

Report on the First Eurodram Online Networking Forum

Eurodram held the first edition of its Online Networking Forum on 18 and 19 April. The event was co-organised and co-hosted by Melanie Armer (English-speaking Committee) and Johanna Leira (Norwegian-speaking Committee). Open to all members of the network, the forum attracted around twenty participants each day, representing a successful first attempt at creating an online space for exchange across committees. Members from the Greek, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian, Ukrainian, German, Macedonian, English and French committees were particularly well represented.

The forum aimed to strengthen connections within the network, share experiences and practices, and encourage discussion about Eurodram's future development.

Saturday, 18 April

The forum opened with welcoming remarks before moving into the panel discussion **“What Do We Do? How Do We Do It?”**. Board members and committee representatives shared insights into the different ways committees organise their selection processes and carry out their work. While all committees contribute to the same mission, the discussion highlighted the diversity of approaches across the network and provided an opportunity for members to learn from one another.

After a short break, participants gathered for the conversation **“From Winning to Where?”**, which focused on what happens after plays are selected by Eurodram committees. Discussions explored the various forms of support offered to playwrights, including staged readings, productions, publications, translations, and promotional activities. Participants also reflected on ways to increase the visibility and impact of selected plays. As founder Dominique Dolmieu often notes, all selected plays are, in a sense, winners, as selection itself offers recognition and opportunities for further development.

Both sessions included smaller breakout-group discussions, allowing participants to exchange experiences and ideas in a more informal setting.

Sunday, 19 April

The second day began with opening remarks followed by the panel discussion **“Meet the Administrative Council of Eurodram!”**. Participants had the opportunity to learn more about the role of the Administrative Council and to meet many of the people involved in coordinating and supporting the network's activities.

The afternoon continued with **“The Future of the Network – Let's Talk!”**, an open conversation about Eurodram's future priorities and development. Through breakout-group discussions and a concluding question-and-answer session, participants reflected on what is working well within

the network, what challenges remain, and how Eurodram can continue to evolve in response to changing circumstances.

Main Themes and Ideas

Several recurring themes emerged throughout the weekend:

- Exploring funding opportunities for Eurodram, both collectively and within individual committees.
- Creating a network-wide "think tank" to generate ideas and support strategic development.
- Improving communication and increasing visibility through media and social media channels.
- Identifying priorities for the future of the network and for individual committees.
- Producing brochures and improving the dissemination of information about annual selections.
- Strengthening networking opportunities among members and committees.
- Encouraging greater involvement of young people and future generations of theatre practitioners and translators.
- Developing regional collaborations between committees, for example among Nordic, Baltic, and Eastern European committees.
- Recruiting more translators, whose multilingual and intercultural perspectives can further enrich the network.

Conclusion

The first Eurodram Online Networking Forum provided a valuable opportunity for members from different committees to meet, exchange experiences, and discuss the future of the network. Feedback from participants was positive, and the event was widely regarded as both useful and inspiring.

Given the enthusiasm generated by the forum, participants suggested that similar online gatherings could be organised on a regular basis, either annually or twice a year. Such meetings would help maintain connections across the network between General Assemblies and provide a platform for continued collaboration and exchange.