

EURODRAM

REPORT FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018 BUDAPEST

**Jurányi Production House, Budapest, Hungary
25th-28th of October 2018**



Dear members of the EURODRAM network,

First of all, we want thank you all for your efforts, for your enthusiasm and for your great work on behalf of the EURODRAM network.

Last year, a total of 31 coordinators and 294 members of the language committees shared, read and selected plays, organized events, tried to find solutions to a number of big issues our network is facing and read literally thousands of emails.

We know it is a lot of work – so on top of our current to-do-list there is the task to **STRUCTURE OUR COMMUNICATION AND OUR ACTIVITIES** better.

You will find more about how we are trying to improve that below.

Another big thank you again to Anna Lengyel (Hungarian Committee) who organized a great general assembly in Budapest with her team – and in a very short time.

You were fantastic hosts and guides and debate partners.

And meeting face to face at least once a year is so essential for a network like ours.

Not all of you were able to attend the assembly – which is understandable, we all have other obligations and sometimes there was “simply” a lack of funding.

In order to keep you in the loop (and to remind those who were present of what was said), the following is a summary of our key discussions and decisions.

Please, take the time to read this as it will help improve our work and our network if we are all better informed.

COMMITTEES ATTENDING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

Arabic (represented by Dominique Dolmieu), **Armenian** (Armine Anda), **Belarussian** (represented by Iryna Herasimovich), **BCM/Serbian** (Iva Brdar and Tiana Krivokapic), **English** (Sarah Grochala), **Finnish** (Salla Kozma), **French** (Gilles Boulan), **German** (Ulrike Syha), **Hebrew** (Lilach Dekel and Zohar Wexler), **Hungarian** (Anna Lengyel), **Italian** (represented by Laetitia Dumont, soon to take over the coordination), **Kurdish** (Mirza Metin), **Polish** (Andreas Volk), **Slovenian** (Kim Komljanec), **Turkish** (Selin Altiparmak). *[15 committees in total]*

Not able to attend: Albanian (Jeton Neziraj), **Bulgarian** (Gergana Dimitrova), **Catalan** (Victor Munoz), **Czech** (Linda Duskova), **Georgian** (Ketevan Kvantaliani), **Greek** (Andreas Flourakis), **Macedonian** (Ivan Dodovski and Frosa Pejaska), **Norwegian** (Johanna Leira), **Persian** (Mehdi Moradpour), **Portuguese** (Maria Joao Vicente), **Russian** (Galina Klimova and Sergei Nerubenko), **Spanish** (David Ferré), **Ukrainian** (Neda Nejdana). *[13 committees in total]*

In addition to the coordinators, luckily, and thanks to the Budapest Goethe Institute and the French Ministry of Culture (DGLFLF), a number of committee members were able to attend this year's GA: Wolfgang Barth, Sabine Heymann, Andreas Volk, Katharina Stalder (German committee), Nicole Desjardins, Béla Czuppon, Stanislas Cotton (French committee), Liat Fassberg (Hebrew committee), Françoise Bougeard (Hungarian committee).



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SCHEDULE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 1) **Welcome** by Anna Lengyel and her team at Jurányi Production House, a former school now turned into a production house.
- 2) **Assessment of last year's activities:** We took a big part of the first day to go through the list of active and inactive committees. Coordinators / representatives present in Budapest described their committee's activities and issues.

We also discussed the inactive committees and read the reports by committees who had sent a written report.

TASK:

THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT SENT A SUMMARY OF LAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES (ONLY 10 LINES, IN ENGLISH) TO DOMINIQUE (documentation@sildav.org), PLEASE DO SO ASAP.

Please do not worry about your English, everything will be proofread before sharing it with the network.

Thank you!

We are going to share a written report with the whole network as soon as the material is complete.

- 3) **Report of the former board:**
Gergana Dimitrova (Bulgarian), Dominique Dolmieu (General Coordinator), Kim Komljanec (Slovenian), Tiana Krivokapic (BCMS), Jeton Neziraj (Albanian), Hakan Silahsizoglu (Turkish), Ulrike Syha (German)

- Dominique presented the new webpage: <http://eurodram.org>
Just a reminder: Last year's GA in Lisbon decided to set up a website for Eurodram, independent of the website of MEO's - Dominique's organisation La Maison d'Europe et D'Orient.

The GA discussed the architecture of the website, and agreed to set up a working group that will help Dominique to finalize the project in all its aspects as soon as possible.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

If you want to join that working group (**WEBSITE**), please contact its moderator, Tiana Krivokapic, directly: tiana.krivokapic@gmail.com

There is another working group focusing on the design and content of the **LIBRARY ON THE WEBPAGE (detailed information about our selection, summaries of the plays etc.)**

If you want to join that working group, please contact its moderator, Kim Komljanec, directly: kim.komljanec@gmail.com

- We discussed the newly founded **NGO**.

The EURODRAM NGO was founded in Luxemburg. Until now, EURODRAM has not been a legal entity and was instead technically subsumed under MEO (Dominique's organization La Maison d'Europe et d'Orient in France). Since the network is growing, it has become essential to separate EURODRAM from MEO.

The NGO was founded in Luxemburg with the most basic statutes available. Any NGO must be registered for two years before being eligible for grants, so we decided to set up the NGO first and then discuss all the details with the GA.

The statutes of the NGO will need to be approved by the GA. In Budapest, the board tried to speed up this process by presenting a short document which only listed the main issues/choices that committee representatives would have to make. However, this document was confusing to those who weren't part of the discussion leading up to it and the GA felt that it wasn't phrased in a clear and transparent way. There was a longer discussion about it and the coordinators / representatives didn't feel they could in good conscience vote to accept the statutes on the basis of that document or to elect a board of the NGO on that basis.

Due to that we decided to

- a) **Finalize the statutes as soon as possible and send the document to all the coordinators for your approval, alongside a clear and structured explanation of what the NGO is for, what its exact function within the framework of the network is going to be, and how you can be or will be a part of it.**

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

A working group has been set up in order to speed up this process. If you want to join this working group, please contact its moderator, Ulrike Syha, directly: syha@gmx.net

- b) **After the coordinators have approved the statutes we will organize a DIGITAL ELECTION of the new board (or an election at the next GA).**

Currently, there are only very few candidates:

Kim Komljanec (Slovenian), Hakan Silahsizoglu (Turkish), Ulrike Syha (German), and of course Dominique Dolmieu as the general coordinator and founder of the network (who might have a seat in the board anyway for that reason, depending on the statutes).

While working on the statutes and indeed until 48 hours before the election starts (date TBC) we welcome new candidature proposals. Please feel free to put your own name or that of a colleague forward. Duties could be better shared between a larger board.

As long as we haven't elected a new board, the old board now forms the **temporary board**.

Members: Dominique Dolmieu (General Coordinator), Gergana Dimitrova (Bulgarian), Tiana Krivokapic (BCMS), Kim Komljanec (Slovenian), Jeton Neziraj (Albanian), Ulrike Syha (German), Hakan Silahsizoglu (Turkish) with

Anna Lengyel (Hungarian) and Ian de Toffoli (Founder of the NGO in Luxemburg) kindly offering their help with board matters for the moment.

Among the many tasks of the new board is the key issue to clarify the legal and overall relationship between the NGO and Eurodram. Please, bear with us, this is a complex issue that we'll try to get our heads around with some legal help.

- **EURODRAM TOOLKIT**

Tiana Krivokapic is currently working on a toolkit which will consist of templates for all sorts of documents relevant to the work of coordinators (annual calls, coordinator's duties, rules of the network, list of languages spoken in the network etc.)

It is going to be shared with all of you as soon as possible.

4) PRESENTATION OF FABULAMUNDI

Claudia Di Giacomo and Valentina De Simone from Fabulamundi-Playwriting Europe attended our assembly as guests (as Dominique has been a guest of theirs).

There is an agreement between Fabulamundi and Eurodram for a loose network partnership, involving the exchange of texts, knowledge, and the prospect of maybe joining forces for future projects.

<http://www.fabulamundi.eu/en/>

5) DISCUSSION OF THE LOCATION OF THE NEXT EURODRAM GAS

There are several options:

Due to differing funding deadlines, our approach is going to be:

- a) Ulrike Syha tries to confirm by December if the GA 2019 can take place in Hamburg / Germany in April 2019.
- b) If she fails, Lilach Dekel-Avneri will start an application in Israel in January 2019 for a GA in September 2019 in Tel Aviv.
- c) Kim Komljanec is trying to apply for funding for a GA 2020 in Ljubljana / Slovenia.

(There might also be future options in Madrid / Spain (David Ferré) or in 2021 in Montpellier / France (Dominique) for the 20th anniversary of the EURODRAM network.)

6) FUNDRAISING

Fundraising remains a major issue of the network. Some of the current board members agreed to reach out to institutions and foundations in order to try to secure funding for the whole network.

They will update you on their progress.

We hope that the new NGO will make fundraising easier – especially when it comes to a new Creative Europe application (not planned for this year but maybe for one of the following years) or another bigger application.

On a national / local level, we will continue to rely on the committees and coordinators to do their best at finding their own local funding. The board, the toolkit and the whole network is here to support each committee's fundraising efforts, but it might prove difficult to secure enough central funding to fund all of the individual committees and their activities.

We were also told that it might be helpful to establish a personal contact in Brussels. Ulrike Syha is going to try to follow up on that.

7) MEETING WITH HUNGARIAN PLAYWRIGHTS AND TRANSLATORS

We had the opportunity to meet with some Hungarian theatre makers and translators, and there was a vivid discussion about how to better promote contemporary drama in translation.

We also used the meeting to highlight a general lack of appreciation when it comes to the work of a translator and how crucial it is to bring translators in closer contact with theatre makers again, especially in the case of languages with fewer speakers. The translator is an ambassador, he / she can build (cultural) bridges, and sometimes needs to act as the agent of the play / playwright and fight for the text to get read or published. (There is a hashtag worth mentioning: #namethetranslator)

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

A working group has been set up in order to discuss the weak position of the translator (and what we can do about it).

If you want to join that working group, please contact its moderator, Sabine Heymann, directly: sabine.j.heyman@t-online.de

8) INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

VISIBILITY is extremely important to a project like EURODRAM.

Please keep in mind that many people have never heard of EURODRAM before and might be unclear about our activities. Please use any opportunity to mention the network when planning projects related to EURODRAM or the texts in our selections. Please always use the EURODRAM logo in publications or online (or tag Eurodram in social media).

TASK:

There are many more activities in the EURODRAM network than we all are aware of!

Please make sure to always send a short note about an event you are planning on the coordination list or at least to the board. When possible, include pictures as they make for more accessible online content.

WE ALSO AGREED TO STRUCTURE OUR COMMUNICATION BETTER!

WE WILL SEND OUT A "WORKING REPORT" EVERY THREE MONTHS OR SO, TO SUMMARIZE ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES, TO BUILD WORKING GROUPS TO SOLVE THE ISSUES IF NECESSARY, AND TO KEEP YOU MORE CLOSELY IN THE LOOP ABOUT THE WORK OF THE BOARD AND THE WORK OF THE OTHER COMMITTEES.

Please help us to minimize the amount of emails by always making sure that you ask yourself who should be the recipient of the email you are sending. Many things need to be read by all the other coordinators, many others do not. If an e-mail concerns many, but needs the special attention of one or two specific persons, please make sure to **name them in the subject line.**
Thank you!

9) SEMI-PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE SELECTION

On Saturday (Oct 27th) we were joined by invited guests from the field of theatre in Hungary and presented last year's selections.

Thank you very much for your contributions, it was a big improvement on previous years, especially because there were so many different types of presentations: interactive ones, some that included reading parts of the texts, PowerPoint Presentations, and even video material, for example a great interview with a playwright in Israel.

We unfortunately failed to print the summaries we had assembled before the General Assembly, but Hakan is going to share a **digital document** of it in the coming weeks on the coordination list and with the guests who attended the assembly.

10) SPEED-DATING SESSION

Kim Komljanec organized and led a nice and interactive speed-dating session (internal). It worked well to break up boundaries and to think about future collaborations in a playful manner, and we all laughed quite a lot after the long sessions of the previous days.

Many thanks for organizing it, Kim – maybe we should actually START the next GENERAL ASSEMBLY with an ice breaker like that.

11) SHOWCASE OF NEW HUNGARIAN DRAMA WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION

The Budapest GA included three shows with English translation, one from the 2016 Hungarian selection (Béla Pintér's Muck) and one from this year's selection (Andrea Pass' Sunflower), as well as a verbatim monodrama by PanoDrama, the independent company run by three members of the Hungarian committee.



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The GA in Budapest was a great success in that it brought together the largest number of committees (coordinators and members) and it offered a clear and useful insight into the state of our network and the essential development that is (to a degree) already in progress. It allowed us to set up working groups which are currently responsible for those biggest issues we want and need to resolve.

Again, thank you all for your contributions to the network.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

The EURODRAM BOARD