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EUNIC LONDON PROJECTS' REPORT 2025



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INTRODUCTION

WHAT WE DO

EUNIC London (European Union National Institutes for Culture) is the network of the cultural institutes and embassies from the member states of the European Union in London. A branch of EUNIC Global, the London network was established in 2007 and has at present 37 members.

The purpose of EUNIC London is to share knowledge and resources in order to promote greater cooperation and develop partnerships between European nations and UK organisations in the fields of arts and culture. EUNIC's activities in the UK are centred around four main directions:

- Develop joint projects: Growing portfolios with stimulating collaborations
- Connect people: Bridging the gap between the UK Arts & Culture scene and our members, with visits, day trips and networking events
- Promoting European Culture and implementing European Cultural policy
- Training our members: EUNIC is a platform for knowledge sharing and for capacity building amongst its members and partners



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PRESIDENCY TEAM 2025



From left to right: Marios Theocharous, Marika Goldman, Jeroen Deckmyn.

The 2024 presidency team (appointed from Sept 2024 - Sept 2025) is:

- **Jeroen Deckmyn** - Deputy General Representative at the General Representation of Flanders in London.
- **Marika Goldman**- Cultural Counsellor at the Estonian Embassy in London.
- **Marios Theocharous** - Cultural Attaché, Cyprus High Commission in the UK.



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PROJECTS & Events

September 2024 – September 2025

- European political refugees in the UK 1800-1950 – Conference, 15 November 2024, British Library
- 2025 UCL European Literary London Writer in Residence Programme, 24 April – 22 May 2025
- European Season, 30 April – 27 July 2025, Bradford2025 UK City of Culture
- MAPPING THE CITY – European Writers in London, 14 May 2025
- LLIF Residency, 17- 29 May 2025, Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre, Wales
- Writers in the Park: Celebrating Europe's Brightest New Voices, 1 June

Planned and confirmed for Autumn 2025 and 2026:

- Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 16 October 2025
- In Short, Europe: Opening Doors, Regent Street Cinema, 7-8 November 2025
- European Writers Festival 2025, British Library London, 15-17 May 2026
- Factory International x EUNIC Producer's Residency, 1-6 July 2026



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EUROPEAN POLITICAL REFUGEES IN THE UK 1800 - 1950 CONFERENCE

On 15 November 2024, the British Library hosted the conference *European Political Refugees in the UK: How Bitter the Savour is of Other's Bread?* at the Pigott Theatre, Knowledge Centre.

Organised by the European Collections section of the British Library in partnership with EUNIC London and its members — including the Austrian Cultural Forum, the Lithuanian Embassy, the Goethe-Institut, Instituto Cervantes, the Polish Cultural Institute, the Italian Cultural Institute and— the event explored the histories and contributions of European exiles in Britain.

The programme brought together leading academics, scholars, and curators, with speakers such as Jasia Reichardt, Oliver Rathkolb (University of Vienna), Bradley Stephens (University of Bristol), Norbert Meyn (Royal College of Music), Milan Sovilj (Czech Academy of Sciences), Mari Paz Balibrea (Birkbeck, University of London), Alfio Bernabei, Floya Anthias (University of Roehampton), Dovile Cypaite (Vilna Gaon Museum of Jewish History), Thomas Lorman (UCL), Susan Reed (British Library), and Marja Kingma (British Library). Highlights included the screening of *The Stone That Spoke*, introduced by Gail Borrow (ExploreTheArch).

The conference was accompanied by the exhibition *Music, Migration & Mobility: The Story of Émigré Musicians from Nazi Europe in Britain*, further underlining the project's commitment to cultural exchange and inclusive storytelling.

- Audience numbers: 86
- Event featured on British Library's [European Studies Blog](#).

Speakers: Jasia Reichardt,
Oliver Rathkolb, Bradley Stephens,
Norbert Meyn, Gail Borrow,
Milan Sovilj, Mari Paz Balibrea,
Alfio Bernabei, Floya Anthias,
Dovilė Cypaitė-Gilė, Thomas
Lorman, Susan Reed, Marja Kingma

15/11

European political
refugees in the UK
from 1800

*How bitter the savour is
of other's bread*

Friday 15 November 2024,
10am - 5pm

More info and bookings [here](#).

British Library
Pigott Theatre, Knowledge Centre,
96 Euston Road, London,
London NW1 2DB







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2025 UCL EUROPEAN LITERARY LONDON WRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

CIARA BRODERICK

The European Literary Map of London Writer in Residence is an annual programme organised by the UCL European Institute and Faculty of Arts and Humanities, in partnership with EUNIC London and the European Literature Network. It offers one European writer a four-week residency at UCL, with full access to facilities. The first Writer in Residence, in 2024, was Bulgarian author Joanna Elmy.

In spring 2025, the residency was awarded to Irish writer Ciara Broderick, whose work has appeared in several international journals and whose debut novel won the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair. During her stay in London, she pursued her own writing, collaborated with UCL staff and students, and took part in public events. She received support from UCL, EUNIC London, the Embassy of Ireland, and the Goethe-Institut London.

Ciara was chosen from a shortlist of 10 writers from across Europe, with the selection panel chaired by Rosie Goldsmith, Director of the European Literature Network, alongside UCL faculty and the EUNIC London Presidency. The open call attracted 112 applications from writers of all ages, languages, and nationalities.

Read more [here](#).





MAPPING THE CITY EUROPEAN WRITERS IN LONDON

On 14 May 2025, Europe House hosted a special event marking UCL's European Literary Map of London Writer in Residence programme. The evening featured Irish writer Ciara Broderick, the 2025 Writer in Residence, alongside shortlisted authors Nisrine Mbarki (Netherlands), Domas Raibys (Lithuania), and Iryna Shuvalova (Ukraine). The writers read from their work and reflected on London as a city of literature and cultural exchange, exploring how European voices past and present have shaped its literary life.

The event was hosted by journalist Rosie Goldsmith and organised by UCL European Institute, the European Literature Network, and EUNIC London, with support from UCL Grand Challenges and the European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK.

Audience numbers: 72





Mapping the City, 14 May 2025, Europe House. Images ©jamie.photo



Mapping the City, 14 May 2025, Europe House. Images ©jamie.photo



LOST & FOUND

Mapping European Literary London

For centuries, writers have come to London from across Europe and beyond – as honoured guests and anonymous aliens; tourists and refugees; students and wanderers.

In the squalid slums of the East End, in the glitter and glamour of Belgravia, in the unspoilt expanse of Hampstead Heath, these writers lose – and find –

themselves. Their encounters with the city leave a mark: on the writer, on their work and, sometimes, on London itself.

This exhibition uncovers these literary traces, revealing a Europe and a London of the imagination. It draws on an interactive digital map curated by UCL European Institute, UCL Arts and Humanities and the Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, which allows you to explore London – through texts originally written in over 20 European languages.

The selection of map entries on display, arranged thematically, encourages us to reflect on both Europe and the city as places where journeys and languages intersect; where people and cultures meet and are transformed.

We welcome you to explore the map, particularly the interactive digital map, or otherwise scan the QR code to access the online version.



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EUROPEAN SEASON IN BRADFORD 2025 UK CITY OF CULTURE

The European Season in Bradford 2025 was a flagship cultural programme delivered by Bradford 2025 with EUNIC London and supported by the EU Delegation to the UK. Running from April to July, it showcased outstanding European artistic talent across theatre, dance, music, and interdisciplinary performance as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations.

Launched on 30 April at the new Loading Bay Theatre with a keynote by EU Ambassador Pedro Serrano, the season featured inspiring talks, poetry, live music, and dance, setting a celebratory tone. Over seven productions, artists from across Europe — including Switzerland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Finland, Belgium, Poland, and Ukraine — collaborated with UK-based creatives. The programme celebrated shared heritage, fostered cultural exchange, and engaged Bradford's diverse communities, leaving a lasting legacy of dialogue and collaboration.

Watch the trailer [here](#).





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The opening reception of Bradford's European Season on 30 April at the Loading Bay marked a key milestone in the city's UK City of Culture 2025 year. Co-hosted by Bradford 2025, EUNIC London, and the EU Delegation to the UK, the event launched both the European Season and Europe Month, emphasizing cultural diplomacy and EU-UK collaboration. Speeches were delivered by Shanaz Gulzar (Creative Director, Bradford 2025), Dan Bates (Executive Director, Bradford 2025), Jeroen Deckmyn (President, EUNIC London), and H.E. Pedro Serrano (EU Ambassador to the UK), highlighting the importance of culture in fostering dialogue and inclusion.

The programme featured a photographic presentation by Tim Smith on Bradford's Polish and Ukrainian communities, poetry by Lydia and Malachi representing young European voices, and a live performance by soul singer Kymara, followed by a preview video of the European Season. The reception brought together 78 attendees, reflecting Bradford's diversity and its role as a hub for cultural exchange.

Watch the highlights video [here](#).

LAUNCH EVENT EUROPEAN SEASON BRADFORD2025



From left to right: Dan Bates (Executive Director Bradford2025), Shanaz Gulzar (Creative Director Bradford2025), H.E. Pedro Serrano (EU Ambassador to the UK) and Jeroen Deckmyn (President, EUNIC London). Image ©Andrew Bengé





European Season Launch Event, 30 April 2025, Loading Bay. Images ©Andrew Bengé

THE PROGRAMME

From April to July, the European Season presented seven productions celebrating creativity, diversity, and cultural exchange, showcasing European voices in Bradford's year as UK City of Culture.

7–9 April 2025

Palette(s) – Cie Moost (Switzerland), The Beacon – Wibsey Park

A contemporary circus performance blending movement, acrobatics, and visual spectacle in a public park setting.

12 April 2025

Brass Oranje – Kymara, Sam Newbould Quintet, Peter Somuah

(Netherlands), Loading Bay. A vibrant music concert fusing jazz, soul, and brass traditions from across Europe.

27–28 May 2025

Happy Hype – Collectif OUINCH OUINCH x Mulah (Switzerland)

The Beacon - Bowling Park. An energetic outdoor dance performance that transformed public space into a festive celebration.

17 June 2025

Language: no problem – Marah Haj Hussein (Belgium / Palestine)

Loading Bay. An experimental theatre piece exploring language, identity, and communication across cultures.

3–27 July 2025

Tu i Tam / Tyt i Tam – Tim Smith & Marta Szymańska (UK / Poland)

Loading Bay

A photographic and multimedia exhibition highlighting Bradford's Polish and Ukrainian communities.

22–23 July 2025

Your Best Guess – mala voadora & Chris Thorpe (Portugal)

The Beacon – Cliffe Castle Park

A thought-provoking theatre collaboration examining truth, belief, and shared experience.

26–27 July 2025

Colorsphere – Hands Some Feet & Opus Company (Finland)

The Beacon – Cliffe Castle Park

A playful outdoor performance combining dance, live music, and interactive visual art

Overall audience numbers across all performances: 1.4358

Read the full project report [here](#).





Brass Oranje – Kymara, Sam Newbould Quintet, Peter Somuah, 12 April, Loading Bay. Images ©Daniel Johnson



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LLIF RESIDENCY

LLIF



LLIF was a residency of 14 European writers at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre (17–29 May 2025), concluding with a day at Hay Festival organised in partnership with Literature Wales.

Nine writers came from across Europe – including Switzerland, Catalonia, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia, Hungary, the Faroe Islands and Friesland – nominated by EUNIC London members and selected by the curatorial team of Literature Wales. The other five were leading Welsh poets, ambassadors for the Welsh language and creativity. Themes included climate crisis, ecology, nature and society, explored through minoritised languages such as Welsh, Catalan, Faroese and Latgalian. The programme fostered exchange through talks, workshops and field trips, sparking future collaborations. A film by Rhys Edwards, funded by the Swiss Embassy, captures the residency.

You can watch it [here](#).

We're grateful to all the funders and partners who have made this retreat possible: Literature Wales, Welsh Government, Wales Arts International through Arts Council Wales, British Council, Literature Across Frontiers, and Hay Festival. View the full list of partners [here](#).

Read the full project report [here](#).



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LLIF: THE WRITERS



Meleri Davies
Cymru / Wales



Hywel Griffiths
Cymru / Wales



Elinor Gwynn
Cymru / Wales



Mererid Hopwood
Cymru / Wales



clare e. potter
Cymru / Wales



Gianna Olinda Cadonau
EUNIC Member (Switzerland)



Pol Guasch
EUNIC Member (Catalonia,
Spain)



Kristin Höller
EUNIC Member (Germany)



Maarja Pärtna
EUNIC Member (Estonia)



Tina Perić
EUNIC Member (Slovenia)



Līgija Purinaša
EUNIC Member (Latvia)



Mónika Rusvai
EUNIC Member (Hungary)



Kim Simonsen
EUNIC Member (the Faroe
Islands)



Syds Wiersma
EUNIC Member (Friesland, the
Netherlands)

Find out more on the writers [here](#).



Writers in residence at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre, May 2025.



Event at Hay Festival: Mererid Hopwood with Gianna Olinda Cadonau, Pol Guasch and Maarja Pärtna, 30th May 2025 at Writers at Work Hub.



Breakfast reception at Hay Festival hosted by the British Council.



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LLIF: WRITERS IN THE PARK CELEBRATING EUROPE'S BRIGHTEST NEW VOICES

On the 1st of June, we gathered for a relaxed yet inspiring literary morning in the heart of London, as part of the LLIF European Writers in London residency programme. Set against the leafy backdrop of St. James's Square Park, this informal outdoor gathering from 11am to 1pm brought together six of Europe's brightest new voices to celebrate the conclusion of their residency at Tŷ Newydd in Wales.

The event featured lively reflections and a convivial atmosphere that created a delightful Sunday mood. The 75-minute conversation was moderated by Georgia de Chamberet, with contributions from: Kristin Höller (Germany), Tina Perić (Slovenia), Ligija Purinaša (Latvia), Mónika Rusvai (Hungary), Kim Simonsen (Faroe Islands), and Syds Wiersma (Friesland, Netherlands).

After the discussion, guests stayed on to meet the writers, mingle, and enjoy the afternoon together.





Writers in the Park, 1st June 2025, St. James's Square Park



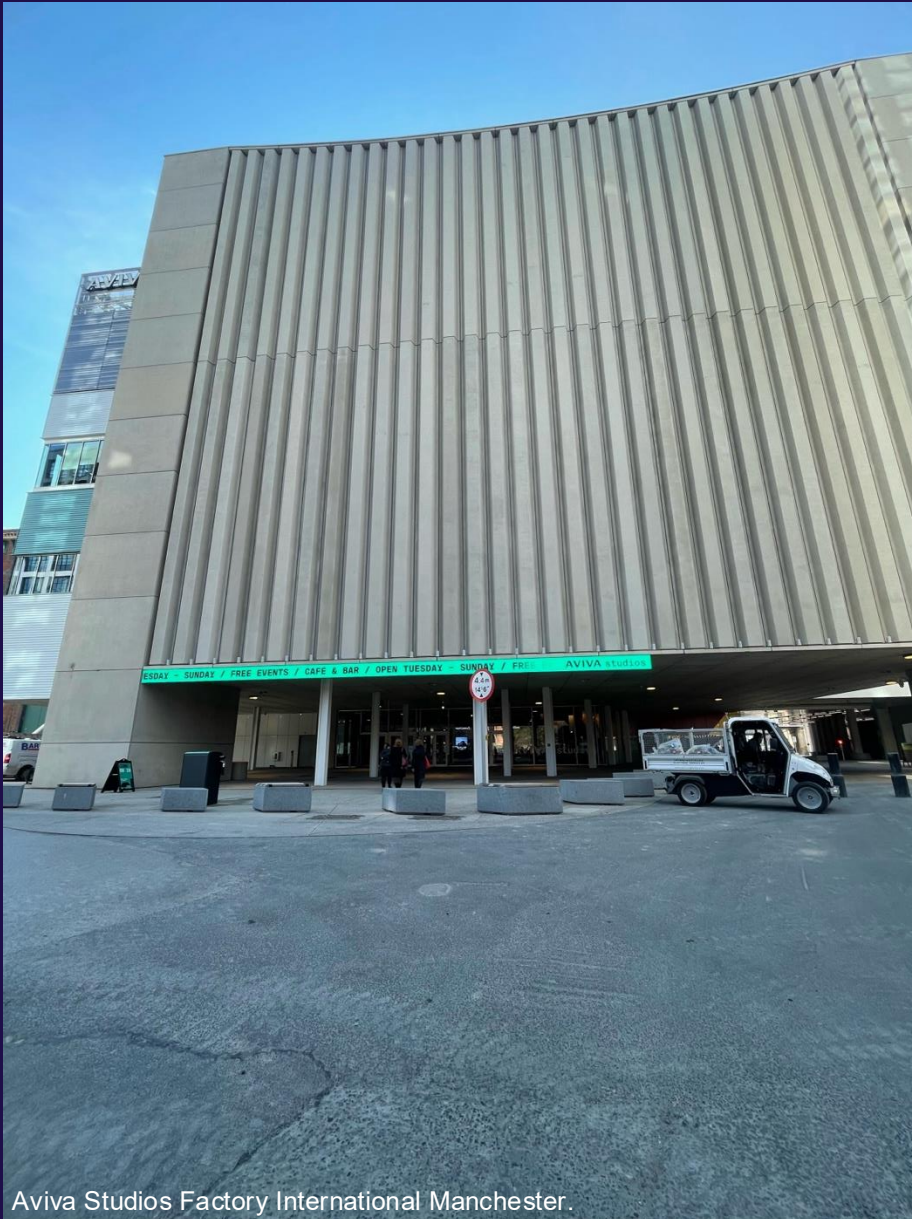
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NETWORKING
EVENTS
& VISITS



NETWORKING EVENTS & VISITS 2025



Aviva Studios Factory International Manchester.

- **Visit to the RA exhibition In the Eye of the Storm Modernism in Ukraine, 1900–1930s, 7 October 2024.**
- **Visit to the British Museum - Picasso Printmaker Exhibition, 17 March 2025**
- **Networking Trip to Manchester, 18-19 March 2025**
- **VIP visit to the Royal Academy Brasil! Brasil! The Birth of Modernism Exhibition, 11 April 2025**
- **Visit to Churchill War Rooms – Imperial War Museum, 16 June**
- **Launch Event European Season in Bradford 2025, 30 April, Loading Bay, Bradford.**
- **Hay Festival Breakfast Networking Event, 30 May, organised by Hay Festival Global and British Council as part of the LLIF Residency.**
- **Hay Castle Reception, 30 May, organised by Hay Festival Global and British Council as part of the LLIF Residency.**

Upcoming:

- **Day Trip to UCA- Farnham Craft Centre, 24 September**
- **Trip to Cambridge and Ashmolean Museum Visit, 5 March 2026**



EUNIC Visit at the British Museum



EUNIC Visit at the Churchill War Rooms- IMW



EUNIC Visit at the Picasso the Printmaker exhibition.



EUNIC Visit at the exhibition In the Eye of the Storm Modernism in Ukraine, 1900–1930s and guided tour by the curator Konstantin Akinsha.



Hay Castle Networking event, 30 May 2025.

EUNIC Networking Trip to Manchester

During the two-day networking trip to Manchester, the EUNIC delegation (18 members) met with cultural leaders and organisations across literature, music, film, and the performing arts. Highlights included meetings with Manchester City Council (Dave Moutrey, Rebecca Wignall), XTRAX (Maggie Clark), Manchester City of Literature (Ivan Wadeson), and the Northern Fiction Alliance, alongside a curated tour of the Central Library, Portico Library, and key heritage sites. In music, discussions took place at Band on the Wall with Kate Lowes (Brighter Sound, Manchester Music City/WOMEX) and other sector representatives. At Factory International, the group met John McGrath, Helena Tansey, and Hannah Falvey and toured Aviva Studios, before visiting HOME Manchester for a tour with Debbie Bell and a roundtable with representatives from Film Hub North, HOME MCR, Sheffield DocFest, and several regional film festivals. The programme offered rich opportunities for exchange, collaboration, and insights into Manchester's cultural landscape.



EUNIC Trip to Manchester – Royal Exchange Theatre.



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EUNIC Networking Trip to Manchester

Organisations met:

- **Manchester City Council** (Culture & Creative Industries team)
- **XTRAX**
- **Manchester City of Literature**
- **Northern Fiction Alliance**
- **Brighter Sound / Manchester Music City** (WOMEX lead)
- **Factory International / Aviva Studios**
- **HOME Manchester**
- **Film Hub North**
- **Manchester International Film Festival**
- **National Science and Media Museum / Bradford Festivals**
- **Manchester Animation Film Festival**
- **Bolton Film Festival**
- **Hebden Bridge Film Festival**
- **Manchester & Yorkshire Indian Film Festivals**
- **Sheffield DocFest**

Places Visited:

- **Royal Exchange Theatre** (meetings, lunch, gathering point)
- **Anthony Burgess Foundation** (literature presentations)
- **Manchester Central Library** (literary heritage tour)
- **Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Centre**
- **Peterloo Memorial**
- **Emmeline Pankhurst Statue**
- **Portico Library** (exhibition & reading room)
- **Band on the Wall** (music roundtable)
- **Aviva Studios** (Factory International tour & meetings)
- **HOME Manchester** (tour & film roundtable)



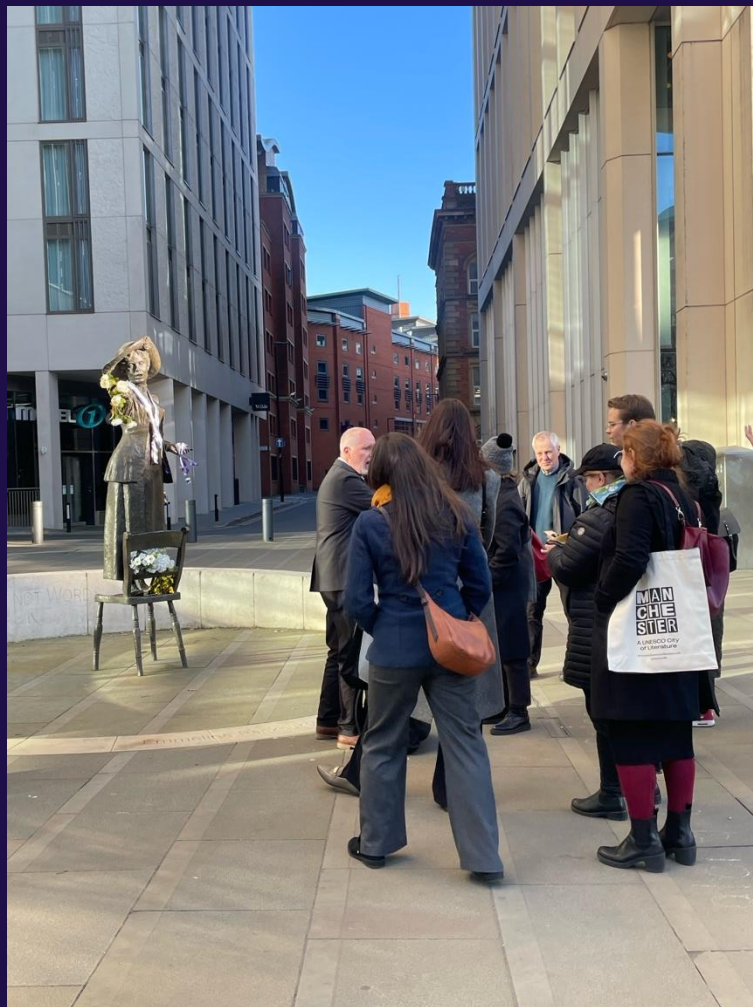
Presentations by Dave Moutrey, Rebecca Wignall (Manchester City Council) and Maggie Clark (XTRAX) at the Royale Exchange Theatre during the EUNIC networking trip to Manchester.



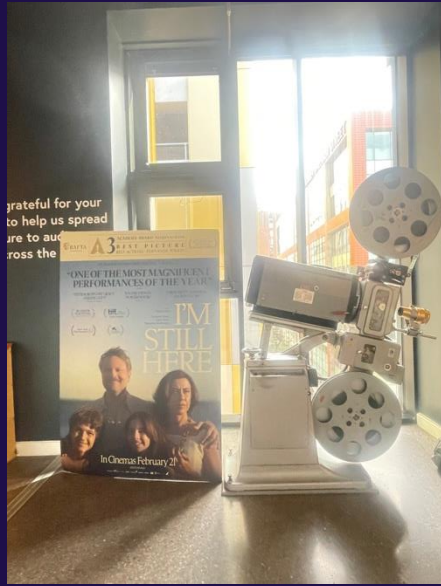
Visit at the Anthony Burges Foundation and presentation by Ivan Wadeson, Manchester City of Literature.



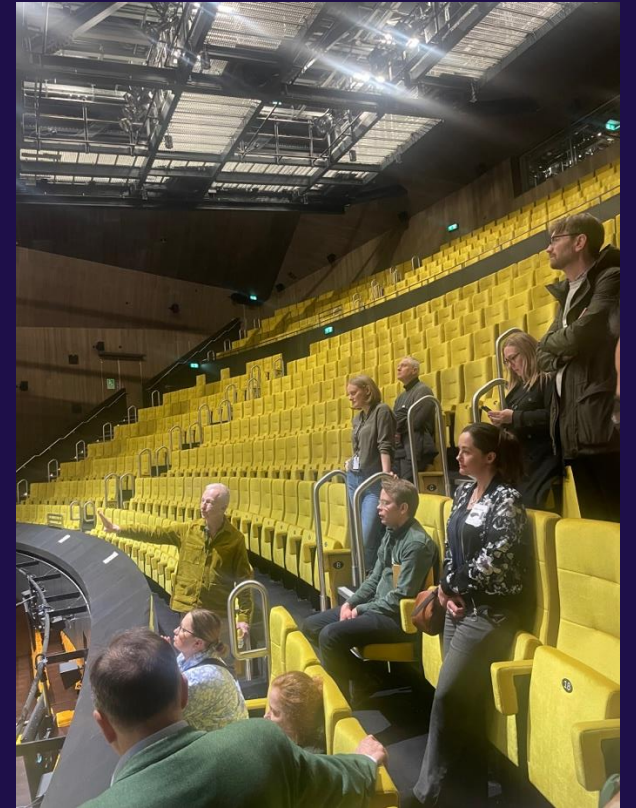
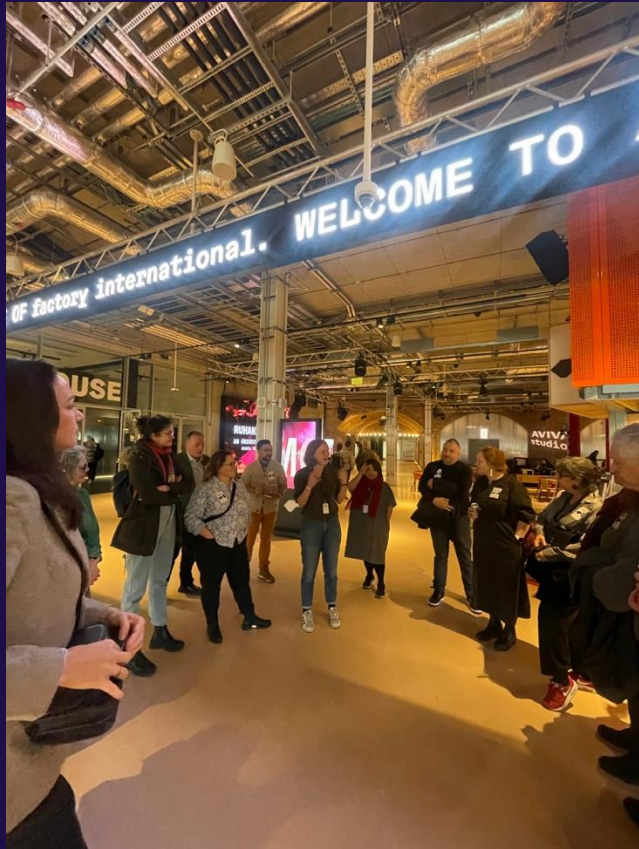
Curated tour of the Central Library, Portico Library, and key heritage sites in Manchester.



Curated tour of the Central Library, Portico Library, and key heritage sites in Manchester.



EUNIC Trip to Manchester.



Visit to Factory International and Aviva Studios.



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PARTNERSHIPS

EUNIC London in 2024-2025 has developed partnerships with:

- The Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom
- The European Parliament Liaison Office in the United Kingdom
- The British Library
- UCL European Institute
- The European Literature Network
- Westminster University
- Regent Street Cinema
- Bradford 2025, UK City of Culture
- Welsh Government
- Literature Wales
- Wales Arts International
- Arts Council Wales
- Literature Across Frontiers,
- Hay Festival
- Manchester City Council
- Factory International, Aviva Studios Manchester
- Bookblast London



Leusa Llewelyn , Artistic Director of Literature Wales at the Hay festival
Networking event in partnership with EUNIC, 30 May 2025

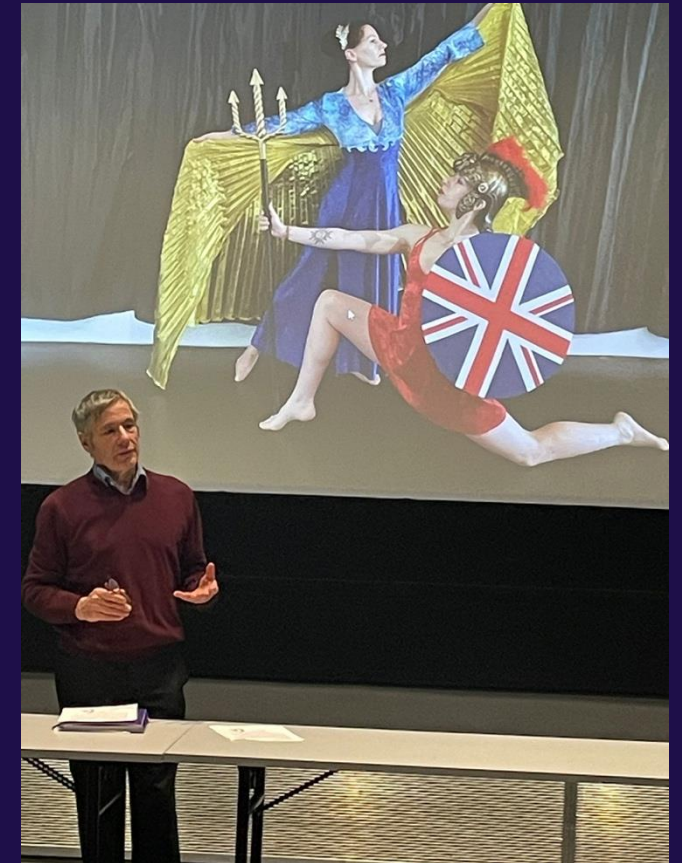


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GUEST SPEAKERS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

The past year we had the pleasure of welcoming the following guest speakers to our monthly members' meetings:

- **Niamh White**, Co-Founder Hospital Rooms and **Ania Patla**, Head of Partnerships & Special Projects Hospital Rooms
- **Charlotte Hollinshead**, Head of Artist Development ActionSpace
- **Unurmaa Janchiv**, CEO and Founder of Great Diplomacy
- **Maddy Probst**, Head of Film - Watershed | Film Hub South West | Cinema Rediscovered, and Board Member Europa Cinemas
- **Rachel Toogood**, Performing International Plays
- **Niamh Conneely**, Head of Development and Communications, Studio Voltaire and **Dot Zhihan Jia**, Curator (Studios & Residencies)
- **Julie Tait**, Director, Comic Arts Festival
- **Sarah Nelson**, CEO Foundation for Future London
- **Billy Watson**, Managing Director Regent Street Cinema
- **Matthew Webb**, Cambridge Film Fest
- **Suzanne Golden**, Codirector BACKLIT





Guest speakers at EUNIC monthly member's meetings.



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During the past year our presidency team participated in many events including chairing panel discussions, interviews, networking events, talks and presentations. To name a few:

- **EUNIC Regional Seminar for Clusters in Europe: 28-29 October 2024, Warsaw.** Marios, Marika and Jeroen represented the EUNIC London Cluster and presented our unique presidency team model as well as best practices in terms of cluster governance.
- **EUNIC Focal Points Meeting, 14-15 May 2025, London.** Discussion with the cluster president trio Jeroen Deckmyn (Delegation of Flanders), Marika Goldman (Embassy of Estonia), and Marios Theocharous (Cyprus High Commission) on the work of the cluster in London as one of EUNIC's largest clusters, and how it sits with the wider EUNIC network.
- **EUNIC Presidency team met with the EU Ambassador H.E Pedro Serrano** in January 2025 and discussed common projects and priorities within the framework of the MoU agreement between the EU Delegation and EUNIC.
- EUNIC Presidency team representative in the jury EmpowerEU awards.

OUTREACH







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