



## CECA Newsletter February 2020

**In this first newsletter we like to inform you of news from the network of CECA members, past and current events and our prospects.**

I would first like to salute the very high quality of the members of the Board which was appointed last september at the General Conference in Kyoto. We are fortunate that our international committee is led by a team that interacts quickly and efficiently. I would like to thank each and every one of the inspiring women who make up the Committee. We know how time-consuming and involved the functions of education and cultural action in a museum or university are. It is always courageous to add a voluntary responsibility of community service to this.

*Marie-Clarté O'Neill, President of CECA*



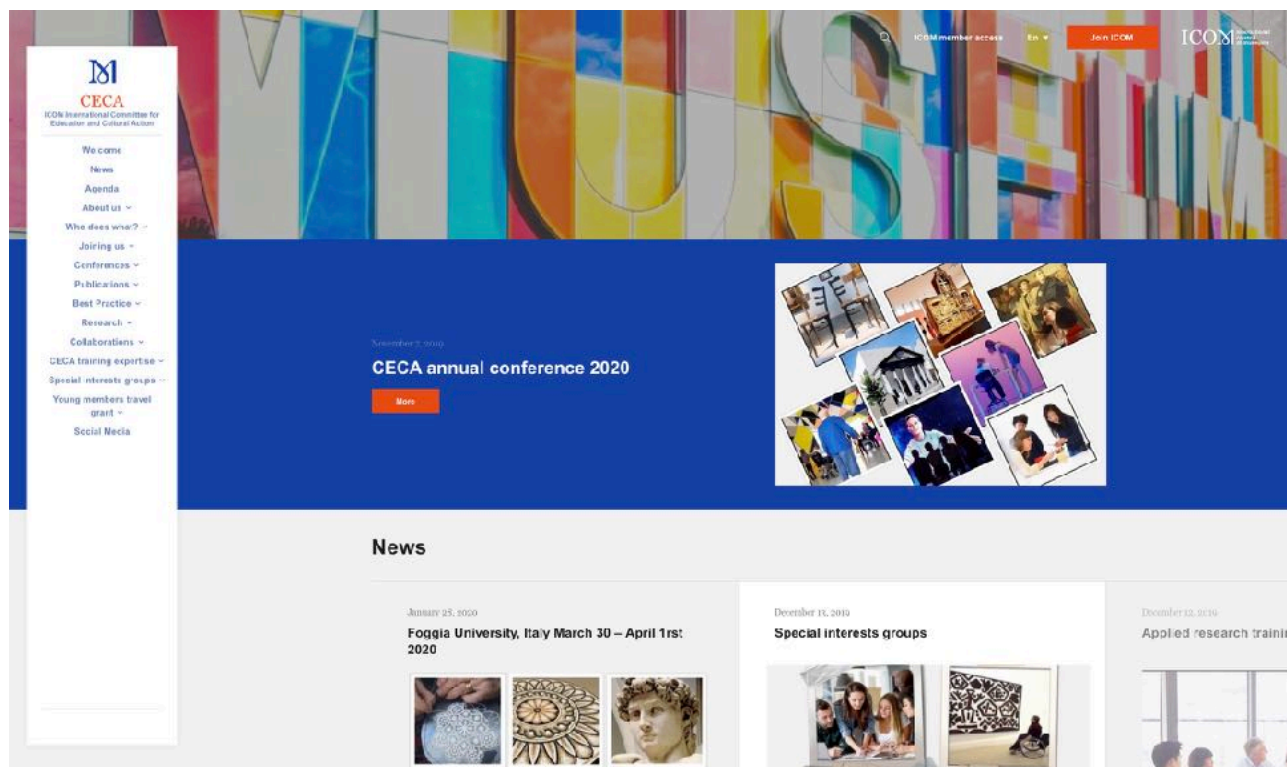
### **Website**

The most important project since Kyoto has been the creation of a new CECA website <http://ceca.mini.icom.museum/> housed within the general ICOM website. Which ensures its continuity at a time when there are team changes that punctuate the life of ICOM committees.

CECA was the first large committee in terms of volume of activity to embark on the creation of a site in this new configuration. It was therefore CECA which constituted the test phase for a whole series of technical questions often insufficiently taken into consideration by the developer or the ICOM secretariat. Marie-Françoise Delval, our webmaster, also had to tame, with commendable

determination, a very different way of working from the previous one. Another project to put online was to develop a completely trilingual site in the official languages of ICOM. The distribution of our office among these three languages prompted us to take this ambitious decision. We would like to thank all those who worked on the formatting and translations (Angela Manders, Margarita Laraignée).

This site has the ambition to be both a place for storing data, in particular our publications, but also to inform our members of current projects in order to encourage them to get involved as much as possible. *Please consult this site regularly, it is intended for you!*



## Membership Lists

This newsletter can only be sent, very logically, to the members we have identified and whose email addresses we have. What seems simple is made extraordinarily complex by the inability of the ICOM Secretariat to keep an up-to-date list of members that can be consulted by international committees. The ICOM lists are drawn up by the national committees, each of which seems to have a separate and opaque database system, the common IRIS database being updated very little, thus generating unusable information for the international committees.

We have therefore decided, with the support of the Director General, to conduct a survey of National Committees around the world to obtain the names of their members who have decided to be voting members of CECA. This is an enormous task, the very first results of which demonstrate the relevance since, in the few countries explored, the nature and number of our members seem to be quite different from the lists in the IRIS database. This new list will be requested and kept by the President who is morally responsible for its strict use within ICOM.

## The CECA annual conference and its new features

Our big event, for those who can join us, is the annual conference, organized this year in Belgium, in 2021 in Argentina and in 2022 in Prague as part of the General Conference. We have tried to make this important event more interactive by creating opportunities for small group work. The Special Interest Groups will allow, around specific themes, to initiate discussions between coordinators, participants proposing very short interventions and members of the audience interested in the theme.

The ultimate aim is to generate discussion throughout the year among the members concerned, whether or not they can attend the conference. An advanced workshop on applied programme research will also be offered in the three official languages of ICOM. Scholarships to attend the annual conference may be awarded to young members.



### **Museum Definition**

This year's theme was the definition of the museum, which was such a source of agitation for the ICOM network during the last General Assembly in Kyoto. It seemed interesting to gather the feeling of the CECA network, by region, around this question, thus taking advantage of our decentralized organization, which is very particular to CECA. A project for publication in ICOM Education 29 is under way, which should provide a synthesis by region of the collection of comments made by the regional coordinators.

I would remind you here of the two texts before us, awaiting a consensual definition expected for the General Conference in 2022.

*2007 definition* : The museum is a permanent non-profit-making institution at the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, preserves, studies, exhibits and transmits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of study, education and enjoyment. (Statutes of ICOM, adopted by the 22nd General Assembly of ICOM (Vienna, Austria, 24 August 2007).

*Definition proposed in Kyoto in September 2019*: "Museums are inclusive and polyphonic places of democratization, dedicated to critical dialogue about the past and the future. Recognizing and addressing the conflicts and challenges of the present, they are repositories of artefacts and specimens for society. They safeguard diverse memories for future generations and guarantee equal rights and access to heritage for all peoples.

Museums are non-profit making. They are participatory and transparent, and work in active collaboration with and for diverse communities to collect, preserve, study, interpret, exhibit, and improve understanding of the world, with the aim of contributing to human dignity and social justice, global equality and global well-being. »



### **The Research and Good Practice Awards**

As every year, these two competitions are open and offer their participants various benefits in terms of financial support, publication, participation in the Applied Research Training Workshop.

This Applied Research Training Workshop is about improving the effectiveness of an Educational or Cultural Programme and is intended for museum professionals who are already familiar with the research process but need to deepen certain aspects of it. The workshop will be held at the annual conference in Leuven by three trainers, in English, French and Spanish, to a small number of participants during a four-hour session. More information can be found on the website: <http://ceca.mini.icom.museum/conferences/next-conferences/>

### **Regional coordinators and national representatives**

They are entrusted with increasingly important tasks, decentralization being essential in a group as large as ours. It is therefore very important for all countries to see the appointment of a correspondent. The list of correspondents is now present and up to date on our website. If your country is not represented and you would be interested in being part of the network of CECA national representatives, do not hesitate to contact your regional coordinator to propose your candidature.

Apart from the urgent task of reconstituting lists of members and attracting new ones, the network of regional coordinators and national representatives is involved in all kinds of information gathering activities that should lead to summaries of current issues or professional questions.

**Regional conferences and workshops**

In addition to the annual conference, it is essential that CECA be able to offer training opportunities that are closer to its professional environment. To this end, CECA's budget provides financial assistance for the organisation of professional meetings at regional level. Remember to inform us of such opportunities so that we can also relay the information and keep the memory of them alive.

As you can see, there is no shortage of projects and achievements. They should encourage the members of CECA to take advantage of the offers made to them and to encourage professional mobilisation, exchanges and collaboration around them.

I wish each CECA member a successful and inspiring year 2020.

Marie-Clarté O'Neill