

Eurozine

Activity report

2018

Introduction

Eurozine is a network of European cultural journals, linking up more than 90 partner journals and associated magazines and institutions from nearly all European countries. Eurozine is also an online magazine which publishes outstanding articles from its partner journals with additional translations into one of the major European languages.

Europe needs a diverse and vibrant public sphere to face the manifold challenges that endanger openness and democratic development of its societies. The landscape of independent cultural journals, in itself highly diverse, plays a key role in this process as cultural journals introduce the best of European intellectual production to public readership and debate.

By providing a Europe-wide overview of current themes and discussions, Eurozine offers a rich source of information for an international readership and facilitates communication and exchange between the journals themselves. By presenting the best articles from its partners, as well as original texts on the most pressing issues of our times, Eurozine opens up a new space for transnational debate.

History

Eurozine emerged from an informal network dating back to 1983. Since that time, editors of European cultural journals have met once a year in different European cities to exchange ideas and experiences. In the meantime, more than 100 periodicals from almost every European country have become involved in these meetings.

In 1995, the meeting took place in Vienna. The success of this meeting, in which numerous eastern European magazines participated for the first time, and the rapid development of the Internet encouraged the editors to reinforce the existing loose network with a virtual but more systematic one. Eurozine was established in 1998.

Eurozine is a showcase for the many possibilities that cooperation between print and electronic media creates. In presenting its partners online, Eurozine gives these printed journals the chance to widen their sphere of influence without compromising their independence. At the same time, Eurozine's base in printed journals with a longstanding intellectual tradition distinguishes it from most other web-based projects.

The journals *Mittelweg 36* (Hamburg), *Kritika & Kontext* (Bratislava), *Ord&Bild* (Göteborg), *Revista Crítica de Ciências Sociais* (Coimbra), *Transit – Europäische Revue* (Vienna), and *Wespennest* (Vienna) are Eurozine's founding members.

Today, Eurozine hosts the European Meeting of Cultural Journals each year together with one or more of its partners in different cities in Europe. The meetings have become a flagship event attracting more than a hundred participants – editors, authors, researchers, media experts, cultural managers and interested audiences – with three days of programme including lectures, panels, workshops and a network session.

Publishing in 2018

Designed as an independent cultural platform, Eurozine uses the internet and social media to promote the leading European cultural journals; to intensify communication and exchange between them; and to offer, as a journal of its own, a public space of a new type for open and critical debate on a transnational level.

Translation is the key to creating a European public space that respects diversity. By translating texts into one of the widely-spoken European languages, Eurozine creates the possibility for texts to be understood and valued outside of their original context.

Eurozine published a total of 234 articles and translations in 2018 (2017: 211) – this includes 174 individual articles and 60 translations (2017: 162 and 49) – a majority of which (109 out of 174) originated from Eurozine’s partner journals and associates (in 2017: 109 out of 162).

In February 2017, Eurozine launched a new website with a responsive design to improve user experience also on mobile devices. Eurozine’s email newsletters: Eurozine Newsletter, Eurozine Review and the internal Eurozine Partner Newsletter were redesigned as well. In 2017 and 2018, Eurozine gathered feedback and developed a project to further improve the website with a major redesign planned for early 2019.

Focal Points

In June 2018, Eurozine started the new Focal Point “**Internet technologies and democracy**” which is sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and which will be continued in 2019. A total of 13 texts have been published in Eurozine in collaboration with participating journals, which contributed most of the texts and published respective language versions in their own print and online issues. See also the 2017 related Focal Point “**Disinformation and Democracy**” which was funded by the NED as well.

The Focal Point “**Worlds of cultural journals**” includes 17 articles, with additional translations, that focus on the history of cultural journals and the contexts they operate in. This collaborative Focal Point was developed together with the Working Group on Periodical Research, a Eurozine associate, and in collaboration with additional partner journals. The Focal Point, which complements the quantitative perspective of Eurozine’s European Cultural Journals Study with a qualitative view, was financed by the European Union.

Both Focal Points – Worlds of cultural journals and Internet technologies and democracy – served as a conceptual basis for individual panel discussions during the 29th European Meeting of Cultural Journals in Vienna.

The ongoing Focal Points “**Ukraine in European Dialogue**” and “**Eurasia in Global Dialogue**” (previously: Russia in Global Dialogue) were continued in 2018 with a total of 23 new articles, not including additional languages versions, published in Eurozine. The Focal Points are financed by the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna.

Five of the most-read articles in 2018

- 📄 How to change the course of human history (at least, the part that’s already happened) (EN, UK, FR, ET, IT, NO)
DAVID GRAEBER, DAVID WENGROW, 2 March 2018
The story we have been telling ourselves about our origins is wrong, and perpetuates the idea of inevitable social inequality. David Graeber and David Wengrow ask why the myth of ‘agricultural revolution’ remains so persistent, and argue that there is a whole lot more we can learn from our ancestors.
<https://www.eurozine.com/change-course-human-history/>
- 📄 The ‘Bangkok of Europe’ (EN)
REKA KINGA PAPP, 23 February 2018
A vicious cycle of destitution locks large numbers of Hungarian women into sex work. Moving to western Europe to avoid prosecution, their vulnerability and isolation only increases. Réka Kinga Papp on systemic exploitation in the European sex trade.
<https://www.eurozine.com/the-bangkok-of-europe/>
- 📄 Islamic feminism: A contradiction in terms? (EN, FR)
GHALIYA DJELLOUL, 8 March 2018
Islamic feminism critiques Islamic patriarchy by historicizing and reinterpreting sources of scriptural authority. Secular feminists, however, rule out any possible compatibility between feminism and Islam. Belgian social scientist Ghaliya Djelloul reviews the arguments and suggests a way past restrictive dichotomies.
<https://www.eurozine.com/islamic-feminism-contradiction-terms/>
- 📄 What makes a great magazine editor? Seven theses on editorial plurality (EN)
MATTHEW PHILPOTTS, 4 May 2018
There can be no doubting the historical influence of literary-intellectual magazines, but we still know little about how they were led and managed. Looking at some of the outstanding magazine editors of twentieth-century Europe, Matthew Philpotts argues that the key to success lies not just in individual talent and charisma, but also in strong editorial collectivity and social conditions favourable to publishing.
<https://www.eurozine.com/makes-great-magazine-editor/>
- 📄 The anti-European tradition of Europe (EN, CS)
ANDREI PLEȘU, 19 February 2018
North and South, East and West, centre and periphery – the dichotomies with which Europe’s constitution is riven have profound cultural-historical roots. Particularly the schism between the Byzantine and Graeco-Roman cultures is a persistent source of friction, writes the renowned Romanian art historian and philosopher Andrei Pleșu.
<https://www.eurozine.com/anti-european-tradition-europe/>

Print series

Inspired by the anniversary the organisation, Eurozine published an anthology as part of its im:print series:

“Widening the Context: A Eurozine Anthology”

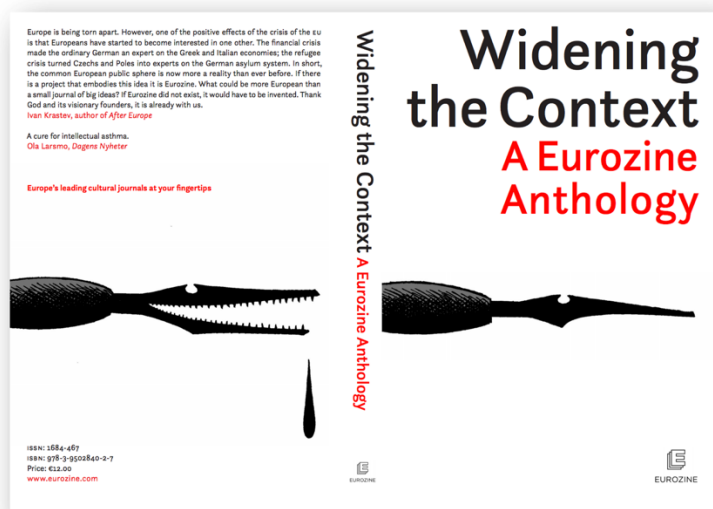
What started thirty-five years ago as an informal meeting of European editors became the basis for Eurozine, founded in 1998 as an online cultural journal and editorial network. To celebrate this double anniversary, Eurozine has published a print anthology spanning the project chronologically, thematically, generically and geographically. The book provides an insight into two decades of engagement with issues at the heart of the European debate. From the new nationalisms to Euro-Islam, from Paris and Prague to free speech and the role of intellectuals, from algorithms to post-truth politics and the masculinities of Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump – a collection of texts that widen the context.

Featuring articles by: Slavenka Drakulić, Jan-Werner Müller, Ida Börjel, Jacques Rupnik, Timothy Snyder, Barys Piatrovich, Tatiana Zhurzhenko, Marci Shore, Kenan Malik, Nilüfer Göle, Kathrin Passig and Achille Mbembe. With an introduction by Eurozine co-founders Carl Henrik Fredriksson and Klaus Nellen.

The book was edited and commented by Carl Henrik Fredriksson, Simon Garnett and Klaus Nellen.

⇒ The book can be ordered [here](#).

⇒ The article “Widening the context. The making of a European journals network” is available [here](#).



29th European Meeting of Cultural Journals

In 2018, Eurozine celebrated a twofold anniversary: 35 years since the first European Meeting of Cultural Journals in Switzerland in 1983, as well as 20 years since the foundation of the online magazine and the association Eurozine.

The 29th European Meeting of Cultural Journals took place in Vienna (Austria) from 2 to 4 November 2018. The meeting was organized by Eurozine, together with Vienna-based Eurozine partner journals *dérive*, *L'Homme*, *springerin* and *Wespennest* and in cooperation with *Alte Schmiede Kunstverein*, *Time to Talk*, *Belvedere 21* and *Wiener Vorlesungen*. Editors from the Eurozine network, as well as other editors, researchers, journalists and general audiences, participated in the conference.



Vienna, November 2018

The meeting was titled **”Mind the gap: Illiberal democracy and the crisis of representation”**. Panels discussed the rise of the populist right as result of a failure of institutional politics and the role of the liberal media in the dynamics of polarization. We also looked at surveillance capitalism and the corporate and state capture of the internet, as well as the history of cultural journals and the practice of cultural journalism today.

Following the network session on Friday afternoon, the three-day conference opened on Friday, 2 November 2018 at 7 pm with a conversation between Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Claus Leggewie. The two discussed what is to be done for a free and open Europe

in light of the nationalist and illiberal populism gaining ground across the continent. The discussion was open to the public.

The programme on the following days consisted of panel discussions, workshops and bar camp on Saturday, 3 November and Sunday, 4 November 2018.

⇒ Download the full conference programme [here](#) (PDF).

⇒ Videos of the panel discussions and the keynote discussion as well as links to media coverage about the conference and speakers can be found [here](#).

All public discussions were livestreamed via Facebook and are available on Eurozine's YouTube. To date, the videos were viewed more than 4.000 times.

A survey shows that participants were overall very satisfied with the formats and contents of the conference. The meeting has been a clear success also in terms of live audience: It brought together over 100 editors representing 53 different partner journals and associates from all over Europe, as well as an additional public audience for the public keynote on the first conference day (2017: 94 participants representing 28 partners and associates).

Publications related to the conference

In addition to the book “Widening the Context: A Eurozine anthology”, Eurozine published related articles by the conference's panelists and additional texts in two focal points:

⇒ “Worlds of cultural journals” ([link](#))

⇒ “Internet technologies and democracy” ([link](#))

Network activities

In addition to Eurozine's two key areas of activity: The online magazine and the annual conferences, Eurozine has introduced several new activities in 2017 and 2018 that aim at strengthening the network and facilitating exchange of know-how between the journals.

Research: The European Cultural Journals Study is the first research project to map the landscape of cultural journals in Europe. It was commissioned to the University of Groningen, Netherlands, and was published in Eurozine in October 2018. The leading project researcher Prof. Tamara Witschge presented the study during the European Meeting of Cultural Journals in Vienna.

⇒ [European Cultural Journals Study](#)

Funding: The Eurozine Funding Opportunities Outlook was launched in March 2018 and informs the network monthly about upcoming calls for funding, such as grants for mobility or translations. To date, 53 opportunities have been published in the list as well as promoted via Eurozine's internal network newsletter.

⇒ [Eurozine Funding Opportunities Outlook](#)

Translations: To facilitate syndication across borders, Eurozine introduced the Eurozine Translations Pool which is available to partner journals and associates and co-finances translations to be published in the journals. In 2018, 58 translations were co-financed with a total amount of over 8.000 EUR.

Eurozine Online Workshops: Eurozine's Online Workshops were introduced in April 2018 and provide a platform for cultural journalists to share their expertise with each other as well as external experts and thus develop their publishing activities. In 2018, Eurozine organised three webinars on the topics "Editors' Roundtable – editorial collaboration", "Strategies for cultural publishing today" with external expert Miriam Rasch and "How to increase print readership?".

⇒ [Eurozine Online Workshops](#)

Visibility

Since the relaunch of Eurozine's website on 1 February 2017, and during 2018, Eurozine's audience has been growing constantly, with an average of 60,000 users visiting the website, generating over 90,000 page views per month.

Eurozine's reach via social media has been increasing since 2016, and both the audience and level of involvement was further increased in 2018. In December 2018, over 18.000 users were following Eurozine's Facebook page (2017: 16.000), 5.500 were following the twitter account (2017: 4.300). Instagram and YouTube accounts were added to the portfolio of Eurozine's social media accounts in 2017.

- Eurozine has a strong group of regular readers: 65 % new vs. 35 % returning visitors
- Female/male readers balance: 53 % vs. 47 %
- Visitors from all over Europe, top countries: Germany, UK, Austria, Italy, Sweden. Strong readership in the U.S. (20 %).
- Many young readers: 50 % age 18–34, and seniors: 9 % are 65+. The share of young readers slightly increased in 2018.
- Traffic sources: Organic search (36 %), direct (27 %), links (21 %), social media (15 %). In 2018, the share of organic search increased to 45 %, due to improved SEO.
- No time for long reads? The opposite can be observed on Eurozine: Web statistics, heatmaps and recordings show that users typically scroll through and spend an above-average length of time on each article.
- The new website design is mobile-friendly, resulting in increasing shares of mobile devices, such as mobile phones and tablets, which made up 44 % of traffic in 2018, as compared to 37 % in 2017

Newsletters

The bi-weekly Eurozine Newsletter presents articles and translations published in Eurozine alongside news from the network which promote the activities of partner journals. In the reporting period, a total of 25 newsletters were sent out, promoting over 200 articles, translations and network news items. A special edition promoted the conference in Vienna.

The Eurozine Review consists of original, concise reviews presenting current issues of network partner journals, thus providing a Europe-wide overview of current topics and texts. In 2018, the Eurozine Review was published 16 times (2017: 10), and disseminated via email newsletter as well as the website.

At the end of 2018, the Eurozine Newsletter and the Eurozine Review were reaching an audience of over 12,000 subscribers.

Additionally, the internal Eurozine Partner Newsletter informs the network about Eurozine's activities such as meetings, calls for collaboration in Focal Points, and internal developments in the organisation.

Network

One new partner journal and two associates joined the network in 2018. At the end of 2018, Eurozine's network was linking up a total of 77 partner journals and 12 associates publishing in a wide range of languages and operating in 35 countries: Albania; Algeria; Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Ireland; Kosovo; Latvia; Lithuania; Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M.); Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Turkey; Ukraine and the UK.

Partner journals

2000, A2, Akadeemia, Arche, Atlas, Belgrade Journal of Media and Communications, Beton International, Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik, Cogito, Critique&Humanism, Czas Kultury, Derive, Dialogi, Dilema Veche, Dziejaslou, Esprit, Frakcija, Fronesis, Genero, Glänta, Host, Il Mulino, Index on Censorship, Intellectum, Kritika&Kontext, Krytyka, Krytyka Polityczna, Kultura Liberalna, Kulturos Barai, La Revue Nouvelle, LaPunkt, Le Monde Diplomatique OSLO, L'Espill, Letras Libres, L'Homme, Merkur, Mittelweg 36, Multitudes, Mute, Neprikosnovennij Zapas (NZ), New Eastern Europe, New Humanist, New Literary Observer (NL0), Nova Istra, Nuroi Voima, Ny Tid (FI), Ny Tid (NO), Ord & Bild, Osteuropa, Partisan, Passage, Poeteka, Polar, Prostory, Razpotja, Res Publica Nova, Reset, Revista Crítica, Revolver Revue, Revue Projet, Rigas Laiks, Roots, RozRazil, Samtiden, Sarajevo Notebook, Sens Public, Sodobnost, Soundings, Spilne, Springerin, Symbol, Syn og Segn, Transit, Vagant, Varlik, Vikerkaar, Wespennest

Associates

Arbeitskreis Kulturwissenschaftliche Zeitschriftenforschung, Booksa, Dublin Review of Books, Einstein Forum, Fondazione Di Vagno, Free Speech Debate, Historein, ICORN, Internazionale, Kulturpunkt.hr, NAQD, openDemocracy

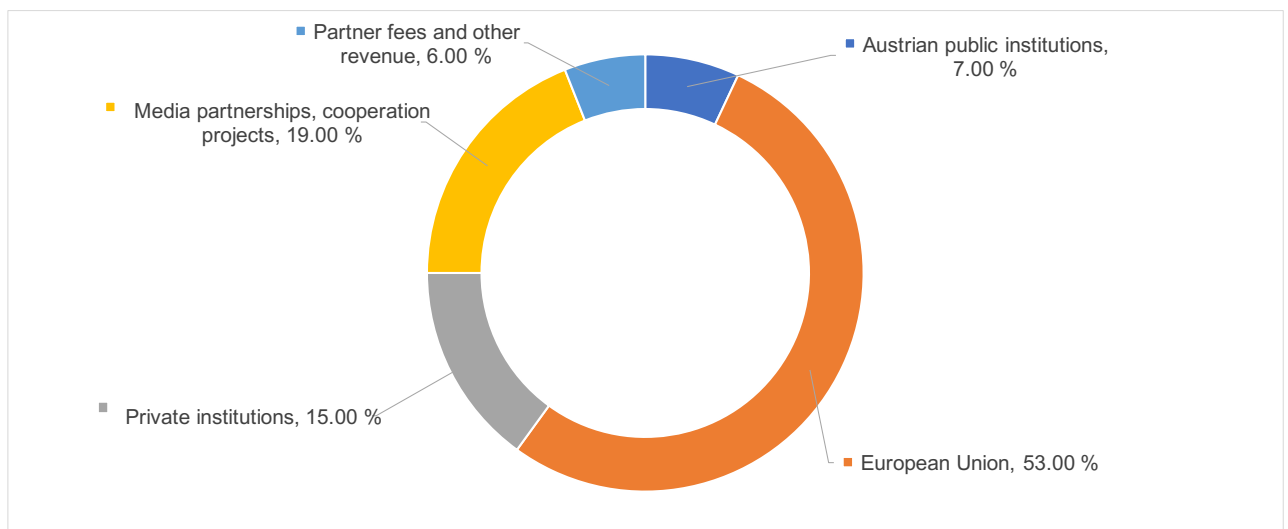


Find the full interactive map [here](#).

Finances

Eurozine had a diverse funding mix in 2018. Since May 2017, Eurozine is being co-financed by the European Union’s “European Networks” strand of Creative Europe with an annual co-financing of 250.00 EUR per year. The second largest share comes from various media cooperations and publishing projects which have become an important element of Eurozine’s business model. As Eurozine is not-for-profit, all income is used to finance the organisation’s activities in accordance to the statutes.

Eurozine’s total budget in 2018 was 467.000 EUR.



Organisation

Eurozine is a not-for-profit institution, with an editorial office based in Vienna. The Editorial Board, composed of the editors of four European cultural journals, and the Advisory Board play an important role in guiding and advising the Eurozine editors.



From the left: Tina, Simona, Marije, Filip, Réka, Béline (intern), Melina, Simon

Staff

At the end of 2018, Eurozine's staff consisted of 7 employees (= 6 FTE), headed by Filip Zieliński and Reka Kinga Papp:

Reka Kinga Papp, Editor-in-chief of Eurozine. Reka Kinga Papp joined Eurozine in November 2018, succeeding James Thomson. Réka is a Hungarian journalist and media researcher specialized in sociology, the representation of marginalized social matters and social science infotainment. Before joining Eurozine she had worked with numerous NGOs reporting on their clientele and fields of expertise; wrote political commentary for the weekly HVG, and has been running a radio show on human sciences at Klubrádió for almost four years.

Filip Zieliński, Managing Director since January 2016. From 2013 to 2016, Public Relations and Project Management Officer at the Polish Institute Vienna, a public diplomacy institution. Prior to this, Filip worked as a research associate at the University of Vienna. He holds an MA in Sociology, History and Slavonic Literature from the University of Heidelberg, Germany and a doctorate in History from the University of Vienna, Austria.

Tina Deschu, Editorial assistant, joined Eurozine as an intern in 2017. Tina's background is in journalism. She worked with major Austrian newspapers and she holds a degree in Journalism and Media Management from the University of Applied Sciences in Vienna.

Simon Garnett, Editor. Employee at Eurozine 2005–2012 and from 2016ff. He holds degrees in English Literature (University of Cambridge, BA Hons.) and Visual Theories (University of East London, MA). In 2012-2016 he was a member of the Research Group 'Privacy: Forms, Functions, Transformations' at the University of Passau, funded by the German Research Council. He also works as a translator from German to English, and as a freelance copy editor for various publishers and organizations.

Simona Jazbinšek, Project manager at *Eurozine* since January 2018, after working at the University of Ljubljana in project management and research. Previously worked as an external expert and researcher for WHO, Slovenian public health institutions and research institutes. Holds degrees in ethnology and cultural anthropology (MA) and in economics (MA).

Melina Koumides, Communications and Event Manager, joined Eurozine in March 2017. She previously worked as PR and project manager and editor (Radio Afrika TV, Bum Media, IAEA, Vienna). Melina has a BA (Honours) in International Politics & French from Aberystwyth University; she later studied at Sciences Po in Strasbourg, and was awarded an MA in Europe Studies by the University of Vienna.

Marije Kruis, Online Editor and Social Media Manager. Marije joined Eurozine in 2017 after working as a journalist for more than ten international magazines in the fields of music, gaming and street art, and as a full-time international marketing and PR manager at several companies in the Netherlands and Austria. She has degrees in Communications (BA) and in Communication Systems (BA). Marie will be leaving the organisation in June, Eurozine is currently recruiting her successor.

Editorial Board

Eurozine's Editorial Board comprises four editors of the network, representing it by geography, gender, generation and genre, and serves as an additional interface between the Eurozine office and the network partners.

Members of the Editorial Board in 2018

- Miljenka Buljević, Kulturtreger and Booksa, Zagreb
- Daniel Leisegang, *Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik*, Berlin
- Agnieszka Rosner, Res Publica Nowa, Warsaw, joined in 2018
- Audun Lindholm, Vagant, Berlin and Norway, joined in 2018
- Oksana Forostyna, former editor of *Krytyka*, Kyiv, term ended in 2018
- Göran Dahlberg, Glänta, Gothenburg, term ended in 2018

Board of Trustees

Eurozine's Board of trustees in 2018:

- Gaby Zipfel, Initiator of the international research group 'Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict'; researcher at the Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur, Hamburg
- Samuel Abrahám, founder and editor of *Kritika & Kontext*; rector of the liberal arts college BISLA, Bratislava
- Klaus Nellen (chair), Permanent Fellow Emeritus at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna; previously executive editor of *Transit*
- Veronika Leiner, Cultural manager and educator, managing director at Eurozine 2009 to 2016, Vienna
- Göran Dahlberg, editor at *Glänta* and publisher, Gothenburg, joined the Board of Trustees in 2018

Board meetings

On 23–25 February 2018, Eurozine held a meeting for both the Editorial Board and the Board of Trustees in Vienna, in which all board and team members participated. One full day was devoted to planning the upcoming conference in Vienna; for this session, the Austrian co-organisers (all four Eurozine partner journals from Austria) joined the meeting. The Board of Trustees focused on planning the upcoming changes in boards membership on Friday, and the Editorial Board discussed editorial strategy in a separate meeting on Sunday.

On 25 May, Eurozine held its regular annual General Assembly with the Board of trustees to discuss strategy and budgets.

The Editorial Board Meeting in Berlin, 13–15 July 2018, focused on organizing the upcoming annual conference in Vienna. In addition to regular agenda items, two new Editorial Board members were introduced: Agnieszka Rosner, editor at *Res Publica Nowa*, Poland; and Audun Lindholm, editor at *Vagant*, Norway. Rosner and Lindholm are succeeding Göran Dahlberg (who moved to Eurozine's Board of Trustees) and Oskana Forostyna.

Another Editorial Board Meeting was held during the Eurozine conference on 2 November 2018 in Vienna, with a focus on publishing activities and conference planning.

Contact

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