Europeana Foundation Governing Board Meeting

25 February 2016
16h30 - 18h00 CET
Teleconference

Summarised Minutes of Board Meeting 19 November 2015
Action proposed: Board to approve

Attendees:
(BR) Bruno Racine, Bibliothèque Nationale de France - Chair
(JLR) Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, EUROCLIO - Vice Chair
(HJ) Hans Jansen, Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) - Treasurer
(MS) Merete Sanderhoff, SMK, Denmark
(JF) Jeannette Frey, Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche (LIBER), Switzerland
(RK) Rolf Kallman, Digisam, Sweden
(PP) Patrick Peiffer, Luxembourg Presidency
(MK) Max Kaiser, Austrian National Library (ONB)
(PK) Paul Keller, Kennisland
(MHS) Monika Hagedorn-Saupe, International Council of Museums Europe, Germany
(RR) Richard Ranft, International Association of Sound and Vision Archives, UK
(LH) Lorna Hughes, University of Glasgow, UK
(LA) Lora Aroyo, VU University
(MP) Martijn Pronk, The Rijksmuseum

Apologies:
(JM) Jan Muller, International Federation of Television Archives (FIAT)
(JO) Johan Oomen, Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision

Observers:
Tjeerd de Boer, Succeeding Dutch Presidency
Diego Gracia, Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport

Europeana:
(JC) Jill Cousins
(HV) Harry Verwayen
(AV) Albert Verhaar
(AE) Aubery Escande
(SA) Shadi Ardalan - Minutes

Other participants:
(IN) Isabelle Nyffenegger, Bibliothèque Nationale de France
(CB) Claire Bertrand, Bibliothèque Nationale de France

Some discussion, actions and decisions are omitted from this version as they are deemed confidential to the Board at this point in time.

Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

The meeting was attended by a quorum of voting members.
A seat remains vacant to fulfill the entrepreneurship sector.

Action 1: Board to give another round of thoughts and make suggestions for entrepreneurship expert.

Minutes of June 30 and September 29, 2015 Board meetings

Decision 1: Minutes of the Board Meeting 30 June 2015 and those of the Board Meeting 29 September 2015 were approved.

Actions & Decisions arising from 30 June and 29 September, 2015 Board Meetings

Action 1 of June 30th for Board Members to propose their role description is incomplete.

Action 2: JC to suggest items for each Member of the Board to compose their role details.

Action 2 of September 29th to ask the European Commission if a less challenging percentage split against time can be given for DSI 2 to lessen the consequent effect on cash flow - JC has asked the Commission to change the payment percentage split for DSI 2.

Action 3: JC and AV to double check the timing when the German and Slovakian monies came in.

All other acions are complete.

Decision 2: Actions of the Board Meeting 30 June 2015 and those of the Board Meeting 29 September 2015 were approved.

Progress Against 2015 Business Plan

KPIs, Content Report and Web Traffic

The third quarter has shown good results. We prioritised KPIs. Success and progress noted on:
Europeana Cloud
Collections (portal) relaunch and Thematic Collections (channels) - Europeana Collections soft launch in December 2015.
Europeana 280 - good engagement from Member States.
Partnerships - iTunes U Course.
DSI Partner Consortium – Proposal.
Network - AGM
Organisational Health within Europeana Foundation
TEL - SLA between CENL and Europeana will continue for 2016.
Aggregation - investigating ways to reduce dependencies and increase data acquisition.
Content & Traffic Report - Traffic is going as well as expected but Facebook has changed its algorithm, favouring more commercial activities.

Overview of Europeana Foundation Projects

Suggestion to analyse projects that succeeded through Horizon 2020 after February 2016. The results of this analysis will be commercially valuable.

Action 4: LA and LH to define a brief for the H2020 submission results analysis. The follow up action: to estimate the cost of the study, and Option A: to ask the affected institutions to contribute for the analysis fee. Option B: to suggest the case study as a project for university students.

Action 5: MK to suggest how to communicate our criticism of Horizon 2020 proposals to the EC as a group and seek insight into the underlying decision criteria.

Europeana DSI Project Progress

Four core projects contribute directly to our mission of becoming a platform with impact on users, reusers and our partners and we have 6 subcontracts in other supportive projects.
DSI - A successful DSI 1 review was carried out on 13 November. The three Reviewers reiterated their strong call for focus. 30% of the budget spent at halfway of the project with 20% underspend largely from Europeana. Overall underspend is expected.
Europeana Creative was a successful project, Europeana Sounds helps us get into thematic areas for audiences.
Europeana Cloud is complicated conceptually, technically and organisationally. We are investing in reconfiguration of the ingestion system. Project end date extended from January to April 2016. We will have a proposal for the governance structure by the end of the project.
Europeana Food and Drink - The project is being remotely reviewed and might be put on hold or closed. This will not have any financial consequence for Europeana but may cause reputational damage.

Action 6: JC / HV to present a Cloud business case to the Board in a future Board meeting.

Decision 3: The Board approved the Progress Reports.

Finance

Decision 4: The Board approved the revised Annual Report 2014.

Sustainability of Europeana

Draft Sustainability Plan from MSEG Task Force

Europeana could benefit from the Connecting Europe Facility for up to 6 years. Any non EU or MS income would be small, and the majority of the funding needs to come from the European Commission with some support from Member States and possibly from expert hubs.

MSEG Taskforce Final Recommendations

The recommendations were discussed in the MSEG meeting. There are two options for funding: 1) Procurement, 2) Member States Contribution & Grant. On 23 November, Commissioner Oettinger will discuss this with the MS Ministers of Culture. PP underlined that

the MSEG members cannot (in the main) represent the view of Member States. One possible solution would be to share much more information from Europeana Foundation Board with the MSEG.

Pros & Cons of Grant Agreement vs Procurement and Political Agenda for Europeana

Commissioner Oettinger would like to persuade the MS to co-fund Europeana. BR and JC are meeting with Commissioner Oettinger on 30 November. He would like to find a funding solution. It was made clear that the MS feel they already co-fund. BR and JC proposed under CEF 2015 a possibility for the use of generic service money of 2-4 million euros. It is also important to build a better relationship with the DG Connect directorate.

Business Plan & Budget 2016

Business Plan 2016 & Europeana Collections Website

For 2016, Europeana has set four major goals translated into eight objectives. The focus is on making the material more usable and accessible to audiences by improving Europeana Collections. We will test the stability and solicit feedback until February 2016 when the launch of the Music Collections is scheduled. BR congratulated the Europeana team for a great job on the Collections website.
Europeana Publishing Framework is a tiered approach to data partners. It will be published in Dec 2015 – January 2016. The challenge lies not only in technology but also in changing the the mindset of our data providers.

Decision 6: The Board approved the 2016 Business Plan. The 2016 KPIs are not included in this version and will be annexed later following DSI 2 proposal.

Budget 2016

AV presented the interim budget for 2016 to the Board. A new version will come in February 2016, pending DSI2 budget.

Decision 7: The Board approved the interim Budget 2016.

DSI 2 Proposal

JRL asked why Education is not included in the objectives of DSI 2. Education is included in the re-write.

Action 10: DSI 2 budget and proposal to be sent to the Board for approval at the 25 February Board meeting.

Europeana Network Update

Network Update
Europeana Network Association has already achieved the 2015 target of registered members. Council elections for five new seats ran from 3 to 10 November. Over 50% of the members participated. The MC set the objective for next year to focus on sustainability of Europeana, taking advantage of the Dutch Presidency.

A first draft document was put together for the Dutch Council Conclusions. It outlines the merit and mission of Europeana, its governance, its organisation and the need for structural funding. The Network enjoyed a very vibrant AGM. 75% of the members endorsed the BP. 23.1% abstained.

Amendment to the Statutes of Network Association

It is currently written that the voting should take place in advance of the General Assembly. JRL is seeking further legal opinion about this.
An amendment was made to the statutes in relation to the charity status - to achieve the charity status in The Netherlands, the statutes have to include this explicitly.

Europeana Art 280

Despite licence challenges, Europeana Art 280 is proceeding well. To avoid the project celebrating only elite works, well-known works should be paired up with an unknown gem from another European country.

AOB

Europeana Governance structure infographic

Action 11: Board Members to send comments to SA by 7 December.

Member States Presidency Seat on the Board, Level of Representation and Decision making

In the statutes of Europeana Foundation, a Troika is included of the sitting Presidency to consult with and canvas the views of the preceding and succeeding presidencies and other MS. MSEG, as is now, does not have a decision making role and a real aligning of the MSEG and the MS views prior to a Europeana Board meeting is really not manageable. JC suggested we took up the MSEG idea of opening up the meeting papers for the MS to see the work we are doing and for them to be able to comment beforehand.

Governing Board on Pro

Foundation Governing Board page on Pro is being restructured. Board Members were invited to add further information, photo, etc through shadi.ardalan@europeana.eu.

Board Meetings in 2016

BR invited the Board Members to hold the last meeting under his chairmanship in Paris on 30 March 2016. In the meeting election will be held to decide on and appoint his successor amongst the founding Members.

Circulation:
Europeana Foundation Governing Board Members & Observers

Classification:
Public