



Network of European
Museum Organisations

Effective Measures to 'Green' the Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps Programmes | Stakeholder meeting with CULT committee | 6 February 2020

About NEMO

The Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO) was founded in 1992 as an independent network of national museum organisations representing the museum community of the member states of the Council of Europe. Together, NEMO's members speak for over 30.000 museums across Europe.

NEMO's activities for a greener future

Since 2019, NEMO has chosen [sustainability](#) to be one focus of its work for museums. In the course of the past year, we have organised a [European Museum Conference](#) on the topic of the SDG's and museums, we have launched the [#museumsforfuture](#) initiative, have organised [webinars](#) for museum professionals around the topic of sustainability, and NEMO is a proud member of the [Climate Heritage network](#).

Culture and Sustainability

Cultural operators should not merely be seen as a recipient of legislation regarding the European Green Deal. The question should not be "how can culture adapt to the green deal" but "what can culture contribute to the green deal."

Good examples of museums in Europe already driving research and understanding of sustainability are numerous: Natural History Museums are contributing to biodiversity research and action (for example the [Naturalis Center](#)), heritage sites are adding to [water resilience or growing population](#), while we find molecular biology research at the [AfricaMuseum](#), just to name a few.

Recommendations for Greening the Future EU Programmes

- a) Support through including a focus on sustainability in projects
 - **Supporting the role of living heritage and "indigenous" (in Europe typically: traditional) practice with regards to land use, water management, etc.**
Living heritage is guarded by cultural operators as a source of inspiration for future European practices.
A good example is the way shipbuilders in the [Coastal Heritage Museum](#) of Norway are using Viking craft to build energy-efficient and sustainable boats.

- **Support cooperation between culture stakeholders and innovative, sustainability driven companies**
 There is a need for good practices of cooperation between museums and green companies, helping them to make their operations sustainable and future proof.
 Carbon reduction is an important driver to make museums ready for the future, to spread the message to visitors that museums is exemplary in taking steps towards a sustainability and to allow for innovative tools in upgrading museum facilities, for example by applying technical systems like a thermal energy storage network to reduce carbon emissions. A good example is the [Hermitage museum in Amsterdam](#), which installed a thermal energy storage network with a *hortus botanicus* (botanical garden)
- b) Support through new, sustainability-driven impact assessment frameworks
- **Support to develop a comprehensive impact framework for culture specifically for sustainability**
 Either through relating to the SDGs, or based on Key Performance Indicators, directly linked to the Green Deal
 - **Introducing new metrics of success for cultural operators**
 The best way to support cultural organisations to focus on being greener and more sustainable is by encouraging funders to drop visitor numbers as the main or only metric of success (for museums). Organizations free from this “pressure” are the most socially innovative. Often these are privately funded ([Fashion For Good](#) and the [Street Art Museum in Amsterdam](#)). A source of inspiration for creating a place for people to come together to work on urgent challenges and questions of our time, to incubate them and to make them real is [YBCA's Culture Bank](#) (in San Francisco).
- c) Support through administrative guidelines in the EU programmes
- **Supporting sustainable traveling in context with the EU funded projects:**
 - setting limits to the usage of airplanes for traveling for distances less than 500km
 - Making carbon footprint offsetting for necessary airplane travels eligible costs
 - Allowing for long distance train travels, even if more expensive than the flight option
 - **Allowing for green, local and sustainable services**
 - adding the dimensions of local and sustainable production and services to the criteria catalogue to compare and commission services by project partners