

EPM 2025 SAQA Europe and Middle East Retreat



It was a great pleasure to take part in this very first regional retreat. Ildiko, Allison and the team did an amazing job in organizing it: finding a suitable place, organizing delicious food and managing all the logistics.

This was a wonderful opportunity to get to know in person some people we only knew “virtually”, to meet members from other regions and exchange ideas on lots of topics.

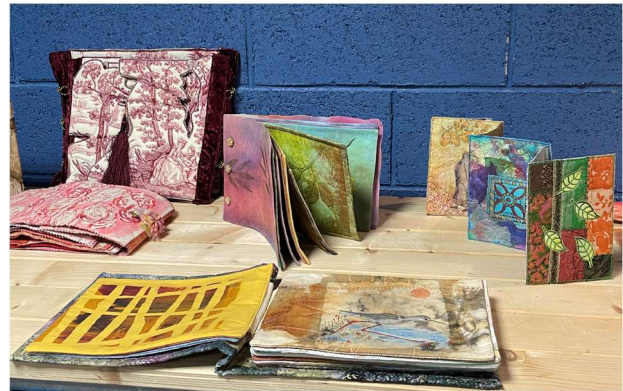
Ildiko came up with some creative ice breakers to get the conversations going with a very mixed group , lots of nationalities and languages (Hungarian, Swiss, German, French, Australian, New Zealander, American, Canadian, Finish, Norwegian, Belgian) as well as a mix of long-time friends and newcomers.



We were asked to bring a small piece of work for a special show and tell where instead of commenting on your own piece, you had to talk about one given to you, not always knowing whom it was from. This was an interesting way to hear how your piece resonated with someone else.

A delicious buffet lunch and coffee breaks provided good opportunities to chat too.





The afternoon got us to work a bit more! Cornelia presented some ideas for our next regional project on textile books. This led to a rich session of brainstorming on how to structure the project (format, hanging solutions, overall subject, cooperation ideas) building on the wide experience from the different participants. We will surely get to hear more about the outcome soon.

We had also been asked to bring a piece of material which had emotional significance to you. These little treasures found their way into group works for which we were meant to also write an artist statement. Not all of us got that far but we all had a good time!



Finally, the afternoon came to a close much too quickly. The exchanged textile postcards will give us all something to remember the day by!
Thanks again for the opportunity this gave us to get to know lots of members better and we look forward to the next retreat!