



CALL FOR ICR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dear ICR members and friends,

We are delighted to announce Call for International Committee for Regional Museums (ICR) Annual Conference 2020.

After the time of confusion we do hope you and your families are well and healthy. Now, when in many countries special measures of the covid-19 pandemic are starting to loosen, we can invite you to ICR Annual Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia, November 1-7, 2020.

As we informed you, in the situation of pandemic we had to postpone the conference to November 7-11, 2020 (from September). We sincerely hope we will overcome the disease by then.

ICR, in collaboration with ICOM Georgia, has decided to dedicate the annual ICR conference to the subject »HOW REGIONAL MUSEUMS DEAL WITH CRISIS?«. Regional museums are probably the most numerous museums in the world concerned with community, identity, and the developing life of their own places. ICR promotes the development through providing a forum for communication, co-operation and information exchange between those working in museums and related organisations. And the current situation confirms the need of these matters.

We invite ICR members and friends to discuss the topics where they deal with their past and present challenges with various types of crises: earthquake, fire,

flood, hurricane, terrorism or war destruction, economic or social and medical crisis, etc. This is the time we can share our experiences with a broader museum community. In Kyoto, only a few months ago, we stated the positive and sustainable development of local and regional museums and their impact on economic roles. Today we are in a totally different situation. Together we will find out how regional museums (re)acted in these situations and which solutions could be adopted in future.

Experiences suggest that how important it is to stay connected with each other. Digital platforms help us to react quickly and we are building a new society during the crisis. As Suay Aksoy, President of ICOM claimed in her letter *Museums Will Move On*: »... museums have a role to play and even with closedown, museums are more accessible as ever.«

With this annual conference we would like to assist smaller and regional museums, after having heard of many cases of the closing of museums, colleagues fired or on layoff, etc.

Further information:

Conference fee: 350 eu (accommodation not included)

Early bird registration: August 31, 2020

For other deadlines please see *Call for papers* and *Call for grants*.

Registration and programme will be sent when the decisions will be made.

We would like to inform you, that we are also preparing Plan B. No one can predict what will happen in autumn that is why we are checking the possibility of organizing an online conference if the circumstances will not allow us to meet

in Tbilisi. Together with ICOM Georgia ICR board has decided to postpone the final decision until the end of May. We will let you know in good time what happens after that.

Detailed information we will send immediately after we make a final decision how to conduct the conference.

You are welcome to share your solutions and ideas with us.