

Eurodram - réseau européen de traduction théâtrale

Евродрам – европейская сеть театрального перевода

Eurodram - European network for drama in translation

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<http://eurodram.org>

EURODRAM GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

Internet, December 2020

Attending

Albanian, Arabic, BCMS, Bulgarian, Castilian and Galician, English, Finnish, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Kurdish, Macedonian, Norwegian, Polish, Romanian, Turkish, Ukrainian.

Apologies

Armenian, Belarussian, Romani.

No news from

Catalan, Czech, Russian, Swedish.

I - General report

Formal report of the previous year's activities from the secretary/general coordination team:

A new cabinet was elected in December 2019: President: Gergana Dimitrova - Vice President: David Ferré -Secretary: Dominique Dolmieu - Vice Secretary: Gilles Boulan - Treasurer: Ian

De Toffoli - Vice Treasurer: Jeton Neziraj. Wolfgang Barth remains a member of the administrative council.

Dominique reports that Ian has unfortunately not been able to officially register the above changes to EURODRAM's administrative council and cabinet in Luxemburg. Dominique would like to request to change the network's location in order to simplify such registration processes in the future and be able to apply to further funding schemes. As there are currently no proposed options, the GA would like to commission the next administrative council to find the best possible location.

Voted by the GA with 100% agreement.

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the GA meeting must take place online.

The 29 committees of the network now count 311 members, representing an average of about 11 members per committee. By comparison, there were 292 members in 33 committees in 2019.

The accreditation of the coordinators of the Azeri, Hungarian and Slovenian committees has been withdrawn by decision of the board. As there were no candidates to take over as coordinators, the three committees have been removed from the network. However, since then, David Szabo has set up a new Hungarian committee.

Due to issues within the Russian committee, both parties in the conflict have resigned from the committee, including its co-coordinator Sergei Nerubenko. Nadezhda continues as coordinator.

Hanin Barazi had to resign from the coordination team of the Arabic committee due to personal reasons. There were no candidates to take over his position. However, in agreement

with the board, the committee was not removed. Instead, Omar Fertat from the French committee agreed to join the Arabic committee as its new coordinator.

Thanks to Cécile Bocianowski, a new Polish committee was founded.

During the last period, the development of the network (creating new committees where needed) continued to be on halt. Currently, the only ongoing talks we are holding are for the potential creation of an Icelandic committee.

In February 2020, Dominique and Laetitia were invited to a meeting at the University of Bologna. The meeting with Fabulamundi, scheduled for September 2020 in Rome, was cancelled.

The EURODRAM selections were announced on the 27th of March. The texts were chosen by the 290 members of the 29 language committees from 841 original texts received in 2019. By comparison, in 2017 the network received 771 original plays. It may be interesting to note that the highest number of submissions was received in Catalan, French and German.

In 2020, 62 plays were selected from 22 languages. By comparison, in 2018, the network selected 51 plays from 18 languages.

The selections can be found at: <http://eurodram.org/2020-selections/>

Many thanks to Samuel for proofreading the selections.

Topics:

1/ Elections:

The latest administrative council was established in October 2019.

The candidatures for the new board were submitted to the vote of the GA:

- Wolfgang Barth was voted in with a 100% agreement

- Gilles Boulan: 100%

- Dominique Dolmieu: 94%

- David Ferré: 100%

All of them were elected.

2/ Location of the next GA:

David Ferré proposed that the 2021 GA meeting should be held in spring in Madrid in close collaboration with SGAE. Understanding the current situation as a force majeure event, it was agreed that this suggestion would be accepted at the end of the GA meeting unless there were any further suggestions. David will soon propose specific dates. Dominique would like to ask for candidates to come forward for the GA meeting 2022. So far, there have been no suggestions.

3/ Communication:

Dominique reminded the meeting that EURODRAM has not spent money on Facebook advertising this year. Currently, 1065 profiles are subscribed to the network's page (in 2019, it was 791). He thanked the coordinators who provided information for it. The post announcing the latest selection was seen by 6165 profiles. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/eurodram>

He also apologized that he wasn't able to update the website and Facebook page besides a few new articles, as it was very time consuming. He reiterated that he was still satisfied with the current webpage design but felt that the results of new articles/posts on the home page weren't sufficient. He will remove them from the home page shortly. However, all pages will of course remain intact (no broken links nor lost data). Dominique thinks that, at least for now,

David Ferré, Mîrza and himself should be the ones to mainly concern themselves with this issue.

4/ Finances

Dominique reminded the GA that – thanks to Donatella Gravilovitch – the network was involved in the European project application with DAEC. Unfortunately, the project was not granted by the EU. The same happened to the project of the Heartefact Foundation in Belgrade which had been proposed by Malgorzata Semil (former Polish committee).

He also wanted to remind everyone that the Maison d'Europe et d'Orient still finances the general costs of the network (website) and believes that these costs should somehow be distributed more fairly. He will be looking for volunteers soon.

II - Reports of the previous year's activities by each committee:

Albanian:

10 members, coordinator: Jeton Neziraj.

Out of the 10 members, 6 are active, read texts and actively get involved. The coordinator of the committee is Jeton Neziraj. He organises the open calls and moderates the selections.

After the call in 2019 for plays written in Albanian, the committee received 21 plays by 11 playwrights. 8 committee members read the plays and the winners were:

★Veriu (The North) by Agush Mulliqi

★Paladuku (Paladuk) by Albana Muja

★Aliu në makth (Ali in the nightmare) by Erjus Mezini

Thanks to our Albanian committee members with a background in the following languages, 'Veriu' was translated into German and French. 'Veriu' was also included in the 'Anthology of Contemporary plays from Kosovo', a volume that was published by the company Qendra Multimedia that also coordinates the Albanian EURODRAM Committee.

In November, EURODRAM was included as a partner in the RKS_DRAMA Lab 2020/2021 project, a thinktank in which several theatre partners in Kosovo are seeking to develop new plays. The partners of this project are: National Theatre of Kosovo, City Theatre Gjilan, Qendra Multimedia, Etno-fest. 7 playwrights have been chosen to be part of this project and their plays will be published, translated, and promoted – also through the EURODRAM network.

You can find more information about this project here:

http://qendra.org/thirrje-per-pjesmarrje-rks_drama-lab-2020-2021/

The Eurodram call for 2020/2021 has already been launched:

<http://qendra.org/eurodram-thirrje-e-hapur-per-drama-te-perkthyer-2020-2021/>

Arabic:

11 members, coordinator: Omar Fertat.

Armenian:

6 members, coordinator: Armine Anda.

BCMSerbian:

16 members, coordinators: Nikolina Zidek and Darko Lukic.

Nkolina says that both Darko and herself will be having their final university exams until the 20th of December. They will submit their report after this date.

Belarussian:

4 members, coordinator: Nikolay Rudkovski.

Bulgarian:

17 members, coordinator: Gergana Dimitrova.

Our committee consists of 17 members (5 - 6 of them regularly read the texts during the selection):

<https://eurodram-bulgarian.weebly.com/10411098108310751072108810891082108011031090-1082108610841080109010771090.html>

Our coordinator is Gergana Dimitrova and she organises the open calls and selections. Together with the organisation ‘36 Monkeys’, she also organises the public events of the committee. This year, Gergana proposed the committee to choose a new coordinator from within the team. Unfortunately, no one wanted to take on the role.

After the call in 2019 for plays written in Bulgarian, the committee received 23 plays by 17 playwrights. 6 committee members read the plays. Each text was read by 2 members. The shortlist of 6 plays was read by all 6 members.

The selection was published on the 21st of March in Bulgarian and English. You can read more about it here: <https://eurodram-bulgarian.weebly.com/2020.html>

★ Паноптикум (Panoptikum / Паноптикум) # Martina Novakova / Мартина Новакова

★ Пустония (The Desert Land / Пустыния) # Miroslav Hristov / Мирослав Христов

★ Ръкавица (A glove / Перчатка) # Presiyan Kuzov / Пресиян Кузов

Also recommended by the Bulgarian committee: / препоръчано от комитета

„Пиеса с три сестри без Чехов, но с чайка (засега още не е ясно дали ще има позитивен финал) (Three sisters with a seagull, Chekhov is missing / Три сестры с чайкой, но без Чехова (непонятно, чем это закончится)) #Sabina Stefanova / Сабина Стефанова

In collaboration with the organisation ‘36 Monkeys’ and Goethe Institute Bulgaria, the committee plans to hold public readings of the selected plays 2020 within ‘ProText 10’. The event will take place between the 13th – 16th of May 2021. The event for 2019 was cancelled. The open call for plays in translation is scheduled from the 1st of December 2020 until the 15th of January 2021.

Castilian and Galician:

12 members, coordinators: David Ferré and Victor Velasco.

This year, we didn’t have many activities:

- New co-coordinator of the committee: Victor Velasco

- A translation of the winning text into French by David Ferré: 'Los Desafectos' by Juanma Romero, with a grant by The Fundación SGAE (Spain), will be published in 'Actualités Editions' (France) in 2021

- Creation of a WordPress website: <https://eurodramcasgal.wordpress.com>

Catalan:

8 members, coordinator: Victor Munoz.

Czech:

6 members, coordinator: Linda Duskova.

English:

18 members, coordinator: Nina Brazier and Samuel Buggeln.

Nothing to declare.

Finnish:

1 - Members are shared with other local committees, coordinator: David Kozma.

In 2020, the activity of the committee was rather passive. We've launched the open call this week. The committee is still based around the European theatre collective and its reading drama festival, R.E.A.D. (which has been postponed to 2021). We managed to launch the open call for the festival before the lockdown last spring and we received 47 plays from all over the world. The committee collaborates closely with the Finnish theatre information centre, the Finnish playwrights' guild and different drama agencies like Agency North. Also, our exchange programme with our Russian partners has been postponed to 2021.

Additionally, we indicated in our open call that Finnish plays translated into other languages can be submitted to the respective EURODRAM language committees.

French:

43 members, coordinator: Gilles Boulan and Pénélope Dechaufour

In 2020, the French-speaking committee had an important change and appointed a new coordinator in the person of Pénélope Dechaufour, teacher and scholar at the University of Montpellier, who will take over fully from Gilles Boulan for the 2021-2022 season. Thanks to the important recruitment effort undertaken by Pénélope, the number of committee members has now reached 43 people (24 women, 19 men), including 9 translators (German, English, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian, Italian, Arabic and Hebrew).

During the 2020 selection process, the committee received 113 plays almost exclusively from France (mainland and overseas), Belgium and, to a lesser extent, from Switzerland. They were all read in a first round by a minimum of three people, intending to create a shortlist of around twenty pieces. Afterwards, the shortlist was read by as many members as possible. The quality of the plays was excellent, and, after extensive discussions, the committee agreed on a selection.

Despite strong recruitment efforts (mainly among theorists and teachers), the weakness of the French-speaking committee continues to be the underrepresentation of translators likely to translate our selection into other languages and to feed the exchange within the network. To our knowledge, only one text from our selection has been translated as a result of our readings. This is 'Mangrove' by Lucie Vérot, translated into German by Wolfgang Barth.

It should be added that our annual meeting was held just before the confinement of the entire French population, and that the current health crisis has considerably damaged the dynamism of the French-speaking committee and, probably, of the entire network. Likewise, it resulted in the cancellation of several public readings, including the one of the first selected play, 'La Clairière du grand n'importe quoi' by Alain Behar.

Georgian:

4 members, coordinators: Sophia Kilasonia and Maia Simonishvili.

Maia says: I talked with Sophie twice, and she said, we are going to send me some works, which she know and drama writers know about your competition. Also, I have done my fair share. We are going to send the work very soon."

German:

22 members, coordinators: Wolfgang Barth and Blazena Radas.

Our committee now consists of 22 members (17 of them actively working, 5 voluntarily paused during 2020/21 season due to too much work): <https://eurodram.wordpress.com/about/>

Our coordinators are Wolfgang Barth (vieuxloup@t-online.de) and Blazena Radas (blazenaradas@yahoo.com). Among our members, there are several translators who translate into German (from Bosnian, Catalan, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Scandinavian languages, Serbian, Spanish); in both directions (English, French); and from German into Greek and Russian.

We published our selection on the 21st of March (<https://eurodram.wordpress.com/2020/03/>). Our reading list consisted of 87 plays. Each of them was read by at least three members and all members read the 15 plays on the shortlist. You've already received a short description in English of the selected plays and their authors by email. If you wish to re-read it, you will also be able to find the information (in German and English) on our homepage:

Christina Kettering, SCHWARZE SCHWÄNE [BLACK SWANS]

<https://eurodram.wordpress.com/2020/06/20/kurztext-christina-kettering-schwarze-schwane/>

Sean Keller, UND [AND] <https://eurodram.wordpress.com/2020/06/20/kurztext-sean-keller-und/>

Gabriele Kögl, HÖLLENKINDER [CHILDREN OF HELL] <https://eurodram.wordpress.com/2020/06/20/kurztext-gabriele-kogl-hollenkinder/>

We have also published further information about the selected plays and their authors (in German) on our homepage: A text about SCHWARZE SCHWÄNE and an interview with Christina Kettering conducted by Wolfgang Barth; a long conversation about UND between Sean Keller and Carsten Brandau; as well as an interview about HÖLLENKINDER with Gabriele Kögl conducted by Joël Walter.

UND by Sean Keller was performed on the 15th of October at Theaterhaus G7 in Mannheim (the directors were Inka Neubert, member of the German speaking committee, and Pascal Wieandt). Unfortunately, the reading of all selected plays, which should have taken place on

the 14th of November 2020 (also at Theaterhaus G7) had to be postponed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The same is true for our German committee meeting, which was due to take place on the 15th of November 2020.

The plays of the 2020 selection have already been translated (some translations have received funding by different institutions) or will shortly be translated into the following languages:

SCHWARZE SCHWÄNE: Croatian [translation in progress, by Blazena Radas]; English [translation concluded, by Pauline Wick; supported by the FATT Translator Mentorship Programme]; French [translation concluded, by Charlotte Bomy; supported by Maison Antoine Vitez, MAV]; Romanian [translation in progress, by Elise Wilk; supported by the Goethe Institute Bucharest]; Russian [translation concluded, by Galina Franzen; supported by the Goethe Institute Moscow]

UND: French [translation in progress, by Nicole Desjardins]

HÖLLENKINDER: French [translation concluded, by Heinz Schwarzinger]

In total, seven translators are working on the plays. Six of them are members of the German speaking committee. Elise Wilk (Romanian) is not a member of EURODRAM, but the author of a play selected by the Romanian committee in 2020. All translators started their work without receiving a grant. However, we were then fortunately able to organise funding by the Goethe Institute for two translations. Charlotte herself submitted her translation successfully to MAV. The other translators have not received any financial remuneration. They hope that, in the future, they might receive gratifications from potential royalties once the plays are staged (unfortunately the fate of many literature translators).

Also, Sergei Nerubenko, coordinator of the Russian speaking committee, asked us to find translators into German for two plays of the Russian selection 2020: *THE TREE* by Alexander Moltschanow and *WITENKA AND THE OTHERS* by Jurij Wladowskij. We proposed two translators (not members of German speaking committee). Irina Bondas translated *THE TREE* and Ruth Altenhofer translated *WITENKA AND THE OTHERS*. We announced the translations on our homepage with further information (by Galina Franzen) and a short excerpt of each play. We also informed German speaking editors about the new translations.

Greek:

11 members, coordinator: Andreas Flourakis.

Andreas says he will provide an update as soon as possible.

Hebrew:

The Hebrew committee consists of 10 members (7 women, 3 men). In the past year, 2 members left the committee: Oded Lifshitz (Playwright and Director) and Dr. Hana Amit Cochavi (Translator) and we've welcomed 3 new members: Daniel Cohen Levi (Playwright and Director), Dr. Michal Peles (Dramaturge and Researcher) and Prof. Gad Kaynar (Translator, Dramaturge and Poet). They have joined the current members: Maya Arad Yasur (Award winning playwright and PhD researcher), Liat Fassberg (Dramaturge), Shai Shabtai (Writer), Gundula Schiffer (Poet and Translator) and Zohar Wexler (Actor, translator and director). The coordinators are Lilach Dekel Avneri (Director) and Nohar Lazarovich (Dramaturge and Lecturer).

In 2020, we received 23 original plays in Hebrew. The submissions were handed in anonymously, and each play was read by 2 members of the committee. The plays with the highest marks were read by a third member and we published our selection on the 31st of March:

★ אמה מתעוררת (Emma Awakens) by Idan Zilberstein

Emma, an artist and mother, takes her daughter to a man's funeral. The man is the father that the daughter never got to meet. An orphan joins them, he wants to kidnap the daughter. An assassin arrives and it all turns out to be a performance.

According to the contract, the assassin murders the daughter and the orphan. A clerk burns the theatre and strips Emma off her identity. Emma embarks on a personal journey in search of the relevance of the meaning of her life.

★ זונות מלחמה (War Whores) by Or Benezra-Segal

Two rival soldiers and a young boy are trapped in a demilitarized zone during a war. They are terrified, anxiously waiting for rescue that doesn't arrive. No one really cares about them. And maybe they are two children dressed up as soldiers, pointing their weapons to each other's hearts, waiting for someone to tell them to stop fighting and get in the shower.

In addition, we've launched a virtual reading club this year to celebrate the selected plays.

The general public was invited to sign up and receive the plays via email. We then hosted two Q&A sessions with the writers on Zoom, where the audience got the chance to ask questions as well. (11/10 Q&A with Or Benezra-Segal about 'War Whores', 8/11 Q&A with Idan Zilberstein about 'Emma Awakens')

This was a very successful first experiment and we intend to continue this new tradition in 2021 to celebrate the selected translations. We've published a call out for translated plays into Hebrew on the 23rd of November and are looking forward to reading them. The committee members are currently all working on a voluntarily basis. However, we have recently submitted a funding application to the Israeli Culture Office and we hope to receive positive feedback.

Hungarian:

9 members, coordinator: Dávid Szabó

In the summer of 2020, Dávid Szabó became the coordinator and a new committee was formed in September (members: Kriszta Bíró, Françoise Bougeard, Balázs Gera, Zsuzsa Hetényi, Júlia Lázár, Eszter Orbán, Zsuzsa Radnóti, Tamara Török). The first action of the new committee took was issuing a declaration of solidarity with the students and professors of SzFE (University of Theatre and Film Arts in Budapest). In September, the Hungarian committee published an open call for plays translated from European languages into Hungarian. Texts can be submitted until the 31st of January 2021. A detailed description of the new committee, of the declaration of solidarity and the call for translated plays can be found on the Eurodram homepage.

Italian:

23 members, coordinator: Laetitia Dumont-Lewi.

Kurdish:

11 members, coordinator: Mirza Metin.

One of the members is an assistant. Amongst other tasks, he publishes announcements and manages our blog. 2 of the members are women and 9 are men. We want to increase the

number of female members and we are currently looking for new members. Only 2 members of the committee are translators (English-Kurdish). It is difficult to find translators who translate into other foreign languages, but our search continues. We hope to see some results next year. The Kurdish committee issued an open call for texts written in Kurdish in 2020. We received 8 play submissions and chose 3 plays. We cooperated with Avesta Publishing House (Istanbul). The selected plays will be published as a book in 2021. We are planning to perform readings (online or live) of the selected plays in 2021. We will not have a selection this year, as there are no contemporary texts translated from foreign languages into Kurdish.

Macedonian:

4 members, coordinator: Ivan Dodovski.

Facebook page: <https://m.facebook.com/eurodram.mk/>

In 2020, the Macedonian committee published a call for original plays and received 25 new plays. As usual, we selected 3 winners. Following a cooperation agreement signed between Eurodram Macedonia and the Macedonian Theatre Festival 'Vojdan Chernodrinski' in Prilep, the festival applied to the Ministry of Culture and received funding to produce an anthology of selected plays in Macedonian. The book, which was edited by Ivan Dodovski, was published in October 2020. It includes 6 plays that had the highest ranking in the Macedonian Eurodram selection 2020. A special book launch event is expected to take place in June next year within the festival programme. Within the same event, we also want to promote the playwrights along with the selected plays from the call for translations 2021. An electronic copy of the anthology is available upon request.

Norwegian:

2 members, coordinator: Johanna Leira.

Johanna says she has close connections to the Norwegian society of playwrights and has probably recruited two more members. She is also working on creating a Sami/Lappish committee.

Polish:

1 member, coordinator: Cécile Bocianowski.

Cécile says the Polish committee is in the process of being formed; the whole process has been a bit delayed because of the current health crisis and lockdown.

Portuguese:

11 members, coordinator: Fernando Matos Oliveira.

Romanian:

15 members, coordinator: Silvia Circu.

In 2020, we had 5 active members. For the 2020 call we received 8 plays, among which 1 was aimed at teenagers. Out of the 3 that were selected by the jury, the first and third one (Disparitii and Huoo) were already translated into English/Hungarian. Due to my own limited availability, I will try to co-coordinate with Julien Daillere from our committee to see if he is available to work on the 2021 call. Meeting and updates will follow soon.

Romani:

1 member, coordinator: Marcel Courthiades.

Dominique says this committee is not expected to be very active, as there are currently not a lot of playwrights writing in Romani. However, since Romani is the biggest European language without a state, he believes it is important to maintain this committee and confirms that Marcel will be able to react swiftly as soon as anything happens.

Russian:

6 members, coordinator: Nadezhda Balatova.

Swedish:

1 member, coordinator: Corinne François-Denève.

Turkish:

17 members, coordinators: Selin Altıparmak and Hakan Silahsızoglu.

In 2020, we received 2 texts which were read by our committee members. Both texts were selected: 'Ama' (But) by Nadir Sönmez and 'Kayıp Kızlar Ormanı' (Lost Girls Forest) by Aslı E. Şeran.

In spring 2020, more communication took place in the committee. Selin and Hakan also had a meeting with French Institute in Istanbul. Due to the pandemic, those discussions did not go any further but were taken up again at the end of 2020.

Ukrainian:

12 members, coordinator: Neda Nejdana.

In the 2019/2020 season, the Ukrainian committee published a call for original plays (deadline 31st of January) and received 22 new plays, 9 of which were shortlisted and 3 of which were eventually selected.

- «Це стається раптово» (It Happens Suddenly) by Олег Миколайчук-Низовець (Oleg Mykolaychuk-Nyzovetz)
- «Доки не розбився глечик» (Until the Pitcher Broke) by Ігор Юзюк (Igor Yuzuk)
- «Шедевр долі» (A Masterpiece of Fate) by Надія Симчич (Nadiia Symchych)

We published the results on the web page of new drama (dramaworld.pp.ua) and sent the winning texts to the Ukrainian state theatres.

Two young new members joined our committee: Yulia Skybytska, drama critic and translator from Polish to Ukrainian, and Tetiana Schastina, playwright and organiser of the International Art Festival AMPLUA that stages readings of contemporary plays in several cities.

We wanted to organise staged readings of our winning plays at the festival AMPLUA, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was cancelled this year.

'It Happens Suddenly' by Oleg Mykolaychuk-Nyzovetz was translated into English.

The plays by two winning authors Oleg Mykolaychuk-Nyzovetz and Igor Yuzuk were selected for the new anthology of modern Ukrainian drama CHASO&PROSTIR (TIME&SPACE) that will be published in 'SAMIT-KNYGA' in 2021.

In 2020, the Ukrainian committee issued a call for translated plays (open for submissions from 15th December 2020 to the 31st of January 2021).

Report voted by the GA with 100% agreements.

To the Administrative Council, 21st of December 2020.

Gergana Dimitrova.