Initiatives of museums in Europe in connection to migrants and refugees
(as by January 2016)

What is in the NEMO pipeline?

- Some of our members are working to submit an application under the Erasmus+ or the Creative Europe programme to identify how - as cultural learning institutions - museums can work in partnership with other agencies to provide skills, education and employability skills to help disadvantaged young people, in particular young migrant/immigrants/asylum seekers aged 16-26.

- Another group of members is working to submit a proposal about "Museums and Conflict Resolution" within DG Justice’ programme to support transnational projects to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance - JUST/2015/RRAC/AG

- One of our webinars in 2016 will be about the inclusion of and work with migrants in museums

Examples from museums/initiatives etc

a) Individual Museum Projects:

- DK: Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark: TRAVELLING WITH ART: a learning project for refugee children
  https://www.rodekors.dk/media/1626037/Traveling-with-art-report.pdf

- DK: ROMU is a local Danish museum located in Roskilde, Lejre and Frederikssund by Roskilde Fjord. ROMU have a vision to include new target groups and to take a social responsibility, interested in creating social meeting places where people can meet without paying for a ticket. The museum has established a cooperation with Danish Red Cross asylum centres in the area where offering cultural activities, introducing migrants to Danish history, culture and traditions, local communities and cultural activities. For both refugees and persons seeking asylum the museum offers a) Learning programs for migrants about Danish history and culture and the society today including democracy, monarchy and the development of the Danish labour market and Welfare State. The Learning programs introduce migrants and refugees through culture activities to a life in Denmark, b) Learning programs for children being included in Danish Schools. Special arrangements for these children during school holidays, which give them experiences that many Danish children often get with their parents or grandparents. C) Events for specific target groups – young men, families with children, schoolchildren, women and men e.g. handwork and handcraft festivals, festivals for old games and children life. Activities in relation to holidays and festivals with cultural information and background. In all activities the museum focuses on dialogue, hands-on, exchange of experience and includes migrant stories both in exhibitions and collections.

- DE: Project Refugees welcome in the German Historical Museum Berlin (www.dhm.de): Free of charge visits and guided tours for Refugees in German, English and French to get acquainted with the history and culture of the new homeland and to participate in the German cultural life.

- DE: LWL Industrial Museum Hannover Colliery, Bochum/Germany: workshop program working with seniors as mentors for migrant and refugee kids (8-17 years old). www.lwl-industriemuseum.de

- DE: Refugees as guides on Berlin's Museum Island. A pilot project from Berlin's state museums and the German Historical Museum: A total of 19 refugees from Syria and Iraq have been trained to provide tours of the Pergamon Museum, the Bode Museum and the German Historical Museum in their native languages. Working under the title "Multaka" - the Arabic for "meeting point" - the program seeks to enable the exchange of different cultural and historical experiences. The German Historical Museum seeks to introduce refugees to the history and culture of Germany and provide an insight to its formative crises and processes of historical renewal.

- DE: Museum für Naturkunde Berlin: Berlin project for migrant school classes (in German only):

- DE: Travelling exhibition „Wasglaubstdudenn“ about Muslim culture in Germany that travels from school to school (in German only): http://www.wasglaubstdudenn.de and http://www.franke.
- **DE**: Project “Building cultural bridges”: Refugees are welcome in Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe! Once a week a group of refugees from Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan visits the cultural historical museum, guided by a team of experienced and intercultural trained museum education officers in English and German. One young Syrian translates into Arabic.

- **DE**: “daHEIM – glances into fugitive lives”, Museum Europäischer Kulturen Berlin, exploring through art and methods of cultural anthropology the know-how, desires, life perspectives and home environments of people who had to escape, embedded into historical context, grand opening of exhibition will take place on 21 July 2016.


- **GR**: “Wor(th)ship” Exhibition, Benaki Museum, Athens, 20 November 2015 - 10 January 2016: this is a temporary photographic exhibition currently on show at the Benaki Museum, a major private museum in Athens. The exhibition features the latest field work of photographer Tassos Vrettos who sets out to record and present for the first time 44 places of worship of migrants and refugees in and around Athens. Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus and various other religious denominations convert basements, rented flats and garages into makeshift places of prayer and devotion.


- **SI**: Slovenian Ethnographic Museum has organised an exhibition about Migration: www.etnon-muzej.si/sl/razstave/migracije. (Slovene language only)

- **IT**: Musei Civici Modena, Italy: The museum works regularly with migrants and produces an intercultural diary every other year on a different subject. The diary 2016 is going to be presented to the city on 19 December 2015.

  http://www.museicivici.modena.it/it/pagine/progetti-interculturali


- **ES**: “Migrar es Cultura” (Migration is Culture), an online participatory project of Museo de America, Madrid: This is a participatory project run by the Museo de America, a public museum in Madrid, Spain, since 2012. Through a web platform that hosts material (videos, pictures, texts etc.) contributed by the public, the “Migration is Culture” project intends to collect and show the diversity and cultural enrichment that occur through migration. It includes both the past and the present and all aspects of culture from gastronomy to music, through life experiences.

  http://www.migrarescultura.es/que-es-migrar-es-cultura/ (only in Spanish)

- **PT**: Museu Nacional de Etnologia good practices: The National Museum of Ethnology is currently engaged in the development of projects dedicated to the integration of communities with migrant backgrounds through cultural activities, namely with the Cape Verdean community installed in Lisbon and its surroundings. This relationship between the Museum and the Cape Verdean community began in the mid 1990’s with the presentation of an exhibition dedicated to the traditional textiles made and used for centuries in the islands of Cape Verde. This exhibition and the several educational activities developed in close collaboration with the most important NGO representative of the Cape Verdean community in Portugal (Moinho da Juventude) constituted a landmark in this institutional relationship.

- **SRB**: the Museum of African Art’s exhibition THE BORDER IS CLOSED (September - December 2015.)

  http://www.museumofafricanart.org/en/past-exhibitions/the-border-is-closed.html (statement + pdf catalogue + trailer). A segment of the exhibition (migrant maps) are currently on a visiting exhibition in a Zagreb based gallery:

  http://www.whw.hr/galerija-nova/izlozba-skart.html#

- **SE**: Jamtli Museum is planning the “The Modern Multicultural Town” which will have housing for 12 asylum seeking families (starting December 2016), in collaboration with Östersund municipality, The National Migration Agency and Östersund Housing Company. www.jamtli.com

- **ESOL**: Many museums collaborate with training centres/language schools, etc. to teach the language of the hosting country to migrants. Below just some examples from UK museums: British Museum, London


  Geffrye Museum http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/learning/online-resources/esol-resources/

  Victoria and Albert Museum, London http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/programmes-for-esol-students/

  Hackney Museum http://www.hackney.gov.uk/cm-museum-esol.htm

  London Transport Museum


b) Guidelines/Initiatives Umbrella Organisations:

- IT/PT: Museums and Migration: https://museumsandmigration.wordpress.com Blog by Anna Chiara Cimoli and Maria Vlachou offering a list of exemplary museum projects dealing with migration and intercultural dialogue, sharing ideas, experiences and concrete examples
- NL: Project Imagine IC (http://www.imagineic.nl/english)
- UK: Museums Association initiative to diversify workforce in museums: http://www.museumassociation.org/careers/diversify/diversify-overview
- DE: Guidelines for museums and how to work with diverse communities, compiled by the German Museums Association „Leitfaden Migration” (in German only) (http://www.museumsbund.de/de/fachgruppen_arbeitskreise/migration_ak/leitfaden/)
- DE: German Museums Association’s project „Alle Welt im Museum” (Everyone in the museum), in German only: http://www.museumsbund.de/fileadmin/geschaefte/dokumente/Wir_Projekte/Alle_Welt_im_Museum_Bericht_WEB.pdf and http://www.museumsbund.de/de/projekte/museum_und_migration/alle_welt_im_museum/
- DE: Prize for cultural projects for refugees in Germany, awarded by Monika Grütters, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/DE/Pressemitteilungen/BPA/2015/12/2015-12-16-bkm-sonderpreis.html;jsessionid=74C834EDD8D5EB836E6AC4DBD759E0ACD-s411 (only in German)
- DE: German Museums Association’s database on museums and cultural education which includes many museum projects for refugees and migrants http://www.museumbildet.de, and the initiative “Von uns – für uns! Die Museen unserer Stadt entdeckt”, a major ongoing project aiming at educational disadvantaged children and youth. www.museum-macht-stark.de
- NEMO: Museums, migration and cultural diversity. Recommendations for museum work. Presenting a range of good models how museums work with migrant groups and help to facilitate intercultural dialogue on different levels, providing concrete and hands-on instructions for museums to find a multi-perspective and multicultural approach to their work and their collections in order to contribute to a healthy and diverse society. http://www.nemo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/NEMo_documents/Nemo_Museums_Migration.pdf

b) EU funded projects:

- PROJECT "Dialoguing Museums for a New Cultural Democracy": The project aimed at bringing together a group of scientific museums and research centres committed to provide learning opportunities for adult people. Diamond aimed at implementing pilot activities within scientific museums addressed to socially disadvantaged adults and immigrants, using also ICT, namely digital storytelling and focusing on the issue of impact measurement and evaluation. To promote a greater appreciation of the role of scientific museums as a tool to engage adults and promote learning opportunities and social inclusion for disadvantaged groups. More than 100 stories were collected and 55 museum professionals were trained in the digital storytelling methodology over the last two years. http://www.diamondmuseums.eu/project.html
- PROJECT Brokering migrants’ cultural participation: The aim of the project is to enhance and stimulate the cultural participation of migrants by improving the capacity of their local cultural public institutions to interact with them. Public cultural institutions are part of the receiving society, which has to live up to the challenge of managing cultural diversity and ensuring intercultural integration. Central to these tasks is the enhancement of the intercultural capacity of public cultural institutions by diversifying their staff and governance bodies. https://mcpbroker.wordpress.com/
- Cultural base project about heritage and identities: http://culturalbase.eu/theoretical-framework/