

Eurozine

Activity report

2023

Introduction

Eurozine is a network of European cultural journals, linking up more than 100 partner journals and associated magazines and institutions from 37 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 each year in different European cities to exchange ideas and experiences. In the meantime, well over 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 2023

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 129 articles and translations in 2023. Of the articles, 29 originated from the network, while 100 were original commissions by Eurozine.

In addition, Eurozine published 60 Eurozine reviews or review items and 16 editorials.

Expanding Europe

The idea of ‘decentring Europe’ guides Eurozine’s approach to the question: how to be a European network of cultural journals and platform for European cultural debate without operating a homogenous concept of ‘Europe’?

To ‘decentre Europe’ is to avoid thinking in terms of centre and periphery both in Europe as well as globally. In practical terms, this means systematically juxtaposing perspectives, be they east/west or European/non-European. It means representing the multi-cultural reality of European societies as well as Europe’s global context.

Russia's assault on Ukraine, starting a land war whose scale exceeds many armed conflicts since WWII, has thrown into sharp relief where the borders of Europe and the EU lie. Eurozine has always had strong professional ties in Ukraine, and we have maintained our focus on the country’s public discourse continuously since 2014. See our Ukraine coverage [here](#).

For Eurozine, ‘decentring Europe’ also means extending our coverage to non-European neighbourhoods, above all to non-EU eastern Europe, SWANA, South Caucasus and Central Asia. This requires working with cultural journals, media and other relevant organizations in order to publish content not just about but also from these regions.

Focal points

List of Focal Points that were continued or launched in 2023:

Breaking Bread

Food and water systems under pressure: as the end of abundance becomes an everyday experience in Europe, we are thinking more closely about how our food reaches the table.

- Total of 9 articles published in 2023
- See this page for a full list:
<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/breaking-bread/>

The writing on the wall

Some observers, recalling the disasters of the 1920s and 30s, are suggesting that an anti-democratic counterrevolution on a global scale has begun. But is the writing really on the wall? Or does declinism prevent us from recognizing moments of democratic renewal?

- Total of 30 articles published in 2023
- See this page for a full list:
<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/writing-on-the-wall/>

Unprovoked, unjustified: Russia's war on Ukraine

Eurozine looks into the political, social and cultural factors that define the war on Ukraine, from Russia's neo-imperialist aspirations and the concept of culpability to artists at the forefront of Ukrainian resistance.

- Total of 14 articles published in 2023 by authors including Olena Myhashko, Tatiana Zhurzhenko, and Kateryna Botanova.
- See this page for a full list:
<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/unprovoked-unjustified/>

Lessons of war: the rebirth of Europe revisited

Russia's invasion of Ukraine poses the greatest challenge to Europe's self-understanding since World War II. Contributors to the new series 'Lessons of war' take on this challenge and reflect on the possibility of a 'Rebirth of Europe'.

- Total of 7 articles published in 2023
- See this page for a full list:
<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/lessons-of-war/#articles>

Elastic borders

Borders define. Conventionally, they seem demarcated, set. But the political situations in nation states and regional unions often bring the jurisdiction of borders into question. There are states determined to acquire more land. And those pushing to restrict legal entry. Forced migration, caused by environmental crises, war and poverty, has become a

particularly keen topic for inhospitable hosts, focusing on both exclusion and expansionist solutions. An interdisciplinary team of researchers at the University of Graz calls this phenomenon 'Elastic Borders'.

- Total of 1 article published in 2023
- See this page for a full list:
<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/elastic-borders/>

Eurasia in global dialogue

This focal point presents the findings of the project 'Eurasia in Global Dialogue' being carried out at the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna (IWM). It is an extension of the earlier focal point, 'Russia in Global Dialogue' that ran in Eurozine and at the IWM from 2012–2018.

- Total of 116 texts plus translations published between June 2011 and December 2023, by authors including Maria Lipman, Timothy Snyder, Oleg Sentsov, Nikolay Mitrokhin, Lilia Shevtsova, Dimitar Bechev
- 2 articles published within the reporting period
- See this page for a full list:

<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/world-in-pieces/>

Ukraine in European Dialogue

This focal point, stemming from the project 'Ukraine in European Dialogue' of the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna, discusses the challenges facing the young Ukrainian democracy, its place in Europe, and the lessons it might offer for the future of the European project.

- Total of 76 articles published between February 2016 and December 2023, by authors including Nataliya Gumenyuk, Mariana Verbovska, Mykola Riabchuk, Marci Shore, Kateryna Botanova
- 4 articles published within the reporting period
- See this page for a full list:

<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/ukraine-in-european-dialogue/>

Overdue: The ecology of humans

Our dossier *Overdue: the ecology of humans* is ongoing, with special focus on disadvantaged and marginalized peoples' experience during the trying circumstances it addresses. Our main aim is to provide representation where it's most needed, address the questions of fairness and access, and map new approaches to tackling these upheavals. This focal point discusses climate change and the cultural and political factors behind the ecological crisis, as well as potential ways out of it.

- Total of 44 articles published between June 2019 and December 2022

by authors including Achille Mbembe, Peter Salmon, Kate Brown, Clare Taylor, Kaya Genç, Damien de Blic, Gergely Simon

- 4 articles published within reporting period
- See this page for a full list:

<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/overdue/>

Knowledgeable youth

"Vom Wissen der Jungen" / "Knowledgeable youth" is a collaboration between Eurozine, RECET and Viennese community radio Radio ORANGE 94.0, funded by the City of Vienna (Stadt Wien Kultur).

- 5 articles published within reporting period
- See this page for a full list:

<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/youth-project/>

The world in pieces

Inspired by a lecture that Clifford Geertz delivered in 1995 at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, this focal point engages with 'deep diversity', 'a sense of dispersion, of particularity, of complexity and of uncenteredness' rather than unified world order. It follows the launch of a research programme of the same name at the institute in January 2023.

- Total of 2 articles published within reporting period
- See this page for a full list:

<https://www.eurozine.com/focal-points/world-in-pieces/>

Podcast

In 2020 Eurozine launched its podcast series promoting the journals of the network and their content. During the reporting period, *Gagarin, the Eurozine podcast* featured discussions on refusing victimhood in Ukraine with Kateryna Botanova, the fight to be white with Iván Kalmár, the myth of democracies with John Keane, dealing with war and AI with André Wilkens, and democide with Ferenc Laczó. Altogether 5 podcast episodes were published this year.

The most read articles on Eurozine in 2023

1. <https://www.eurozine.com/whom-to-trust/>
2. <https://www.eurozine.com/europes-second-chance/>
3. <https://www.eurozine.com/sleepwalkers/>

4. <https://www.eurozine.com/the-eye-of-the-whale/>
5. <https://www.eurozine.com/europe-after-the-death-of-peace-of-mind/>
6. <https://www.eurozine.com/lessons-of-war/>
7. <https://www.eurozine.com/who-represents-farmers/>
8. <https://www.eurozine.com/the-traps-of-de-modernization/>
9. <https://www.eurozine.com/ukraine-europes-greatest-test/>
10. <https://www.eurozine.com/cities-feeling-the-heat/>

Additional network activities and events

Youth project

Eurozine developed a new educational project in collaboration with the Research Center for the history of transformations (RECET, University of Vienna) which received funding from the City of Vienna. This brings new life to the organization as an opportunity to engage in a more open dialogue with our core audience; Eurozine's readership is consistently very young (the majority under 34, with consistently more than 30% of readers under 25), which goes against the popular belief that young people don't choose quality content. However, the editors in Eurozine's network are also traditionally embedded in institutions of education, so this is a natural fit.

In the new project Vom Wissen der Jungen, Eurozine and the researchers at RECET worked with Ukrainian students at the Free Education Hub and School in Vienna, involving them in defining the format of the events they attend. They were also active participants of a creative process where they produce their own media products to address scientific topics at public events. The project started in September 2022 with outreach to youth groups and interested pedagogues, and the forums were held throughout 2023, as well as the media production workshops.

Display Europe

Starting in 2023, Eurozine has developed its own talk show on European topics called Standard Time. This is in partnership with the EU-funded project [Display Europe](#), a pan-European media platform publishing and translating content from across Europe into 15 different languages. Standard Time has gained a following of 12.000 Youtube subscribers by the end of 2023. Eurozine is also involved in publishing content on Display Europe, as well as supporting the translations and technical set-up to ensure a more fluid user experience on the platform.

Come Together

Eurozine is a consortium partner in the [Come Together](#) Creative European Journalism Partnerships project. The project aims at strengthening the resilience of cultural media organisations in an environment of decreased public funding and shifting audiences. As a partner, we are taking part in and hosting professional workshops and study visits to introduce partners to different business and operative models. As part of this project, Eurozine will host a webinar on video content production in May 2024, a conference in Warsaw on [Sustaining Journalism](#) in October 2024, and a study visit for all partners in November 2024.

Visibility

The audience of the Eurozine online magazine is steadily increasing, as comparative data of traffic shows below.

The general audience of Eurozine's collaborative publishing and public events is diverse and has been growing since 2020: 43.71% increase in users, 50.58% increase in page views, with a 45% decrease in bounce rate. Our readership is highest in the USA, UK, Germany, Italy and France, and we have recently experienced significant growth in Eastern Europe, SWANA and the Far East, specifically Ukraine, Turkey, Hungary, North Macedonia, Russia and Romania.

The magazine performs best in the 25-34 age group. As a targeted outreach to them, new types of content have been developed: Topicals and Tangents are syllabus-style recommendations on a particular topic or along a particular logic. We are also collaborating with universities.

The same steady increase holds true for social media and public reach. In December 2023, over 20.000 users were following Eurozine's Facebook page (2023: 20.385), 10.877 were following the twitter/X account, 2.081 were following us on Instagram, and 11.800 were following us on Youtube. Social media gains have slowed down somewhat since we shifted focus from these often fickle platforms to more direct means of engagement.

Our priority is gaining new subscriptions push notifications which are the highest growing category since its introduction in 2020. These tools help alleviate dependency on platforms like Facebook which often directly penalise our publishing by flagging our articles as 'political content' and disabling promotion and worsening their visibility - even though our content is often on political topics, but clearly not of a campaigning nature.

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 2023, a total of 18 newsletters were sent out.

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. Reviews of individual issues are being published separately on the website and social media, alongside custom made visuals of the journals' hard copies.

At the end of 2023, the Eurozine Newsletter and the Eurozine Review were reaching an audience of over 16,000 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

New partner journals

[Transitions](#)

Partner journals

2000, A2, Akadeemia, Arche, Atlas, Baggrund, Belgrade Journal of Media and Communications, Beton International, Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik, Cogito, Critique&Humanism, Culture&Démocratie, Czas Kultury, De Nederlandse Boekendigs (The Dutch Review of Books), Derive, Dialogi, Dilema Veche, Dziejaslou, Dwutygodnik, Esprit, Fronesis, Genero, Glänta, Gwara Media, Host, Il Mulino, Index on Censorship, Intellectum, Irish Pages, K24, Kritika&Kontext, Krytyka, Krytyka Polityczna, Kultura Liberalna, Kulturos Barai, La Revue Nouvelle, LaPunkt, Le Monde Diplomatique OSLO, L'Espill, Letras Libres, Leviathan, L'Homme, Merkur, Mittelweg 36, Multitudes, Mute, Neprikosnovennij Zapas, 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, Positionen, Razpotja, Rekto:verso, Res Publica Nova, Reset, Revista Crítica, Revolver Revue, Revue Projet, Rigas Laiks, Roots, RozRazil, Samtiden, Sarajevo Notebook, Scena9, 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, Public Seminar, Tekstallmenningen, Transitions, VoxEurop

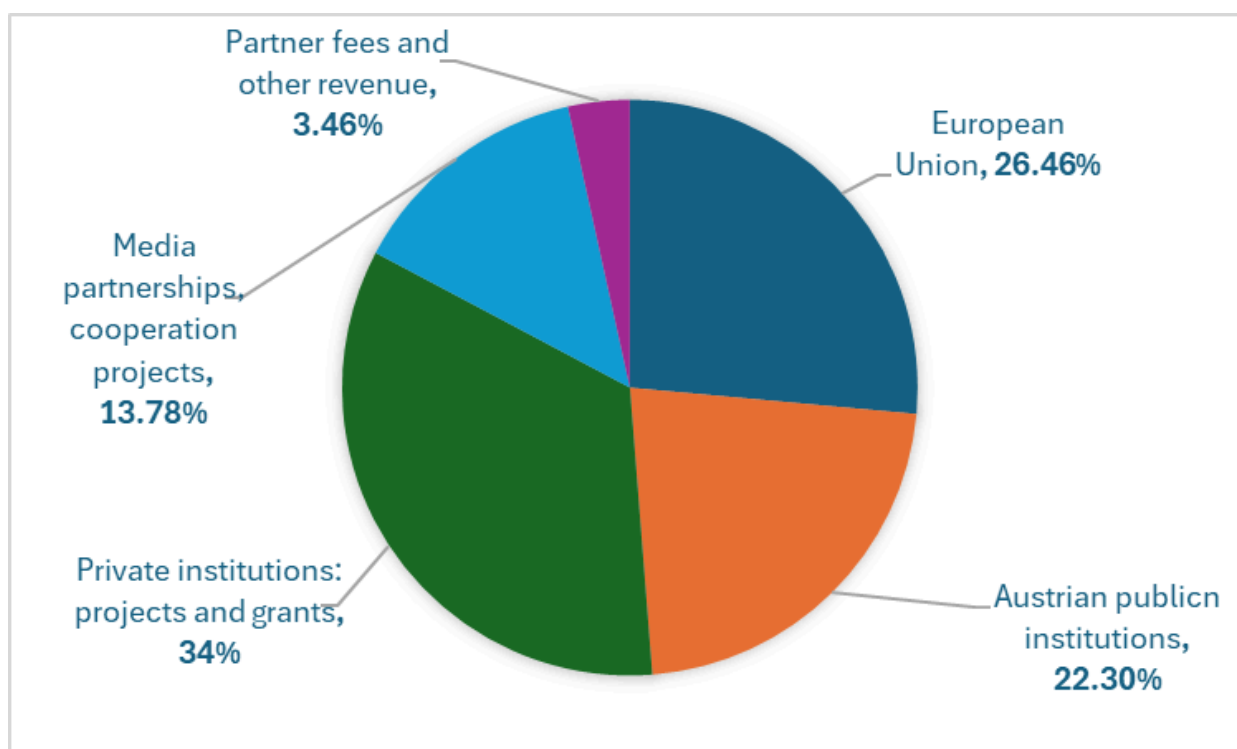


Find the full interactive map [here](#).

Finances

Eurozine had a diverse funding mix in 2023. The largest share comes from various project grants by the European Union and Austrian public institutions along with smaller grants from private foundations. Media cooperations and publishing projects continue to be an important part of Eurozine's business model as well. As Eurozine is not-for-profit, all income is used to finance the organisation's activities in accordance with its statutes.

Eurozine's total annual budget in 2023 was ca. 425.000 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.

Staff

At the end of 2023, Eurozine's staff consisted of 13 employees, headed by Hermann Riessner and Réka Kinga Papp:

Réka Kinga Papp, editor-in-chief of Eurozine. Réka Kinga Papp joined Eurozine in November 2018, succeeding James Thomson. Réka is a Hungarian journalist and media researcher specialized in sociography, 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.

Hermann Riessner joined Eurozine as managing director in May 2022. Hermann has more than 20 years of experience in museum management, film production and distribution, as well as organising and financing theatre projects and a chamber music festival. He holds a degree in economics from the University of Vienna and a master's degree in culture and media management from the Johannes Kepler University in Linz.

Judit Csikós has been with Eurozine since 2021 as project and financial manager. She holds an MA in International Relations and has over 10 years of experience in NGO project and financial management in Hungary, Austria and Germany.

Merve Akyel joined Eurozine as art and social media editor in 2019. Merve has a background in art direction and social media management and holds a BA with Honours in Visual Communication Design and an MFA in Fine Arts from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Currently a PhD Candidate in Philosophy of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Simon Garnett, editor. Employee at Eurozine 2005–2012 and from 2016. 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.

Sarah Waring, editor. Sarah previously worked with clients such as the European Commission on its social enterprise mapping project and ForAlps on the academic book *Alpine Refugees: Immigration at the core of Europe*. Author of *Farming for the Landless* and its Italian translation. She joined the team in March 2020.

Csilla Nagyné Kardos, office manager. Csilla previously worked at the Hungarian national parliament and, in Vienna, with an association organising school book dissemination across Austria.

Priyanka Hutschenreiter, project assistant. Priyanka holds a BA in social sciences (Durham University, BA Hons), a MSc in social anthropology (Oxford University, MSc Hons) and a PhD in anthropology (SOAS University of London, DPhil). Priyanka previously worked in marketing, cultural communications as well as with a Vienna based funding body. They are active as a curator and have published in numerous journals in anthropology, gender studies and architecture.

Salma Shaka, talk show writer. Salma holds a degree in cross-disciplinary studies from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna.

Daniela Univazo Marquina, community editor. Daniela is a filmmaker and screenwriter. She studied in Copenhagen and Barcelona. She is also director of the Cine Latino Film Festival in Vienna.

Julia Sobota, subtitles manager.

Zsafia Papp, executive producer (talk show).

Szilvia Pintér, producer (talk show).

Carine Chen, youth project manager.

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 2023:

- Miriam Rasch, Willem de Kooning Academy, Rotterdam
- Ann Ighe, *Ord&Bild*, Gothenburg, joined in 2022
- Luka Lisjak Gabrijelčič, *Razpotja*, Nova Gorica, joined in 2022
- Adam Reichardt, *New Eastern Europe*, Kraków, joined in 2022

Eurozine's Board of Trustees in 2023:

- Miljenka Buljević, Kulturtreger and Booksa, Zagreb, joined board in 2019
- Göran Dahlberg, editor at Glänta and publisher, Gothenburg, joined the board in 2018
- Veronika Leiner (chair), Cultural manager and educator, managing director at Eurozine 2009 to 2016, Vienna
- Daniel Leisegang, *Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik*, Berlin, joined board in 2019

Contact

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Eurozine is a not-for-profit limited company, established in 1998

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