

Minutes of the EURODRAM GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025

Lyon, 22-26 October 2025

Organised by:

Eurodram – The European Network for Drama in Translation

In partnership with:

Festival Sens Interdits

Université Lumière Lyon 2

Maison d'Europe et d'Orient

Meetings venue: TNG Ateliers Presqu'île – 5 rue du Petit David, 69002 Lyon

Organising Committee: Nicole Desjardins, Gergana Dimitrova, Ivan Dodovski, Dominique Dolmieu, Laetitia Dumont-Lewi, Mélanie Kessels, Maria Kroupnik, Johanna Leira, Catherine Marion, Patrick Penot, François Remandet.

With the help of: Asma Ali Kari, Yassaman Barouti Ardestani, interns at Festival Sens Interdits.

Attending: ***Albanian:*** Sébastien Gricourt; ***Czech:*** Kristina Žantovská (coordinator); ***English:*** Mélanie Armer (NY, USA), Jorge Balça (UK/Portugal); ***Estonian:*** Heidi Aadma (coordinator); ***French:*** Dominique Dolmieu, Laetitia Dumont-Lewi, David Ferré, Catherine Marion, Sophie Bezar, Nicole Desjardins, Patrick Penot, Karin Romer, Émile Zeizig; ***German:*** Elisabeth Schuster (coordinator), Wolfgang Barth (coordinator), Nicole Desjardins; ***Greek:*** Eleni Gini; ***Italian:*** Michele Panella (coordinator); ***Macedonian:*** Ivan Dodovski (president, coordinator), Katarina Kocevska, Darko Jan Spasov; ***Norwegian:*** Johanna Leira (coordinator); ***Romanian:*** Alexandru Ivănoiu (coordinator); ***Russian:*** Elena Gordienko, Maria Kroupnik (coordinator); ***Slovenian:*** Tina Mahkota (coordinator), Alja Predan.

Guests: Dragana Pavlovic (Agency Litera Bosnia), Luminita Voina-Raut (Spain/Romania).

Apologies: Arabic, Armenian, Azeri, Bulgarian, Catalan, Finnish, Georgian, Hungarian, Icelandic, Kazakh, Polish, Portuguese.

Absent: Belarusian, Kurdish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Welsh.

Agenda for the internal meetings:

Thursday 23 October 2025

11:00-13:00 Eurodram internal meeting 1

1. Welcome address by the Eurodram President
2. Welcome address by the codirector of Sens Interdits Festival

3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Report on AC 2025 activities
5. 2025 financial report
6. Brief presentation of 2025 activities by each attending committee (15 committees in total, each allocated 3-5 minutes max.)

Friday 24 October 2025

11:00-13:00 Eurodram internal meeting 2

7. New and dormant committees
8. Options for legal registration of Eurodram
9. Nomination of 2026 Administrative Council members
10. Form and guidelines for committee reports
11. WordPress template for committee web pages

Saturday 25 October 2025

11:00-12:30 Eurodram internal meeting 3

12. Eurodram digital library
13. Future activities: Setting up a project proposal team
14. Next GA meeting
15. Any other business

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the President of Eurodram, Mr Ivan Dodovski.

François Remandet (Festival Sens Interdits) also joined the opening speech and named colleagues who made the meeting possible.

Ivan Dodovski thanked all the contributors and organisers of the General Assembly in Lyon and presented the agenda for all three days of work.

2. Report of the Administrative Council

Administrative Board report covered the following issues:

- Results of the GA 2024 in Tirana, Albania.
- Regular meetings of the AC – 11 meetings have happened between December 2024 and October 2025.
- There was a crowdfunding call announced, and the collected funds haven't covered all expenses.
- Attempts to design and submit the grant proposal were not successful.
- Nineteen committees announce the results of the 2024/25 call for drama in translation. Selection was published on the official Eurodram web page <https://eurodram.org/2025-selections/>
- Thirteen committees have published the new call for the original drama from Europe, the Mediterranean and Central Asia. Submission deadline is 21 December 2025.

Results will be published on 21 March 2026. The president asked other committees to speed up the announcements of the 2025/26 call.

- ***New committees were established:*** Belarusian (anonymous), Czech (Kristina Žantovská), Slovenian (Tina Mahkota).
- ***Coordinators changed in the following committees:*** Albanian (Eleana Ziakou), Bulgarian (Iliana Hubenova), German (Elisabeth Schuster & Ana Trpenoska), Greek (Maria Athini & Theoni Dede), French (Sophie Bezard), Italian (Michele Panella), Polish (Aurelia Klimkiewicz), Portuguese (Jorge Palinhos & Beatriz Carretas), Romanian (Alexandru Ivănoiu).

3. 2025 financial report

The financial report was presented by the Secretary of Eurodram, Dominique Dolmieu. For 2025, Eurodram received 300 euros from crowdfunding. It was proposed to ask each committee to contribute at least 10 Euros annually to support the updated web page and to cover domain name and hosting costs. Dominique Dolimieu proposed that the funds be paid by the first of June at the latest.

The network does not have stable funding, and this issue should be addressed collectively.

NOTE on GA participation:

- Dr Jorge Balça was financed by Portuguese funds through FCT - Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., under the project UIDB/04019/2020.
- Maria Kroupnik was financed by the Small Grant Scheme of the Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership: <http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/>
- Ivan Dodovski' participation has been supported by UNESCO, through the "Culture and Creativity for the Western Balkans" (CC4WBs), a project funded by the European Union that aims to foster dialogue in the Western Balkans by enhancing the cultural and creative sectors for increased socio-economic impact.

4. Brief presentation of 2025 activities by each attending committee

The following committees presented:

German: Wolfgang Barth (coordinator), Elisabeth Schuster (coordinator), on the 2025 selection, with special mention of translations from Albanian and Ukrainian.

Russian: Maria Kroupnik (coordinator) on the 2025 selection and new committee members.

Bosnian/ Serbian: potential committee member Dragana Pavlovic (Agency Litera Bosnia) presented herself and future perspectives on the committee development (state funding for culture is limited; translations are commissioned and paid by authors; some agencies manage the copyright).

Albanian: Sébastien Gricourt - there is some funding for culture from the state, and some publishers also support new drama; however, translations are commissioned and paid by authors.

Czech: Kristina Žantovská - dramaturg, and Tomas Ralis relaunched the committee. The Prague City theatre might help in developments.

Greek: Eleni Gini presented the new Greek committee.

Macedonian: Ivan Dodovski (president, coordinator), Katarina Kocevská, Darko Jan Spasov (Skopje Comedy Theatre) - presented the 2025 selection, reported on the award ceremony for the winners and awarded diplomas; announced the possibility of the 2026 GA in Skopje next October.

English: Mélanie Armer (Nerve Tank, USA), Jorge Balça (Portugal); Mélanie Armer is a new co-coordinator of the committee; reported about the 2025 selection, as well as about the long-term partnership with *The Mercurian journal* (<https://the-mercurian.com/>) - one issue with English-language drama per year.

French: Dominique Dolmieu presented Sophie Bezard as the new coordinator; reported on changes in the committee and 2025 selection. The new committee's NGO is in progress with registration in Lyon. Announced the intention to establish the Association of Theatre Publishers.

Slovenian: Tina Mahkota (coordinator) reported that the committee has 5 working members and cooperates with the Slovenian Theatre Institute.

Norwegian: Johanna Leira (coordinator) shared that keeps working towards having the 2027 GA in Norway; announced that Nobel Prize winner for literature Jon Fosse agreed to become an Honorary member of the Norwegian committee.

Estonian: Heidi Aadma (coordinator) reported on the 2025 selection and work of the Estonian National Playwrights Agency.

Italian: Michele Panella (coordinator) reported on the reorganisation of the committee, launching a new webpage and call, and cooperation with the Theatre Association.

Other committees' audit happened collectively: Arabic - needs to be reactivated, Azeri - year report requested, Belarusian - data and year report requested, Bulgarian - working well, Castilian - non-existent, Catalan - problematic, Basque - non-existent, contacts needed, Welsh - silent, Danish - non-existent, Armenian - Dominique is in contact, Hebrew - silent, Icelandic - silent, Kazakh - working well, Kurdish - silent, Latvian/Tithuanina - help from Estonian colleagues is needed, Hungarian - working well, Dutch - non-existent, Persian - non-existent, Polish - relaunched, Portuguese - working again, Romanian and Slovenian - relaunched, Slovak - non-existent, Finish - Dominique is in contact, Swedish - Ivan has some contacts, Turkish - not working well, Ukrainian - needs to appoint new coordinator, potentially through a public call.

5. Options for legal registration of Eurodram

It is a difficult process. The network has a legal entity in Luxembourg, but hasn't managed to open a bank account and work with that properly.

There should be 2 people to open a legal entity in France, they should have French citizenship.

During the discussion, there were some questions: is it possible to do it under the UNESCO umbrella; how many of the committees have their legal entities; we need to identify the exact algorithm of steps, and possibly vote for that; do we actually need one for the whole network? We need to apply for legal advice on this matter.

It was decided that Dominique should provide the Administrative Council with a detailed explanation and a roadmap for this issue.

6. Nomination of 2026 Administrative Council members

List of Nominees: Mélanie Armer, Nicole Desjardins, Gergana Dimitrova, Ivan Dodovski, Dominique Dolmieu, Alexandru Ivănoiu, Maria Kroupnik, Johanna Leira, Elisabeth Schuster.

7. Digital Resources of the Network: Rules and Regulations

7.1. Form and guidelines for committee reports

A unified template for the committees' annual report was adopted. It should be communicated to all committees and used for reporting on the 2026 selection.

7.2. WordPress template for committee web pages

Committees are encouraged to establish their webpages.

Dominique Dolmieu complained about the amount of editing he is doing for all the committees. It was suggested that we possibly could have extra volunteers to help Dominique with editing the network's webpage, with some particular access assigned.

Some CONs were also expressed: supporting a webpage costs money that some committees do not have. For some, it's enough to have Facebook and/or Instagram pages.

WordPress was suggested as a free (or not very expensive) option; Dominique and Maria Athini to send to committees advice (tutorial links) on opening a webpage with WordPress in 2026.

7.3. Eurodram digital library

The adopted template for collecting information about the plays should be communicated to all committees and used in 2026 and onwards. This would make it easier eventually to compile a digital database; but professional advice and technical help is needed.

Each committee should decide how they will manage the provision of plays to the library and possible copyright issues.

There was a call for volunteers ready to work on the digital library.

8. Future activities: Setting up a project proposal team

Issues discussed:

- Creative Europe proposal or other alternative grant programmes (Goethe Institute, EUNIC, Erasmus, national language support grants)
- Consortium creation
- Grant writing team volunteers: Nicole Desjardins, Alexandru Ivănoiu, Johanna Leira, Elisabeth Schuster.

9. Next GA meeting

2026 - GA in Skopje at the end of October - 25th Anniversary of the network's existence.

2027 - possibly in Norway (autumn, suggested focus on youth).

2028 - possibly in Romania.

10. Any other business

It would be nice to have regular (once every 4-6 months) online meetings for all coordinators to discuss the developments of the network and issues like:

- keeping contacts and communicating within the coordinators' community
- increasing the transparency of the AC activities
- discussing possible partnerships
- discussing the development of digital resources
- analysing competencies and human resources of the network

Mélanie Armer and Johanna Leira will propose to the AC a concept for the first such online meeting, possibly to be held in April 2026.

Newsletter dissemination - distribution lists to be double checked so as to make it more visible in the flow of working email communication.

Minutes taken by Maria Kroupnik.