

NEMO POLICY STATEMENT

Who we are

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.

Our vision

Museums safeguard tangible and intangible evidence of the manmade and natural world for current and future generations. Their collections tell a rich variety of stories, interpreting past and present history. Museums encourage dialogue, they stimulate us to think, learn and reflect; to celebrate differences and discover affinities. Museums contribute to developing cultural factors: they create memory and identity, and they foster creativity, diversity and knowledge. All these factors are crucial to the building of today's society.

Our mission

It is vital that cultural heritage has a strong voice in Europe. Museums need to be seen as institutions serving their communities in a meaningful way.

NEMO's mission is to ensure museums are an integral part of European society by promoting their work and value to policy-makers and by providing museums with information, expertise and opportunities for networking, development and cooperation.

Our actions

We advocate

NEMO champions the cause of museums at European level and through its members at national level and influences policies that are relevant to museums.

We share

NEMO informs its members and the museum sector at large of current and prospective European policies on culture and museums, and of the funding opportunities offered by various EU programmes, thereby helping museums to function internationally. In order to achieve this NEMO liaises with relevant European Union (EU) institutions and other relevant stakeholders and regularly publishes news about EU programmes, policies and initiatives.

We train

NEMO enables its members and the museum sector to network and share best practice at all levels, building on their capacity and improving the service they offer to the public. It also encourages the building of skills of museum staff, thereby providing a quality public service.



We collaborate

Through its network and supported by its website, through initiatives and lobbying, NEMO empowers museums and museums organisations to collaborate on multilateral projects at European level and beyond.

NEMO works with other cultural organisations in Europe to publicise common causes and objectives and to show how cultural activities can be strengthened by working together. It establishes links with relevant stakeholders to enable its members to work and prosper internationally.

Our strategic focus

NEMO focuses on four key strategic areas that it considers to be important for the museum sector in Europe: The collection value is the basis to the social value, the educational value and the economic value, that museums have for society.

All these strategic areas are in line with the objectives of Europe 2020, the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and with the European Agenda for Culture and underline museums' contribution to a sustainable and healthy society. They emphasize the importance of museums and cultural heritage as a bearer of common values, as drivers of economic sustainable development and social cohesion, which has gained recognition at the highest political level in the EU. They also contribute to NEMO's mission to help develop a comprehensive overall strategy for cultural heritage, an obligation stipulated in article 3.3 of the Treaty of the European Union.

COLLECTION VALUE

VISION

Tangible and intangible collections are at the heart of museums.

NEMO wants to see that collections are well taken care of for present and future generations and are as widely accessible to all people as possible. They reflect different perspectives, cultural complexity and are used in multiple ways for the benefit of the society.

CONCERNS

The collections are not seen as a core of the museum work and a funding priority.

The visibility of collection-related work is on a low level, museums do not always have adequate resources for taking proper care of their collections and making optimal use of them.

MISSION

NEMO advocates for the manifold values of collections and provides a platform for museums to exchange good practices for the conservation, preservation, research, accessibility, interpretation and innovative use of museum collections.

SOCIAL VALUE

VISION

Museums are part of a good life. They communicate with all generations and serve society at large. They strengthen the social fabric and serve as places for meeting and dialogue for different cultures and offer opportunities for individual growth.

CONCERNS

Museums are not fully acknowledged and supported in their role as social agents.

MISSION

NEMO highlights the social value and supports the potential of museums for society by promoting their contribution to different social agendas such as health, tolerance, education, democracy, active citizenship, social justice and poverty.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE

VISION

Museums help people develop as individuals and understand their place in the world. They are life-long learning environments, complementary to all other forms of education and they offer additional learning opportunities for all.

CONCERNS

Museums are still not acknowledged and supported as a part of the educational system.

MISSION

We support museums to be recognized as rich learning environments and places of public engagement and provide the platform for the exchange of good practices.

ECONOMIC VALUE

VISION

Museums are important actors in the economy and the creative sectors. They are at the heart of successful urban regeneration and cultural tourism initiatives. They are places of, actors in and partners for the creative economy.

CONCERNS

Museums are not fully acknowledged and supported as actors in the economy and the creative sectors. There is still little comprehensive and comparable data available and an appropriate framework to measure aggregate economic value and spill-over effects of museums is lacking.

MISSION

NEMO wants to ensure that museums are recognised and supported as key assets to urban and regional development, to a flourishing tourism industry and as drivers for the economy and the creative industries.

TRANSVERSAL THEMES

As transversal objectives, NEMO considers of pivotal importance to support European museums in their endeavor to fully embrace and tap their potential within the digital shift and to develop their organisational capacities in all four strategic areas.

DIGITALISED MUSEUMS

VISION

Digital technologies affect all aspects of museum work today. With their digital potential museums contribute to different social aspects as sources of creative innovation, information and learning. They interact with different audiences and promote open access to their collections on a global level

CONCERNS

Policies and programmes implementing the EU Digital Agenda still don't fully acknowledge the role of museums as learning institutions in the service of society.

MISSION

NEMO advocates for museums and heritage to become an integral part of the Digital Agenda of the EU.

NEMO helps museums across Europe to build on their digital capacities at all levels.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

VISION

Museums contribute to a sense of belonging, shared values and solidarity among a society in constant change, helping to preserve the integrity of the European project. The empowerment and capacity building of the people who work in museums and take care of cultural heritage are at the core of successful museum work and meaningful social impact.

CONCERNS

The importance of life-long learning and continuous training in all aspects of museum work as a way to help museum professionals to embrace new demands, and to enhance the value of museums to society, is not fully acknowledged and supported.



Network of European
Museum Organisations

MISSION

NEMO advocates for support through targeted capacity building programmes for museum professionals that will equip them with new and emerging skills as an integral part of contemporary museum work.

NEMO offers museum professionals European capacity building programmes to share experiences and knowledge and to foster a European dimension in museum work.