

Towards a European PEN Network

Results from a preliminary survey among PEN centers



PEN 2012



FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW PEN CENTERS across Europe have been engaged in discussions about the creation of a **European PEN Network**. At the international meetings in Tokyo (2010), Brussels (2011) and Belgrade (2011) several meetings have been devoted especially to this topic, which led to a common agreement on the usefulness of such a Europe-wide cooperation and produced several exciting new ideas about how to achieve it. The meetings have helped us to identify three possible levels of activity:

1. Exchanging best practices – sharing information and ideas about successfully managing PEN's work across Europe.
2. European lobbying – engaging with European mechanisms about issues affecting PEN within the European region.
3. International lobbying – engaging with European mechanisms about issues affecting PEN in the wider world.

It is mainly in relation to the first level that this brief report should be read. It contains a summary of **the results of a limited survey** conducted among European PEN centers present at the Belgrade meeting in September 2011 on the initiative of English PEN and PEN Vlaanderen (Belgium). In addition, some information is gathered from the various websites of these

centers. This information presented here offers thus a snapshot of current activities and action plans among a broad range of PEN centers across the European continent. It can be regarded **as a source of inspiration** on how to run a European PEN center, but it is also a first and preliminary **exercise in information exchange**.

The report provides a broad sketch of the existing diversity of practices across European PEN centers, but the information presented is of course far from complete and susceptible to change. The data offered are not meant to provide a full and definite picture of what exists; they rather serve to foster discussion among centers and, ideally, will stimulate new ideas about how new forms of cooperation can be set up and how additional channels for Europe-wide communication among centers can be developed. As such it is part of an open-ended process toward a stronger and clearly identifiable presence of PEN centers in Europe and in the wider world.

In addition, it is hoped that this exercise in information exchange will in the future also lead to further Europe-wide PEN activities in relation to the earlier mentioned **levels two and three**. In particular, the European PEN Network could work with PEN

International on European and international lobbying (e.g. by identifying relevant issues; and bringing together writers from across the region), which will feed into PEN International's overall plans for a more joined-up policy towards engaging with international mechanisms.

The PEN centers that did not participate in the 2011 survey, and whose data are thus not included in this report, are still given the opportunity in this ongoing effort for information change. To

that effect, they are invited to post their information on the following website:

<http://www.pen-europe.weebly.com>

(Password to access this website: network)

1. PEN centers in Europe

According to the website of PEN International there are at this moment a total of **65 PEN centers across the European continent**. A complete list, containing contact information for all these centers, is to be found at end of this report and on the website: <http://pen-europe.weebly.com/list-of-centers.html>. Of these 65 the following 12 PEN centers were so kind to participate in the 2011 survey (response rate: 18 %). In the rest of this report they will be referred to as 'the surveyed centers'.

1. Austrian PEN (<http://www.penclub.at/index.php>)
2. Czech PEN (<http://www.pen.cz/cz/>)
3. Esperanto PEN (<http://www.esperantio.net>)
4. Estonian PEN (no website at this moment)
5. Finnish PEN (<http://www.suomenpen.fi>)
6. Galician PEN (no website at this moment)
7. German PEN (<http://www.pen-deutschland.de>)
8. Irish PEN (<http://www.irishpen.com>)
9. The Netherlands PEN (<http://www.pennederland.nl>)
10. Norwegian PEN (<http://www.norskpen.no>)
11. Trieste PEN (<http://penclubtrieste.blogspot.com>)
12. Vlaanderen, Belgium Dutch-speaking PEN (<http://www.penvlaanderen.be>)

2. Activities and achievements

a. overview of ongoing activities

All 12 surveyed centers campaign for free speech in general and/or in their own country. They do so in myriad ways, including through press releases and targeted media action.

In addition:

- 9 out of 12 centers award prizes
- 9 out of 12 host public events, including exhibitions and literary events
- 9 out of 12 publish publications, which include new literature, yearbooks, essays, discussions and anthologies,
- 7 out of 12 host visiting writers
- 3 out of 12 engage in educational work

Other interesting activities mentioned:

- **Writers in exile Program** (PEN Germany): With the money provided by the German authorities, German PEN has been able to accommodate total of so far 25 exiled writers and journalists. Scholarship recipients are being housed in Berlin, Cologne,

Hamburg, and Munich and are provided with living expenses as well as health and other insurance from the funds received.

- **Salon Exil “Writers in exile go public”** (PEN Germany) : a bi-monthly forum and meeting space, where writers in exile present their work and readings are being held on the general theme of “exile”.

- **Educational work** (PEN Germany, PEN Estonia and PEN Vlaanderen): PEN Vlaanderen, for example, has prepared a package of educational material of freedom of speech issues that can be presented in schools.

- **Cities of Asylum** (Norwegian PEN): The cities in the network are obligated to host a persecuted writer and his family, supplying free housing and an adequate remuneration to cover costs of living for a period of one to two years. From 2001 the Norwegian state through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs covers NOK 100.000 (about USD 13.000 based on current rate, april 2003) for each writer every year. Norwegian PEN is responsible for the administration of this subsidy and also serves as consultant to the Ministry, the cities and the writers and facilitates contact between the Ministry and the cities. Norwegian PEN is also the official organization nominating

writers to ICORN (International Cities of Refuge Network) when a Norwegian city is ready to host a new writer.

b. overview of active participation in PEN international subcommittees

- 11 out of 12 surveyed centers actively participate in the Writers in Prison Committee
- 4 center actively participate in the Peace Committee
- 2 centers actively participate in the Women Writer's Committee
- 5 centers actively participate in the Translation and Linguistics Rights committee

See this detailed participation table:

| | Writers in Prison Committee | Peace Committee | Women Writers' Committee | Translation and linguistic rights committee |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Austrian PEN | x | | | |
| Czech PEN | x | | | |
| Esperanto PEN | x | x | x | x |
| PEN Estonia | | | | x |
| PEN Finland | x | x | | x |
| PEN Center Galicia | x | | | x |
| PEN Center Germany | x | x | | |
| The Irish PEN | x | | | |
| PEN Center Norway | x | | | |
| PEN Center The Netherlands | x | | | |
| PEN Club Trieste | x | x | x | x |
| PEN Vlaanderen | x | | | |

c. proudest achievements

Each center has particular achievements that they are proud of. The survey asked to mention these proudest achievements, and most of the centers responded to this question. The answers point to the fact that a lot of PEN centers are proud of achievements on three fields: **(1) internal organizational developments, (2) networking activities, and (3) actions towards the wider world.**

More information about these achievements can be found on the websites of the centers in question, or upon direct request from the centers.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Austrian PEN | Book publication and cooperation with other organisations. |
| Esperanto PEN | Communicating with the rest of the world through Esperanto. |
| PEN Estonia | The re-establishment of PEN Estonia. |
| PEN Finland | Housing and offering a grant to writers in danger. |
| PEN Germany | The Writers in Exile programme (www.salon-exil.de) and getting involved in Belarus. |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| The Irish PEN | Assembling a committed committee. |
| PEN Norway | Hosting the 2004 PEN Congress. Cohosting with IFEX and Fritt Ord the Global Forum on Freedom of expression. |
| PEN Nederland | Developing the PEN Emergency Fund. |
| PEN Trieste | Two international PEN books made in Cooperation with Slovenia and Croatia. |
| PEN Vlaanderen | Providing residence to visiting writers in a pen apartment. Building a reputation as a reliable partner with other institutions (civil society organisations and government). |

d. new plans

Out of the 12 surveyed centers, 9 have provided some information on their future plans. It is evident from the responses that the surveyed PEN centers have strong intentions to further develop the proudest and most successful activities. The plans relate to (1) internal organizational developments, (2) networking activities, and (3) actions towards the wider world. It appears from the answers, however, that few centers have at this moment a well developed plan for activities **on all three levels**. This shows that there is indeed room for growth. Some centers have

signaled their intent to engage in new public events and improve their communication strategies. Opportunities for further plans are also to be found in the area of member recruitment and cross-country coordinated campaigns.

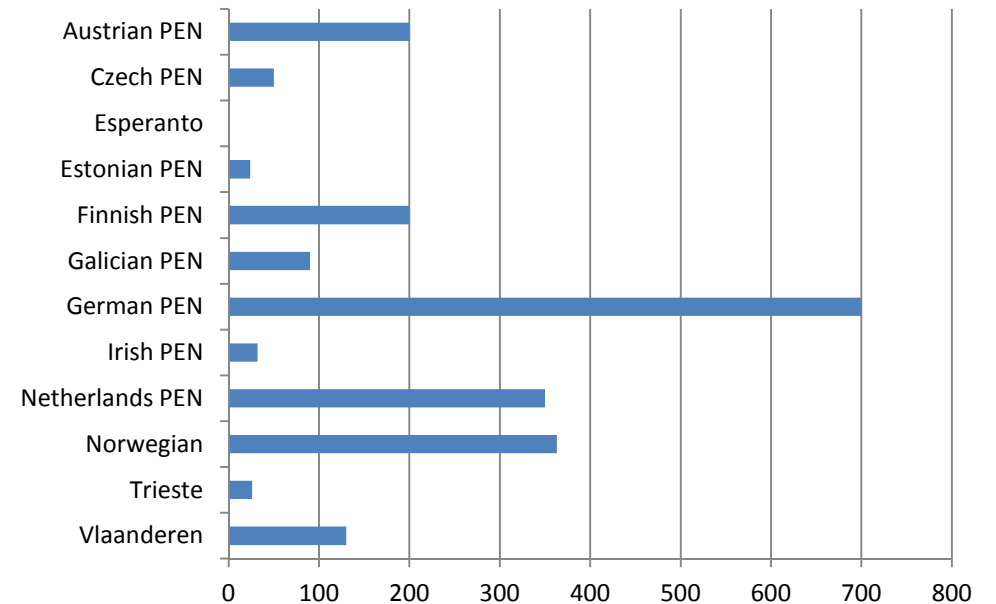
| | |
|------------------|--|
| Austrian PEN | Developing a new homepage. |
| Czech PEN | Organizing the International Free the Word Center. |
| PEN Estonia | Work with school children on the issue of freedom of speech and its changes public during the period of freedom. |
| PEN Finland | Publishing a yearbook of Finnish PEN.. |
| PEN Germany | Organizing a conference on persecution and exile and getting more members involved. |
| Irish PEN | Promoting a campaign for a constitutional referendum to be held on blasphemy. |
| PEN Netherlands | Writing a policy paper for the future of PEN in the Netherlands. |
| PEN Club Trieste | Develop new publications in order to promote the Trieste PEN Prize. |
| PEN Vlaanderen | Focus new activities on 2 geographic regions: Central Africa and Central Europe. |

3. Membership

a. number of members

Among European PEN centers diversity is important, also in terms of members. Small PEN centers might have different experiences and a different expertise than centers with a high number of members. Small or high membership numbers may be a deliberate choice. Centers that are aiming to gain a higher number of members could contact centers that already have a high numbers. Exchange of information could also run the other way, as small PEN centers might be able to advise bigger ones about the ways in which they may engage their members in their activities and about what number they regard as ideal and for what reason.

Number of members in the surveyed centers



b. membership criteria

What do the surveyed centers expect from their members, apart from their dedication to PEN Charter? What do they have to have achieved in order to be eligible for membership?

On the basis of the partial information that came out of the survey it is clear that most centers expect from their members that they have published a book or some books. Some centers, however, have extended their membership to people with distinguished achievements in the cultural field.

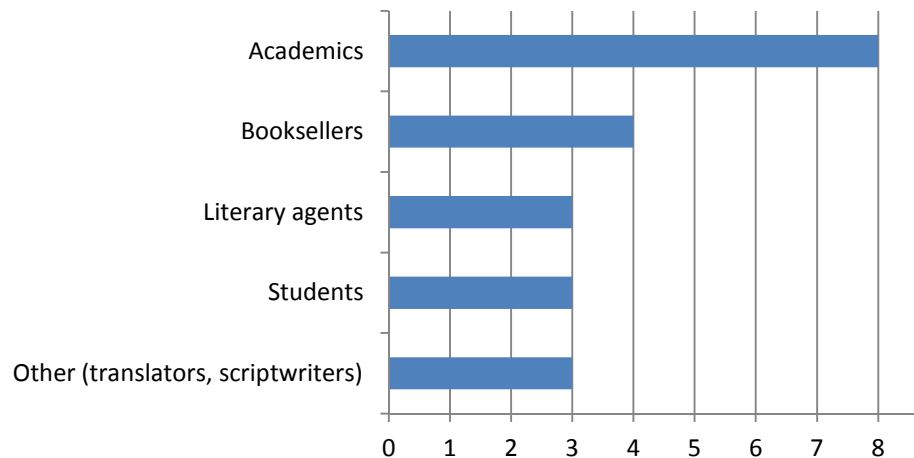
| | |
|--------------|---|
| Austrian PEN | Having 2 published books. |
| Estonian PEN | Engaging in literature; recommended by 2 PEN members. |
| Finnish PEN | Distinguished achievements in the field of culture. |
| Galician PEN | Having 3 published books in Galician. |
| German PEN | Having 2 published books. |
| Irish PEN | Published work and sign up to PEN charter, associate: anyone interested in joining who signs up to PEN charter. |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Netherlands PEN | Being a writer (poet, novelist, etc), translator, or employed in the book business. |
| Norwegian PEN | Anyone who is dependent on free work in order to carry out their professional work will get membership upon application to the board. |
| Trieste PEN | Having 1 publication. |
| Vlaanderen | Having a literary CV |

c. how many centers accept which categories of members except writers?

Some centers accept different categories of members. From the survey it can be established that, although there is variety, PEN centers tend to recruit beyond literary writers and also accept other categories of members.

number of surveyed centres accepting which categories of members



c. subscription fees

Subscription fees vary substantially from center to center. They range between 160 euro annually (the highest among the surveyed centers) and 20 euro (the lowest). Two of the surveyed

centers distinguish between full members and associate members. Some have special reductions for special categories of members and some have supporting members who pay a higher fee.

d. benefits for members

Out of the 12 surveyed centers 9 offer their members access to their **events**, 4 centers also offer a free subscription to a **magazine**. Some centers offer access to **information** (address list of members), a free **yearly publication** (handbook, yearbook). In the case of PEN Esperanto a free language course is offered.

e. highlighted successful recruitment techniques

Most of the surveyed centers agree that the best way of recruiting new members is through **personal networking** and **conferences**. Although one center points out the possibility of recruitment through the **internet** and **social media**, no center has highlighted any specific examples of recruitment campaigns through these channels.

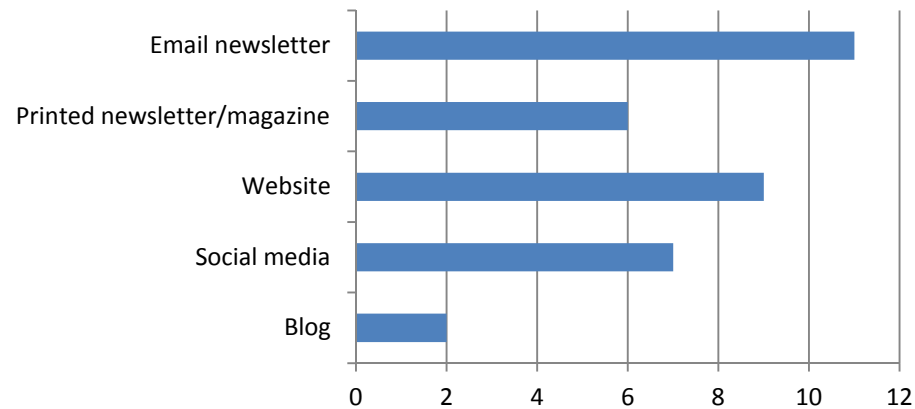
f. new plans for member recruitment

The surveyed centers do not have any new plans for the recruitment of new members, but all of them are want to continue to rely on their own **existing techniques**. This means that they will further develop their **personal networks** and continue to be present at **conferences** or organize their own meetings to which potential members are invited in **targeted mailings**.

4. Communication

a. usage of communication means

number of centres relying on which means of communication



b. most effective means of communication

All centers have noted that **email** (either in the form of newsletters or ad hoc messages) is their most effective means of communication.

c. publicizing campaigns

The surveyed centers rely on the above mentioned means of communication in their campaigns. For majority of the centers, however, three forms of communication are specifically used for campaigns:

- **Newspapers/magazines (op-ed pieces)**
- **Television and radio appearances**
- **Press releases**

d. communication plans

Some centers have mentioned the following new means of communication:

- **Twitter and Facebook**
- Direct mailings to **journalists** (which involves building a network of trusted journalists)
- Communication through a **yearbook**

5. Finances

a. income and expenditure in 2011

From the survey only a very partial view can be gained of the income and expenditure of the various centers. It is clear, however, that budgets differ significantly. The largest center could in 2011 rely on an income of 600,000 euro, while the smallest mentioned figure in the survey was an income of 10,000. For the figures submitted in the survey it is clear that the expenditures remain slightly under the income figures.

b. what approximate percentage of the funding received comes from which sources?

Government funding: this type of funding is a major source of income of most of the surveyed centers. For four of the surveyed centers this covers between 70% and 90% of their funding. The government funding can either be regional or national, depending on the way the state deals with this type of funding applications.

Membership subscriptions: all centers rely on this for a part of budget. The dependence varies between 15% and 30%.

Donations from individuals: only two of the surveys centers rely on this type of funding, and it only covers a small part (2-5%) of their total funding.

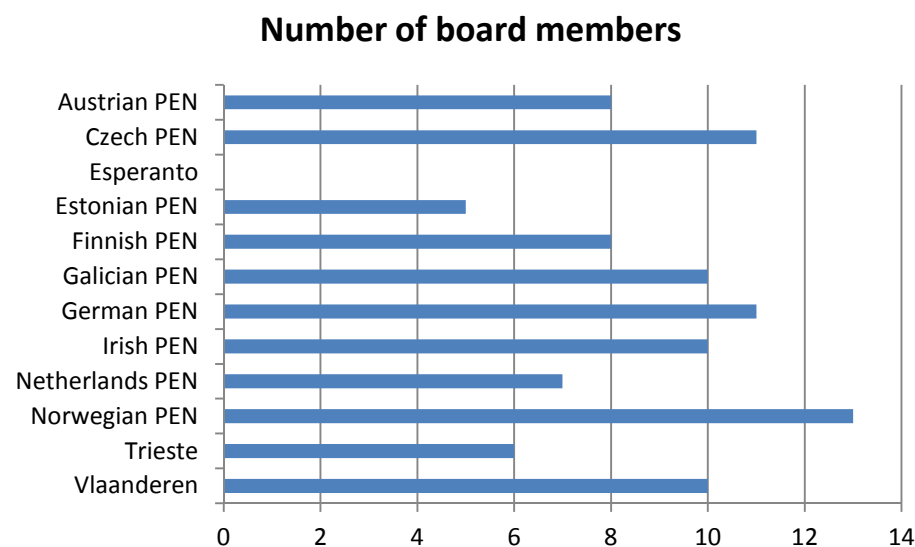
Other types of funding that are sometimes used are: **charitable foundations** and income from **events**.

c. most successful fundraising strategies and new fundraising plans

In terms of strategies outside membership recruitment, the surveyed centers rely mainly (even almost exclusively) on **government funding applications** and **donations**. There is, however, clearly a lack of plans on the extension of fundraising techniques.

5. Management

a. number of people in the board



In all cases the board members are **elected** by the assembly (except in the case of PEN Vlaanderen, where members are appointed and approved by the assembly).

b. number of board meetings

The average number of board meetings per year is 4.

c. staff

Five of the surveyed centers have at least one part-time paid staff member.

d. collaborations with other organizations

The organizations mentioned are:

- Heinrich Böll Stiftung
- Reporters without Borders
- Amnesty International
- The Helsinki Committee
- The Human Rights Network
- The Norwegian Federation of Journalists
- Universities

Contact information of the surveyed PEN Centers

Austrian PEN Club

President: Dr Wolfgang Greisenegger
 Secretary: Helmut Stefan Milletich
 Address: Österreichischer P.E.N.-CLub, Hahngasse 6/25, 1090
 Wien, AUSTRIA
 Tel: + 43 1 533 44 59
 Fax: + 43 1 532 87 49
 Email: info@penclub.at

Esperanto PEN Center

President: Mrs Perla Martinelli
 Secretary: Mr Lyoubomir Trifontchovsky
 Address: Esperanta PEN-Centro CP 28, CH-2301 La Chaux-de-
 Fonds, SWITZERLAND
 Tel: +41 32 926 7411
 Fax: +41 32 926 7411
 Email: pen@esperantio.net
 Website: <http://www.esperantio.net>

Czech PEN Center

President: Mr Jiří Dědeček
 Vice President: Mrs Markéta Hejkalová

Address: České centrum Mezinárodního PEN klubu,
 Klementinum 190 - 5. Patro, 110 00 Praha 1, CZECH
 REPUBLIC, P.O.Box 123

Tel/Fax: +420 224 234 343

Email: centrum@pen.cz, jiri@dedecek.cz, marketa@hejkal.cz

Website: <http://www.pen.cz/cz/>

PEN Center Galicia

President: Mr Luis Gonzalez Tosar

Director: Mr Xabier Castro

Address: PEN Center Galicia, Casa da Para 30, Praza da
 Quintana s/n, 15704 Santiago de Compostella, SPAIN

Tel: +34 981957119

Email: pengalicia@mundo-r.com

PEN Center Germany

President: Mr Johano Strasser

Vice President: Mrs Christa Schuenke

Address: PEN Zentrum Deutschland, Kasinostr. 3, 64293
 Darmstadt, GERMANY

Tel: +49 6151 23120

Fax: +49 6151 29 3414

Email: pen-germany@t-online.de

Website: <http://www.pen-deutschland.de>

PEN Center Estonia

President: Mrs Kätlin Kaldmaa
 Vice President: Mr Igor Kotjuh
 Address: PEN Estonia, Adamsoni 26-8, 10137 Tallinn,
 ESTONIA
 Telephone: +372 5142 359
 Email: penestonia@gmail.com
 Email: kkaldmaa@gmail.com

PEN Center Finland

President: Mr Jarkko Tontti
 Secretary: Mrs Arla Kanerva
 Address: Finnish PEN Center, P.O. Box 84, 00131 Helsinki,
 FINLAND
 Tel: +35 8400784313
 Email: jarkkotontti@jarkkotontti.net
 Email: arla.kanerva@gmail.com
 Website: <http://www.suomenpen.fi>

PEN Vlaanderen

President: Mr David Van Reybrouck
 Secretary: Mr Guy Posson
 Address: PEN Vlaanderen, Huis van het Boek, Te Boelaerlei 37,
 2140 Borgerhout, BELGIUM

Email: info@penvlaanderen.be
 Email: secretariaat@penvlaanderen.be
 Tel: + 32 2 736 30 38
 Fax: + 32 3 230 09 00
 Website: <http://www.penvlaanderen.be>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PENVlaanderen>

PEN Center Norway

President: Mr Anders Heger
 Vice-president: Mrs Elisabeth Eide
 Address: Norsk P.E.N., The House of Literature,
 Wergelandsveien 29, 0167 Oslo, Norway
 Tel: + 47 2260 7450
 Fax: +47 2260 7451
 Email: anders.heger@cappelen.no
 Email: pen@norskpen.no
 Website: <http://www.norskpen.no>

PEN Center The Netherlands

President: Mr René Appel
 Secretary: Mrs Manon Uphoff
 Address: PEN Nederland, Lodewijk van Deysselhuis, De
 Lairessestraat 125, 1075 HH Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 Tel: +31 20 624 0803

Email: info@pennederland.nl

Email: r.appel@planet.nl

Website: <http://www.pennederland.nl>

PEN Club Trieste

President: Antonio Della Rocca

Secretary - Patrizia Vascotto

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34100 Trieste, Italy

Tel: +39 040 767075

Fax: + 39 040 771840

Email: dellarocca.pentrieste@yahoo.com

Website - <http://penclubtrieste.blogspot.com>

The Irish PEN

Chairperson: Mrs Kay Boland

Membership Secretary: Mrs Emer Liston

Address: Irish PEN Membership Secretary, Apartment 3, 19
Main Street, Clongriffin, Dublin 13, Ireland

Email: info@irishpen.com

Tel: + 353 87 9660770

Website: <http://www.irishpen.com>

PEN Centers in Europe

This alphabetical list contains the addresses of all the PEN centers across the European continent. The information is taken from the websites of the concerning PEN Centers. If you would like to add information or correct something, please fill out the form in the 'Submit Information' page on <http://www.pen-europe.weebly.com> (password: network)

African Writers Abroad Center

President: Mr Paulinos Vincent Magombe
 Secretary: Mrs Kadija George
 Address: African Writers Abroad Center, PO Box 33504,
 London, E9 7YE, UNITED KINGDOM
 Telephone: +44 (0)7980 269 138
 Email: africanwritersabroad@yahoo.com

PEN Albania

President: Mr Entela Safeti Kasi
 Secretary: Mr Sadik Bejko
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 Tirane, ALBANIA
 Telephone: +355 68 40 54 526
 Email: ekasi2004@yahoo.com

Email: sadikbejko01@yahoo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Albanian-PEN-Center/136728449692180>

Armenian PEN Center

President: Mrs Anna Hakobyan
 Secretary: Mr Mikael Danielyan
 Address: Armenian PEN Center, App. 8, 24 Papazian st, 375012
 Yerevan, REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
 Tel: + 374 1 53 6797/ +374 10 22 03 95
 Fax: +374 2 53 30 99/+374 10 267 562
 Email: armpen@hahr.am
 Email: armpen@arminco.com

Austrian PEN Club

President: Dr Wolfgang Greisenegger
 Secretary: Helmut Stefan Milletich
 Address: Österreichischer P.E.N.-CLub, Hahngasse 6/25, 1090
 Wien, AUSTRIA
 Tel: + 43 1 533 44 59
 Fax: + 43 1 532 87 49
 Email: info@penclub.at

Basque PEN

President: Mrs Laura Mintegi
 Secretary: Mr Urtzi Urrutikoetxea
 Address: Euskal PEN Kluba, Aoiz Plaza 1, 48015 Bilbao,
 Basque Country, SPAIN
 Tel/Fax: +34 657 715 645
 Email: pen@euskalpen.org
 Email: lauramintegi@euskalpen.org
 Website: <http://www.euskalpen.org>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/euskalpen>

Belarusian PEN

President: Mr Andrei Khadanovich
 Secretary: Mrs Maryia Martysevich
 Address: Belarusian PEN, P.B. 218, Minsk 220050, BELARUS
 Tel/Fax: + 375 17 288 1461
 Email: pen@vessobel.by
 Email: khadanovich@gmail.com

PEN Vlaanderen (Belgian Dutch Speaking Center)

President: Mr David Van Reybrouck
 Secretary: Mr Guy Posson
 Address: PEN Vlaanderen, Huis van het Boek, Te Boelaerlei 37,
 2140 Borgerhout, BELGIUM

Email: info@penvlaanderen.be
 Email: secretariaat@penvlaanderen.be
 Tel: + 32 2 736 30 38
 Fax: + 32 3 230 09 00
 Website: <http://www.penvlaanderen.be>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PENVlaanderen>

Belgian (French-speaking) PEN Center

President: Mrs Huguette de Broqueville
 Secretary: Mr Vincent Malacor
 Address – Belgian (French-speaking) PEN, 10 Avenue des Cerfs,
 1950 Kraainem BELGIUM
 Tel: + 32 27 31 48 47
 Fax: + 32 27 31 48 47
 Email: huguette.db@skynet.be
 Email: vincent.malacor@iep.be

PEN Center of Bosnia-Herzegovina

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 Secretary: Mrs Ferida Duraković
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 Fax: + 359 2 944 17 62
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 Fax: + 34 934 120 666
 Email: pen@pencatala.cat
 Email: carenas@pencatala.cat
 Website: <http://www.pencatala.cat>

Chechen Writers Center

President: Mr Musa Mutaev
 Secretary: Mr Islam Elsanov
 Address: Chechen Writers Center, Ratesvingen 22 N, 7038
 Trondheim, NORWAY
 Tel: + 47 73 96 78 79
 Email: mmutaev@yahoo.com
 Email: ielsanov@yahoo.com

Croatian PEN Center

President: Mrs Nadežda Čačinovič
 Secretary General: Mr Seid Serdarević
 Address: Hrvatski P.E.N. Centar, Basaričekova 24, 10000
 Zagreb, CROATIA
 Tel: +385 1 488 00 14
 Fax: +385 1 488 00 15
 Email: hrvatski.p.e.n.centar@zg.t-com.hr
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Cyprus PEN Center

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 Public relations: Mr Niki Marangou

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Email: jiri@dedecek.cz
Email: marketa@hejkal.cz
Website: <http://www.pen.cz/cz/>

Danish PEN Center

President: Mr Anders Jerichow
Secretary: Mrs Mille Rode

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Copenhagen, DENMARK
Tel: + 45 32 95 44 17
Fax: + 45 32 95 44 18
Email: pen@pen.dk
Email: mille@pen.dk
Website: <http://www.pen.dk>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dansk-PEN/142945259099241>

English Center of PEN

President: Mrs Gillian Slovo
Membership Secretary: Mrs Carole Mitchell
Address: English Center of PEN, Free Word Center, 60
Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3GA, UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7324 2535
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7837 7838
Email: president@englishpen.org
Email: carole@englishpen.org
Website: <http://www.englishpen.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/English-PEN-Writers-in-Public/321305254862>

Esperanto PEN Center

President: Mrs Perla Martinelli
 Secretary: Mr Lyoubomir Trifontchovsky
 Contact person: Mrs Chiara Macconi
 (chiara.macconi@gmail.com)
 Address: Esperanta PEN-Centro CP 28, CH-2301 La Chaux-de-Fonds, SWITZERLAND
 Tel: +41 32 926 7411
 Fax: +41 32 926 7411
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 Website: <http://www.esperantio.net>

PEN Center Estonia

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 Email: penestonia@gmail.com
 Email: kkaldmaa@gmail.com

PEN Center Finland

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