



## Museums in Europe discuss their Cooperation with and Impact on different Sectors at NEMO's Annual Conference

Valletta, 16.11.2018

**From 15-18 November 2018, the Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO) gathers museum professionals in the 2018 European Capital of Culture Valletta, Malta, for its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to explore the crossover impact of museums.**

NEMO has invited museums from all over Europe to investigate the different forms of values that are created when museums cooperate with other sectors, such as the learning, the social or the creative sector. Museums and their missions, responsibilities, and modes of engagement within their communities are in a constant process of transformation in response to social and economic development at local, national, and global levels.

183 museum professionals, culture professionals and policy makers from 39 countries are attending the conference. 24 speakers from 11 different countries, among them Annemies Broekgaarden, Head of Public and Education Department at the [Rijksmuseum](#), and Lynn Scarff, Director of the [National Gallery of Ireland](#), have been invited to share their knowledge with the conference participants. The conference affirms that museums create different kinds of values to other sectors such as the social, tourism and health sector, just to name a few. NEMO advocates for museums to be fully acknowledged and given increased support to encourage those collaborations across sectors, and supports the concept of mainstreaming heritage becoming a reality across EU, national, local and regional levels.

Several activities are offered at the conference including workshops, museum study visits and panel discussions, and the Children in Museums Award Ceremony will mark the end of the programme. The European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) acts as a central theme throughout the conference and NEMO will give the stage to five projects that all have been awarded with the EYCH 2018 label in the [European Project Slam of EYCH 2018](#) on Saturday 17 November 2018.

Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, opened the conference today. He reaffirmed museums' significant role in society:

*"Museums have an important role in building a cohesive Europe. They hold our cultural treasures and are vital in educating people, encouraging creativity, and providing incentives for the creative and cultural industries. As custodians of a range of diverse collections, all museums are in a powerful position to present stories that can build bridges between communities, regions and countries – and between the past and the future. This is a central aim of the European Year of Cultural Heritage and of the European Action Plan for Cultural Heritage, which I intend to present towards the end of the year to ensure that culture and cultural heritage remain at the top of the EU's political priorities well beyond 2018. I am pleased that the Year has brought out so much enthusiasm across the Union, at all levels, to explore and connect all citizens with our shared roots, to raise awareness of our common history and values, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space."*

The Chair of NEMO, David Vuillaume, elaborated and suggested future possible collaborations across sectors:

*“The social sector will be the main collaboration partner for museums in the future. The growing social differences and the integration of refugees are challenges which museums have to meet.”*

Networks such as NEMO are necessary to empower museums; to make sure their needs are recognised and solutions realised. NEMO’S Secretary General Julia Pagel said:

*“No museum is an island! Together we are more than just the sum of us. Museums that see and act in a larger framework of partners and colleagues, across borders, are the most likely to succeed in the future. And that is what we want to provide them with through NEMO: let us bring museums together, learn from each other, discuss trends, and to jointly face our challenges.”*

The conference is held in the 2018 European Capital of Culture’s highly anticipated and newly opened [MUŽA museum](#). Sandro Debono, Project Lead of MUŽA, emphasises the added value that the new museum and initiatives such as the European Capital of Culture brings to a city like Valletta:

*“Valletta 2018 has placed Malta and Valletta in particular on the map through greater exposure and a strong year-long cultural programme featuring major events throughout the year. Were it not for the European Capital of Culture and the need for a legacy infrastructure, MUŽA might have never materialized.”*

More information about the conference can be found at [www.ne-mo.org/ac18](http://www.ne-mo.org/ac18)  
[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](http://www.ne-mo.org)

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