

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR REGIONAL ALLIANCE ICOM SOUTH - EAST EUROPE

2017

1. REGULAR WORK AND ANNUAL MEETINGS OF RA ICOM SEE

1.1. Board Meeting during the Advisory Meeting of ICOM, Paris, 9th June 2017

ICOM SEE activities were presented during the Advisory Assembly of ICOM at UNESCO in Paris. Goranka Horjan, President of ICOM SEE, presented ICOM SEE activities to the colleagues from national and international committees during the Advisory meeting in Paris. Many colleagues were impressed with ICOM SEE accomplishments so far and gave support for future programmes. ICOM SEE members held the Board meeting of national representatives in Paris. The members discussed annual programme and gave their proposals for future projects.

1.2. Board Meeting in Zagreb, Technical Museum, 13th November 2017

Goranka Horjan opened the meeting and thanked the members for coming to Zagreb. Some members asked to determine the time of the next meeting in order to be able to organize the travel arrangements. In order to meet the request, it has been announced that the next meeting of the alliance will take place during the ICOM annual meeting in Paris from 6 – 8 June 2018. There is a possibility to make a room reservation so the feedback is needed what time to meet. The second meeting in 2018 will be held together with the main ICOM SEE event in 2018 probably also in November.

ICOM SEE will apply for Special project grant with RE-ORG STORAGE part two training course that will take place in Albania. It will be also partner in ICOM Europe project and members also suggested more intense collaboration in the region particularly with exhibition exchange

2. SPECIAL PROJECTS

2.1. RE-ORG

2.1.1. Preparatory meeting, 4th – 7th July 2017, Zagreb, Croatia

ICOM SEE continued to implement RE-ORG project in the region due to the support of ICOM Special Project Grant. Many countries in the region of the SEE have indicated the urgent need to improve condition in their storages and so far the project has been implemented in several countries. This year the workshop was held in Croatia with the participation of professionals from Slovenia.

Mr Gaël de Guichen, former assistant of the Director-General of ICCROM and one of the leading experts for conservation and protection of cultural heritage, stayed in Zagreb from 4th to 7th July 2017 in order to prepare the course.

The aim of the meeting in the Ethnographic Museum was the inspection of the premises and identification of needs for the RE-ORG seminar, which was organised in the storages of the Ethnographic Museum from 6th to 17th November 2017, with the support of ICOM.

Gael de Guichen presented the project of selected storage reorganization to the staff and gave examples he had seen all over the world. On the basis of the self-evaluation and the inspection of the storage together with the expert museum staff, an assessment of the condition was made. A preparatory phase of the project was also made and the storages ready to implement the project of reorganization were chosen.

2.1.2. STORAGE RE-ORG Workshop, 6th – 17th November 2017, Zagreb, Croatia

The workshop of reorganization of museums storages was organized at the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb by ICOM, ICOM SEE, ICCROM, ICOM Slovenia and ICOM Croatia (which was included in the project thanks to the support of the Ministry of Culture). Since ICOM SEE has been implementing this project for Southeast Europe for several years now, the Central Institute for Conservation from Belgrade has been included in the organization.

The workshop was attended by 26 professional museum staff (9 curators and 17 conservators-restaurers) from 15 different museums from Slovenia and Croatia. Educators and facilitators of this program RE-ORG workshop were Veljko Džikić (Central Institute for Conservation in Belgrade), Jana Šublic Prisljan (Goriška Regional Museum) and Mihaela Grčević and Domagoj Kačan from the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb. The project leader was Gaël de Guichen, former assistant of the Director-General of ICCROM.

The project was divided in 4 phases and the reorganization sectors include management 4 aspects: management, space, collections and furniture. The reorganization covered 7470 objects from 8 collections, stored in 24 storage rooms. 1671 objects were not stored in an adequate manner.

At the end of the program, on Saturday, November 18th 2017, ICOM Slovenia organised a visit to the storage rooms of Posavina Museum in Brežice and the Ethnographic Museum in Ljubljana for participants.

As part of the reorganization project, curators and conservators of the Ethnographic Museum, in cooperation with the pedagogical department, set up the exhibition entitled "Hidden Treasures of Storages".

The training course had a huge visibility and media coverage and contributed to the adoption of the resolution for RE-ORG at the ICCROM meeting in Rome on 28th November which was adopted by member states.

2.1.3. Study case of collection management presented in Moldova

ICOM SEE Chair Goranka Horjan held lecture in the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History on collection management challenges and solutions. Presenting the results of the two-years dedicated work in bringing improvement in the institutions she runs she recommended the method of RE-ORG training for museum professionals. The method includes practical learning and can be implemented with minimum funding.

2.1.4. Preparations for RE-ORG in Albania in 2018

ICOM SEE has been collaborating with ICCROM to implement the RE-ORG methodology in museums in the region with the help of ICOM Special Projects support. There is a huge demand of museum professionals to have assistance in solving inadequate conditions in museum storages. After the successful training in Croatia ICOM Albania shows interest to organize the training in Tirana in 2018.

Sabina Veseli, ICOM Albania Chair and member of the ICOM SEE Board came to Zagreb and discussed the project preparation with the Chair of ICOM SEE.

3. TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Chair of ICOM SEE took part at several meetings that were held on European level in order to mark the European Year of Cultural Heritage

3.1. EUROPE NOSTRA Conference, CULTURAL HERITAGE COUNTS FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE, 15 – 17 June 2017, Belgrade, Serbia

In order to encourage various events as part of the work programme of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, conference participants coming from various EU countries and

accessioning countries have discussed multiple ways how to use this year to address relevant issues.

3.2. EUROPEAN CULTURE FORUM – organized by the European Commission to announce the EYCH, Milan, Italy, 7-8 December 2017

Numerous heritage organizations and representatives of ministries of culture met in Milan from 7 – 8 December to celebrate the opening of the European Year of Cultural Heritage. European Commission organized the Culture Forum featuring many distinguished speakers and participants were able to take part in the discussions that followed each session. Goranka Horjan, the Chair of ICOM SEE took part at the Culture Forum which was an excellent opportunity for exchange with present officials and museum organization leaders.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY RA ICOM SEE

3.1. *European Museum of the Year Award (EMYA), Zagreb, Croatia, 4 - 6 May 2017 and the Council of Europe Museum Prize for 2018 has been selected from the SEE Region*

In 2017 Zagreb hosted the European Museum of the Year Award (EMYA) from 4th to 6th May. Goranka Horjan, President of ICOM SEE and former Chair of the European Museum Forum encouraged museums from the SEE region to participate in the award scheme and several has already won recognition. Excellent news came in December. After the EMF Jury shortlisted candidates for the Council of Europe Museum Prize the Council of Europe made the decision that the award goes to the Museum of War Childhood Bosnia and Hezegovina which is a fantastic success and acknowledgment of the efforts of ICOM SEE to improve and encourage good museum practices.

3.2. *Round table "Tradition and Innovation", Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 15 – 17 June 2017*

The Regional Alliance ICOM SEE has given support to the project "Tradition and Innovation" within which was held an expert conference focused on the topic "Schools, Pre-schools and Museum – associates in the field of education". The meeting was held at the Museum of Republic of Srpska in Banja Luka on 15th and 16th June 2017, with the aim to present good museum practices and strengthen the regional museum collaboration. This expert conference was regional in its character and it gathered museum managers, educators, curators, school pedagogues from Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and

Herzegovina. In the name of the Regional Alliance ICOM SEE the audience was addressed by the Vice President of the Alliance, Ms Sarita Vujković PhD.

3.3. International Museum Day Theme

3.3.1. Exhibition Targeting History and Memory, Gliptoteka, Zagreb

Dealing with the ICOM theme for the International Museum Day on contested history – ICOM SEE participate in organizing the exhibition Targeting History and Memory. It was opened in Zagreb in April reminding the audience on heavy crimes committed against cultural, historical and religious heritage during the 1990s war in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. The exhibition brought forward only the cases that have been put on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia which was established in 1993. At the opening invited panelists emphasized that although the cases brought to the Tribunal were scarce and still going-on it is important crimes against cultural heritage are prosecuted. The experts coming from cultural sector pointed out how procedures were legally drafted and how they managed to draft another two important documents that can help cultural monument protection in times of conflict apart from the existing conventions. Art historians who took part in the panel concluded that museums should have had been involved in these attempts more actively since their role is to help preventing similar problems in future. The exhibition was touring to several countries in the region.

3.3.2.

A specific activity was directed toward promotion of International Museum Day theme in the region in Belgrad. In a short clip announcing programmes for 2017 International Museum Day with the selected topic Museums and Contested Histories ICOM SEE member Slavko Spasić from ICOM Serbia took part in promotional activities.

3.5. "Museum and Innovations" book promotion

Museums and Innovations, a new book published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing and edited by Zvezdana Antoš, Annette B. Fromm and Viv Golding was promoted in Mimara Museum in Zagreb on 24th February 2017. The book contains selected conference papers written by museum experts who participated at the annual conference of ICME held in Croatia in 2014. The book was promoted by Goranka Horjan, director of the Ethnographic Museum and President of the Regional Alliance ICOM SEE and dr.sc. Darko Babić, the Chair of ICOM Croatia. The contents of the book were presented by the member of the editorial board dr.sc. Zvezdana Antoš and welcome speech was given by mr.sc. Lada Ratković-Bukovčan, director of Mimara Museum.

5. FOSTERING VISIBILITY OF ICOM AND ICOM SEE

In compliance with the new ICOM Strategic Plan adopted at the General Conference in Milan, RA ICOM SEE provided support in all the main activities initiated by ICOM and exploited opportunities to increase relevance of museums in the global environment.

ICOM SEE was particularly focused on museum development and heritage expertise and networking with other stakeholders with the final aim of strengthening the ICOM's global leadership in the heritage sector trying to contribute to the visibility of the organisation.

ICOM SEE also used resources to apply new standards for ICOM visuals and promotion via the web and publications. It started the new web site in English on icom.museum platform. The ICOM SEE Facebook was launched and managed by ICOM SEE secretary Biljana Đorđević.

ICOM SEE also provided assistance to NC and IC of ICOM to organise conferences and meetings in the region. The participation at the conferences organized by ICOM Serbia were supported.

6. PARTICIPATION AT EXPONATEC

Goranka Horjan, the Chair of ICOM SEE and member of the Board of "Best in Heritage" had pleasure to moderate the opening of one of the most popular museum fairs in Europe. ICOM SEE is particularly honoured to promote the Best in Heritage as the leading success event in this part of Europe which has a huge global impact. The event was also attended by numerous ICOM representatives and Dr Peter Keller, General Director, addressed the audience on behalf of ICOM.

7. EU PROJECTS

7.1. ICOM Moldova EU project

Cross-river Cultural Cooperation Platform, which is funded by the European Union under the program Strengthening Confidence Building Measures in Moldova, has been implemented by ICOM Moldova and supported by ICOM SEE in providing hosts during the research in Cyprus and by participating in the final workshop at Chisinau.

Goranka Horjan

Chairperson of RA ICOM SEE

