress of the Anti-racism group and the ENA climate group, and plans around the I&D.

→ **Action 2021-05**: SH/RD/ZM - to draft the MC meeting agenda and share it with the Board.

5. AOB

→ **Action 2021-06**: ZM - to send out a Doodle poll with tentative dates for the MB - EAF SG meeting and the next meeting in February 2021.