

Euroclassica [Colotte]

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Euroclassica is a pan-European federation of national associations of classical language teachers committed to defending, promoting and revitalising the study of Latin, Ancient Greek and classical civilisation throughout Europe. Founded on 2 September 1991 in Nîmes, France, the association unites educators across the continent and affirms the enduring educational, cultural and societal relevance of classical languages and their associated cultures. It serves as a collaborative platform connecting national organisations and coordinating shared European initiatives.

Classics need Euroclassica because the ancient languages and cultures of Greece and Rome are foundational to European heritage yet remain vulnerable in contemporary educational systems. By creating a network of educators and organising initiatives such as the European Certificate of Classical Languages and international academic cooperation, Euroclassica asserts the continued relevance of classical studies as a unifying cultural force in Europe. It helps ensure that these languages are not marginalised but recognised for their contribution to critical thinking, linguistic insight, and shared historical identity. In a world where curricula are continually under pressure, Euroclassica provides the essential advocacy and collaborative platform needed to sustain and revitalise classical education for future generations.

Today, more than two million children and young people across Europe study the Classics in school. While each country has its own way of teaching about the ancient world, there is much that teachers can learn from one another. Every country has professional associations that allow educators to stay in touch and continue developing their skills. Euroclassica offers a unique forum where these national associations can meet, share insights, and discover what is happening in Classics education elsewhere in Europe. It becomes clear that the challenges faced in one country often resonate in others as well. By exchanging experiences and resources, teachers can support one another and strengthen the presence of the Classics in their own schools.

In 2019, the General Assembly of Euroclassica took place in Antwerp, where elections were held and Christian Laes from Belgium was appointed as the new president. Shortly afterwards, he proposed creating a book to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Euroclassica and entrusted his cooperators with the task, aiming to present it at the 2021 General Assembly. From this initiative was born “Thirty Years Defending and Promoting Classical Languages in Europe”: this book tells the story of our federation from its very beginnings in 1991 and even traces back to 1990. We hope that this book will serve as an attractive introduction for any political, academic, or cultural institution that we have already approached or plan to reach out to in the future.

I. ORIGINS, MISSION AND CORE OBJECTIVES

At its heart, Euroclassica strengthens cooperation among European associations of teachers of classical languages and civilisation, providing a unified framework for collective action and advocacy. Its core aims include :

- Promotion and defence of Latin and Greek studies as integral components of European education and cultural heritage.
- Representation of classical educators at European and international levels, highlighting the relevance of ancient languages within contemporary curricula.
- Encouraging collaboration with like-minded associations beyond Europe, fostering international dialogue on classical studies.
- Publicly affirming the cultural and intellectual value of classical languages while fully respecting the educational autonomy of each member country.

This mission is pedagogical, scientific and cultural in equal measure. Rather than imposing a unified model, Euroclassica promotes cooperation while acknowledging the diversity of national educational frameworks and traditions.

II. MEMBERSHIP, STRUCTURE AND REPRESENTATION

Euroclassica is an independent and self-supporting federation drawing its strength from a broad network of national associations across Europe. Members include organisations of classical teachers from 33 countries (excluding associate partners), each represented within the General Assembly.

Member associations submit annual reports on the status of Latin and Greek teaching within their respective education systems and participate in collaborative initiatives, conferences and

working groups. The federation operates not as a centralised authority, but as a cooperative European network fostering professional exchange, shared expertise and coordinated projects.

III. EUROPEAN CERTIFICATES (ELEX AND EGEX)

One of Euroclassica's most significant practical contributions to classical education is the organisation of the European Latin Exam (ELEX) and the European Greek Exam (EGEX). These annual examinations embody the federation's commitment to establishing a shared European framework for assessing classical language proficiency.

- Two principal levels are offered: Vestibulum (beginner) and Ianua (intermediate).
- Examination papers are designed collaboratively by educators from multiple European countries and are made available in several European languages, often translated locally by national associations.
- Successful candidates receive Euroclassica certificates - Bronze, Silver or Gold - recognising their achievement.
- There is no charge for participation, ensuring accessibility to a wide range of learners.

These examinations follow the European Curriculum for Classical Languages (ECCL), an initiative designed to harmonise standards of assessment across national borders. Each year, thousands of students from numerous European countries participate in ELEX and EGEX sessions, reinforcing a shared culture of academic excellence in classical studies.

IV. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, ACADEMIES AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES

Euroclassica actively supports international cultural and educational programmes that engage both students and teachers beyond the classroom:

- Annual conferences and general assemblies are held each year in a different country.
- Summer academies such as Academia Homerica, Academia Ragusina and Academia Saguntina offer immersive experiences in classical language, literature and culture in Greece, Spain and other European locations.
- Workshops, conferences and thematic gatherings promote intercultural exchange, deepen linguistic competence and encourage cooperation among European participants.

Through these initiatives, Euroclassica strengthens transnational networks and fosters a living European community of classical scholars and educators.

V. PUBLICATIONS, PROJECTS AND CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE

Euroclassica produces educational publications and pedagogical resources intended to support teachers and learners across Europe. These include foundational classroom materials, cultural textbooks illustrating the continuity of classical heritage, and online newsletters reporting on developments within member countries.

The federation's activities align with broader European educational priorities, including linguistic diversity, cultural heritage preservation and intercultural dialogue. In this context, Euroclassica contributes constructively to discussions concerning the place of the humanities within modern curricula, advocating for the continued relevance of classical languages in contemporary education.

Europatrida: ancient Greek was much more than a curiosum, it was a vital element of continuation and tradition for many European countries. This book presents contributions relating to the Greek tradition in various European countries.

Europatria: this book presents over twenty countries representing the Latin tradition of their region, from Antiquity up to the twentieth century.

European Symbols: the first edition of European Symbols was presented at the Congress of Euroclassica held in Valetta from August 28 to 30, 2015. European Symbols is a joint schoolbook for European students containing contributions from 20 European countries.

VI. EUROCLASSICA WEBSITE (<https://www.euroclassica.eu/>)

The Euroclassica website functions as the federation's central communication hub, presenting its mission, governance, activities, examinations (ELEX and EGEX), publications and partner networks in a clear and accessible format. It provides up-to-date information on academies, conferences, newsletters and collaborative projects, while offering practical resources for teachers and students. By combining institutional information with pedagogical support and community news, the website reinforces Euroclassica's role as a European connector within the field of classical education.

It should also be noted that a new Euroclassica website is currently being prepared and will soon be operational.

VII. EUROCLASSICA'S EUROPEAN IMPACT

Viewed collectively, Euroclassica's initiatives demonstrate a sustained commitment to maintaining the visibility and vitality of classical languages within European education systems. Through examinations, academies, conferences and collaborative projects, the

federation strengthens professional networks and fosters a shared European dimension in classical studies.

In a context where humanities education frequently faces structural and financial pressures, Euroclassica provides a stable framework for cooperation, advocacy and pedagogical innovation. By encouraging dialogue across national boundaries and promoting common standards of excellence, the federation helps ensure that Latin, Greek and classical civilisation remain active and meaningful components of Europe's intellectual and cultural landscape.

It would be necessary to mention the presence of Euroclassica on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn, where it is actively involved in many important events, including Greek Language Days.