

ACTIVITY REPORT



2025

HEALING OF MEMORIES LUXEMBOURG

<https://healing-memories.lu>

Every story needs a listener...

Chacun a une histoire, digne d'être écoutée...



CONTENTS

Life of the association	page 3
Africa project, 2025 report.....	page 6
Workshops	page 9
Facilitator training	page 9
Participation in the global network.....	page 10
Finances	page 11
Outlook for 2026	page 12

Editorial

2025 : continuity and innovation

Continuity

- The work of healing of memories continued with a mini-workshop and two full workshops.
- Support for our facilitators was again provided through our excellent collaboration with Omega 90.
- Online facilitator training with Michael Lapsley moved forward, as did in-person training in Luxembourg.
- The Africa project made good progress. The current programme will conclude at the end of 2026 but we will continue to support our African partners as they gradually become independent.

Innovation

- For the first time, Healing of Memories Luxembourg had a stand at the Festival of Migration, Cultures and Citizenship. This was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of healing of memories. We made many contacts and the quiz and the film attracted considerable interest.
- Following the adoption of a new law on non-profit organisations, the statutes of Healing of Memories Luxembourg were amended at the Annual General Meeting held on 29 March 2025.
- Healing of Memories Luxembourg can now receive donations through the CLAE Intercultural Fund. We are very grateful to ACAT Luxembourg for providing us with a 'home' for all these years.
- New chair: A big THANK YOU to Patrick Byrne, who for years has chaired Healing of Memories Luxembourg so competently and with such dedication. It is a joy for me to be able to continue to count on his advice and experience.

Marie-Christine Ries
Chair

LIFE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Over the course of 2025...

15 and 16 March: participation in the Festival of Migration, Cultures and Citizenship, organised by the CLAE

For the first time our association took part in this major event in Luxembourg community life with a dynamic, colourful stand which attracted visitors, thanks in particular to a quiz enabling them to discover the concept of healing of memories in a playful manner and to take home a souvenir. Our participation in the festival gave us the opportunity not only to make ourselves known but also to establish contacts with several associations which are interested in our work and are willing to publicise our workshops and events.



29 March: Annual General Meeting at the Maison des Franciscaines, Luxembourg



The meeting was attended by 18 members, including two new members, and two colleagues: our employee Valinda Batoto and a facilitator.



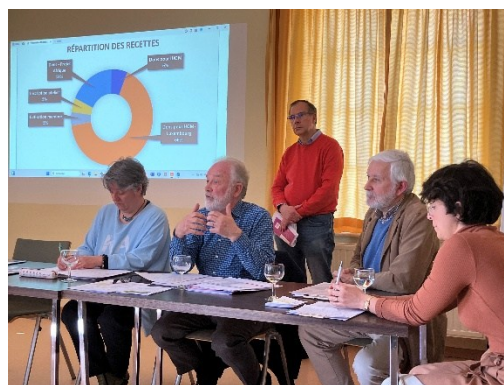
In addition to the standard agenda items, we needed to adopt new statutes in order to comply with the new law on non-profit organisations. Thanks to a big effort to mobilise our members, the two-thirds quorum - whether in person or through proxies - was easily attained and the new statutes were adopted unanimously.





Another significant item: Patrick Byrne announced his intention to step down from the chairmanship on 1 September 2025.

The Executive Committee elected Marie-Christine Ries to replace Patrick on that date, and Javier Garcia as Vice-Chairman with immediate effect. The meeting welcomed these appointments.



The meeting concluded in a convivial atmosphere.

5 July: Barbecue for volunteers

To thank the volunteers who enabled us to participate in the Festival of Migration, Cultures and Citizenship, as well as all those who breathe life into our association - facilitators, members of the Executive Council and occasional volunteers - the council organised a friendly, convivial barbecue in Hollenfels.



Everyone who came welcomed the opportunity to meet outside the context of the association's usual activities and to get to know each other better and make new acquaintances in a relaxed atmosphere.

18 October: Thank-you dinner for our employee

To our great regret, lack of funds meant that we were unable to extend the contract of Valinda Batoto, who was responsible for the administration and follow-up of the Africa project. The Executive Committee wished to express the association's appreciation for her valuable work.



Communication

The dedicated working group is continuing to reflect on ways to increase our visibility and reach out to people who might be interested in joining our workshops. In 2025 its work focused on the organisation of the Festival of Migration, Cultures and Citizenship, which had a tangible impact on registrations for the two public workshops held in 2025.

It was also as a result of contacts made during the festival that Patrick Byrne, our then chairman, gave an interview on RadioAra on 24 April 2025 in order to present our association.

TRAINING OF HEALING OF MEMORIES FACILITATORS FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

Following the training sessions focusing on theory held in July 2024 in Grand-Popo (Benin) as part of our training project for francophone Africa, the year 2025, the fourth year of the project, focused more on the purely practical aspect of the training. In this second year of the 'second cycle' (2024-2025), the aim was to give the new trainee facilitators in each national team the opportunity - where the security situation allowed - to organise a three-day workshop for participants from their respective regions led by the national team under the supervision of trainers from HOM-Luxembourg and the Institute for Healing of Memories in South Africa.



Facilitator training in Mahama (Rwanda)

This practical training took place during two periods of the year: in July 2025, three trainers from HOM-Luxembourg (Patrick Byrne, Javier García Alves and Véronique Morlot) travelled to Cocolomé (Benin) and Kpalimé (Togo). Then in November and December 2025 there were missions to Mahama (Rwanda), Rufisque (Senegal) and Bingerville (Côte d'Ivoire), led by two trainers from Luxembourg (Patrick Byrne et Javier García Alves) and one from South Africa (Loret Mougani).

As in 2023, the trainers could not travel to Mali because of the on-going conflict and lack of security there. The Mali team was therefore invited to join another team, this time the one in Togo, in jointly running a workshop in that country. Similarly, the Niger team joined the Senegal team. Unfortunately, despite multiple efforts, it was not possible to find an alternative solution for the team from DRC, who were blocked in North-Kivu by the extremely tense and dangerous situation in that region. This is all the more regrettable given that all the team's activities, as well as communication with them, have been suspended since then.



Workshop led by the Togo and Mali teams in Kpalimé (Togo)

In the five host countries, each healing of memories workshop was preceded by a half-day interactive refresher course for the new trainees. This was followed by a full day of additional training for the whole of the national team to ensure they were ready to welcome the 15 participants in the workshop and jointly lead the programme effectively. After each workshop, the teams took part in a debriefing day to reflect on the lessons learned and to

plan the next stages. Since the current training programme - financed principally by the Luxembourg Government - is due to be completed at the end of 2026, each national team was invited to reflect creatively on the future of healing of memories in their own country and to draw up a list of objectives for 2026 and beyond.

Workshop led by the Senegal and Niger teams in Rufisque (Senegal)



Despite the many challenges, it was extremely encouraging to see the significant progress made by both the new trainees and the more experienced trainers since the 2024 training session in Grand-Popo. Many of them have taken full ownership of the project by establishing ties with various partner organisations and by promoting diversity among the workshop participants. Their enthusiasm, commitment and positive attitude to continuing the work of healing of memories were a source of great inspiration.

Workshop led by the Côte d'Ivoire team in Bingerville (near Abidjan – Côte d'Ivoire)

Another very positive aspect of the practical training programme this year was the additional opportunity it offered for mutual enrichment, the sharing of experiences and cooperation between the HOM-Luxembourg trainers and the IHOM in South Africa, thus strengthening ties within the Global Healing of Memories Network.

Workshop led by the Benin team in Cocotomey (near Cotonou - Benin)



WORKSHOPS

- **Mini-workshop in Luxembourg, Maison des Franciscaines, on 28 June**

On 28 June 2025, Healing of Memories Luxembourg organised the first one-day mini-workshop. This format was designed and put in place to enable a wider public to participate, mainly through its shorter duration compared with a full weekend workshop.

To respond to a request from the Spanish-speaking community, for the first time Spanish was offered as one of the languages at this mini-workshop.

There were 22 participants, including seven Spanish-speakers, together with 10 facilitators and co-facilitators and three interpreters, who provided the necessary interpretation into French, English and Spanish. The feedback was very positive; the experience was a profound one for the participants, who were also given a glimpse of the content of a full workshop.

- **Standard workshop at the Centre Clairefontaine (BE), 10-12 October**

In the autumn, 23 participants and nine facilitators gathered for a two-day workshop in Clairefontaine. With the help of a team of six interpreters, who took turns during the weekend, the workshop was held in four languages:



English,
French,



Spanish and Arabic. Once again, the wide range of origins and backgrounds together with the healing of memories methodology combined to produce a rich synergy. At the reunion several months later (March 2026), many participants testified to the extremely positive impact which the workshop had on most of them.

- **Workshop at the Penitentiary Centre, 20-22 October**

Another healing of memories workshop was held at the Luxembourg Penitentiary Centre from 20 to 22 October 2025. Fourteen inmates actively participated in this sixth edition, which was led by four facilitators from our association in an atmosphere of goodwill and respect that was especially moving and encouraging.

Three volunteer interpreters enabled the workshop to be conducted in French, English and Portuguese.

We work in collaboration with the management and the various services of the LPC as well as the prison chaplaincy.

FACILITATOR TRAINING

Completion of the basic training cycle with Michael

The new facilitators in Luxembourg and Quebec were able to complete their basic training with Michael Lapsley by means of videoconferences. Three sessions were held between January and July, concluding with individual discernment interviews to allow each trainee to assess their commitment to the process of facilitating healing of memories. They are now continuing their facilitator journey by practising what they have learned and by pursuing their training with our trainers in Luxembourg or Quebec, as the case may be.

Training the trainers

Patrick Byrne and Javier Garcia Alves, who for four years have accompanied the facilitator training programme in francophone Africa, continued their own training with Michael Lapsley and the Institute for Healing of Memories. They are now in a position to provide ongoing training for the facilitator team in Luxembourg.

Training weekend in Luxembourg

Our trainers have used this independence to establish a programme of ongoing training in Luxembourg, based on the programme followed in Africa. In this context, they organised a training weekend on **20 and 21 September** comprising two sessions: a morning for facilitators of all levels and a day and a half for advanced facilitators. With more time available, they were able to simulate a workshop in which the participants were placed in the role of principal facilitator.

The whole team spoke highly of this programme and of the way the training was organised. Further modules will be arranged in 2026.



Supervision by the Omega 90 psychologists

On **24 March** and **17 November**, our facilitator team went to Omega 90 to meet the two psychologists. These meaningful and enriching discussions focused on the questions and difficulties which facilitators may encounter during or following a workshop. The discussions help to bind the team closer together and the supervision provided by the psychologists enables them to go more deeply into the issues and perhaps to see them in a different light.



It was decided to continue this collaboration in 2026, if possible by again meeting twice in the year.

Peace symbols at the October 2025 workshop in Clairefontaine

PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL NETWORK AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER GROUPS

Healing of Memories Global Network

Healing of Memories Luxembourg continued its collaboration within the global network by participating in regular online meetings of delegates from the nine member countries—South Africa, Canada (two autonomous groups in Edmonton and Montreal), the United States, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Myanmar, Namibia, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe - primarily to exchange information on their respective activities but also to develop a number of joint projects and to take the first tangible steps towards the establishment of a real international structure.

The 2025 initiatives included:

- the publication of a new 2025 global report (in English), to which each national healing of memories group contributed a chapter. HOM Luxembourg was also responsible for the chapter on the training programme in francophone Africa. The global report will be available on <https://healing-memories.lu/>, under the section Documents - Annual Reports;
- the launching of a survey to establish the level of support for the creation of a global structure, the implications of such a decision and the structure's principal areas of action. The responses were very favourable, which suggests that steps will be taken in this direction as early as 2026;
- further efforts gradually to harmonise the training of healing of memories facilitators on all continents, including the standards to be complied with.



Hamburg and Osnabrück groups (DE)

Hamburg

The Hamburg group organised a workshop in January 2025 as part of the training of future pastors.

Michael Lapsley, Patrick Byrne and Marie-Christine Ries participated remotely in the facilitators' debriefing meeting.

There were no joint projects in 2025.

Osnabrück

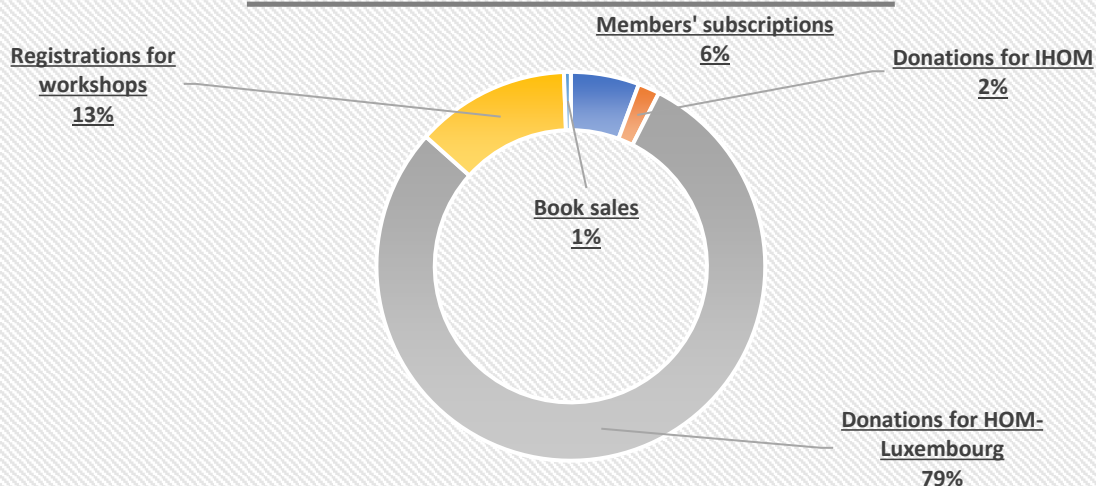
Contacts with the Osnabrück group were stepped up throughout 2025 in order to prepare for Michael Lapsley's visit to Osnabrück and Luxembourg in February-March 2026. Unfortunately, for health reasons Michael Lapsley was obliged to postpone his visit until 2027.

Regular contacts took place to discuss themes and ideas related to healing of memories.

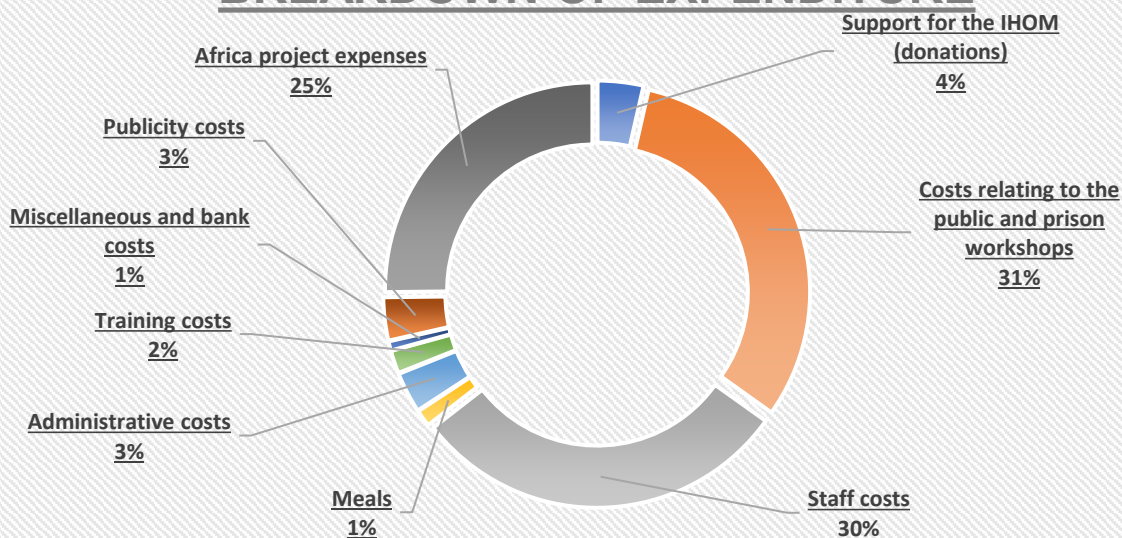
Jean-Marie Birsens joined the group and the planning of Michael's visit in 2027 will be a focus in 2026.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2025

BREAKDOWN OF REVENUE



BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE



Details of revenue:

The principal sources of revenue include:

- regular monthly donations and one-off donations from private individuals;
- one-off donations from non-profits and other entities.
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As in previous years, donations comprised 81% of revenue. Registration charges comprised 13% of revenue, compared with 5% in 2024.

Details of expenditure

The main items of expenditure were:

- **Costs relating to the workshop open to all**

This item includes the late processing of the costs of the October 2024 workshop in Clairefontaine and the two 2025 workshops - the one-day workshop in June and the weekend workshop in October.

- **Staff costs:**

Salary and social security contributions for the staff member responsible for the administrative coordination and follow-up of the francophone Africa project, which comprises training in healing of memories and the establishment of this activity in the countries of francophone Africa. Her contract expired at the end of September 2025.

- **Publicity costs:**

For the Festival of Migration, Cultures and Citizenship, it was decided to purchase promotional

items to attract the public and also to post on Facebook in order to make people aware of the activities of Healing of Memories Luxembourg.

- **Expenditure – Africa project:**

An advance of 10.000 euros was paid to Fondation Partage Luxembourg at the end of the year. This was an advance on what had been agreed: elements of the 2024 budget for the training project in francophone Africa which were 'outside the framework agreement'.

Conclusion : This report sets out the financial situation of HOM Luxembourg in 2024.

OUTLOOK FOR 2026

Highlights of the HOM Luxembourg programme for 2026:

- participation for the second time in the Festival of Migration, Cultures and Citizenship (21-22 March 2026), with a stand providing information and the opportunity to meet our members, as well as the presentation of the HOM Luxembourg film on a big screen as part of the 'ciné-rencontre' (film circle) programme;
- organisation for the second year running, on 27 June of a one-day mini-workshop providing an opportunity to sample the healing of memories methodology;
- organisation of a workshop open to all on 23-25 October in Medernach;
- training days for the Luxembourg facilitators and expansion of the team of lead facilitators;
- further regular support sessions for our facilitator team with two psychologists from the Omega 90 association;
- final year of the five-year facilitator training project in francophone Africa, coordinated by HOM Luxembourg in partnership with the Fondation Partage Luxembourg and co-financed by the Luxembourg Government, with:
 - (a) an advanced training session in Abidjan from 15 to 22 July for trainees from the seven participating countries;
 - (b) mission to support workshops in Rwanda and Togo from 23 November to 7 December, involving two members of HOM Luxembourg and a colleague from South Africa;
 - (3) launching of the new phase of the Africa project (2027-2028) to accompany our partners in their transition to independence.
- preparations for Michael Lapsley's visit to Germany and Luxembourg in February-March 2027, following the cancellation of the 2026 visit for health reasons.

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Membership of the Executive Committee: Patrick Byrne, Chairman until 31.08.2025, thereafter member; Marie-Christine Ries, member and then Chair from 01.09.2025; Esméralda Chupin, Treasurer; Cécile Thill, Secretary; Angela Borges; Paul Chahine; Javier García Alves; Laurent Lepany; Valdemar Santos: members.

Photos : private individuals