



Museums in Europe discuss how they can contribute to sustainable development at NEMO's European Museum Conference

Tartu, 08.11.2019

From 7-10 November 2019, museum professionals in Europe gathers for the annual conference of NEMO, the Network of European Museum Organisation, to explore how museums can help contribute to a better and greener future. At the conference, which takes place at the Estonian National Museum in Tartu, NEMO also shared the initiative #MuseumsforFuture.

NEMO wants to inspire museums to lead the way and become key players in creating a sustainable and equitable future and planet. The conference illustrates how museums can do so by incorporating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in their work. Museums are perfect partners for making the SDGs accessible since they already are familiar with translating processes of change and communicating concepts from global to local level in an understandable way.

"Networks like NEMO empower museums to be more active in the society", Tõnis Lukas, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, declared. Julia Pagel, NEMO Secretary General, adds that the European museum network NEMO "advocates for the instrumental role of museums in providing opportunities for decent work, poverty reduction, social resilience, gender equality and other aspects of the SDGs; and illustrates how museums contribute to the realisation of the SDG targets in providing solutions in urban and rural, European national and local contexts."

215 museum professionals, culture professionals and policy makers from 38 countries are getting inspired by 33 speakers from 17 different countries. Within the larger agenda of creating a better future, the conference puts a certain focus on SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities and SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions. To encourage others, four courageous museum projects that have been fighting for what they believe in will be given the stage in the European Project Slam: Courageous Museums.

Kerttu Männiste, board member of the Estonian Museums Association and one of the hosting organisations, elaborated that *"Museums associations can not only help spread the message of sustainable development, but together with museums and others in the field of cultural heritage prove that the cultural sector can be the initiator and designer of sustainable developments. One of the ways is by supporting equal and inclusive access to quality cultural services and informal learning for all. Associations can provide a platform for sharing best practices and activities with other cultural sectors as well as other sectors, but also take action and influence the shaping of their country's cultural politics towards more sustainable goals."*

NEMO encourages museums to get out on the streets, join the movement and show that they are #MuseumsforFuture. Museums are capable of making people challenge old patterns, question habits and inspire new ways of living. They can inspire by leading the way and set an example.¹⁰ simple action for museums to support climate action and the global climate strike on 29 November 2019 was released with the #MuseumsforFuture campaign.

On the topic of sustainable museums, Alar Karis, director at the Estonian National Museum, said that *"Museums should have a clear vision of a sustainable future and be role models in society. For instance, the construction of the Estonian National museum building on a former airfield influenced city development in Tartu and helped to solve an environmental crisis at the museum site."*

More information about the conference can be found at www.europeanmuseumconference.org

Support climate action and join #MuseumsforFuture on www.museumsforfuture.org

[Download the conference programme as a pdf.](#)

NEMO - Network of European Museum Organisations

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.

www.ne-mo.org

Contact

Rebecca Thonander

thonander@ne-mo.org

+49 30 397 156 61