

**CECA General Assembly  
Activity report  
Presidency**

In spite of the major health crisis that has hit all continents, the CECA was able to develop a strong activity between October 2019 and September 2020.

This activity was made possible by a very important commitment of all the members of the Board, whose involvement and dedication I would like to salute in introduction, despite conditions of activity that could have been totally discouraging.

The implementation of the Board's work has been demanding: each operational function has been accompanied by obligations to achieve results. Particular care was taken to organize communication between members: numerous exchanges of emails, creation of a WhatsApp group, virtual meetings of various kinds, etc.

**Development of a New Website**

The aim was to accompany the transformation of the historic CECA website to the mini-sites offered and recommended by ICOM for the various committees. The specificity of the CECA mini site was to adjust a very abundant content to a system that was being set up and which had not necessarily foreseen the functionalities required by such a richness and diversity of headings. The new CECA site was therefore a pilot site for the ICOM secretariat, thus undergoing many delicate technical episodes accompanied with talent by our webmaster Marie-Françoise Delval without whose obstinacy we would not have been able to arrive at a communication tool adapted to our network.

Likewise, an intensification of the presence of the CECA on social networks was sought, as well as the creation of Facebook groups for national correspondents and some of the special interest groups.

**Participation in campaigns to raise awareness of the precariousness of certain mediators**

The prolonged closure of museums for health reasons has had an impact, sometimes dramatic, on the income of mediators, many of whom have only precarious employment status. The CECA was naturally keen to be present in this campaign in various ways:

- by publishing an alert on the first page of its website
- developing a Special Interest Group around the theme of Professional Development for Museum Educators
- by participating in webinars on the issue of the precariousness of cultural jobs (ICOM France September 2020)

**Annual Conference**

The first six months of the period were busy preparing for the annual conference, scheduled to take place in Leuven (Belgium) in October 2020. Arrangements had been planned for October 2019 to make the annual conferences more interactive:

- Creation of a training seminar on experimental research, more specifically intended for past and present candidates and winners of the Best Practice and Research Awards.
- Interactive sessions around the work done by the members around the Special Interest Groups.

The health threats and the fear that the disorganization of the institutions would make it impossible to finance the attendance of the members at this meeting led to the decision to postpone to October 2021, thus postponing to 2023, after the year of the General Conference, the conference initially planned for this date in Argentina, this postponement being very generously accepted by the CECA regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In this context, all the activities organized around the annual conference: Best Practice Award, Colette Dufresne-Tassé Research Award, Scholarships for young members, have been postponed to October 2021 and will be the subject of a new calendar of events.

Likewise, a number of events planned in various regions of the world were cancelled after careful preparation (International Museum Day in Seoul, under the auspices of The Korean Museum Association(KMA) and ICOM Korea, in Singapore 'Approaches and Challenges for Diversity and Inclusion', a regional conference of the CECA in Seoul, the Biennale of Heritage Education 2020 in Foggia, Italy, a collaborative project with Avicom to organize a conference in Budapest, etc.).

All this naturally generated constant financial adjustments.

### **Special Interest Groups**

In order to boost contacts between members despite the absence of an annual 2020 conference, the CECA has re-established "Special Interest Groups".

The aim of this initiative is multiple:

- To encourage common reflection among our members throughout the year and not only during the annual conference.
- To increase the interactivity of our annual meetings by including discussion groups based on the work and exchanges of these groups throughout the year.
- To eventually allow members who were unable to attend the annual conference to participate remotely in a discussion group on a topic of interest to them.
- To identify specific skills around certain themes in order to enrich our training offer during regional workshops.

7 thematic groups have been initiated, some having already started in dynamic way, others still looking for their rhythm :

- Cultural heritage and tourism
- Professional Development for Museum Educators
- Research on the public reception of educational and cultural programs
- Learning and engaging in the digital world
- Universal accessibility, the inclusive museum
- Presenting difficult topics, working with complex communities
- Museum Education and Decolonization

The working modes are virtual meetings in the form of webinars but also collections of documents or reference sites, exchanges of texts.

Details of contacts and initiatives can be found on the CECA website and sometimes on a corresponding Facebook page.

## **Virtual activities**

The pandemic situation has, of course, forced us to develop another way of working, relying on the virtualization of many activities: thematic webinars in Latin America, meetings of members of special interest groups, Board meetings.

The most demanding project has been the statutory and technical implementation of the CECA's Annual General Meeting and membership voting. Special care is taken to ensure trilingualism by means of synthesis in sequential translations.

## **Museum definition**

A major activity at the beginning of the year was the current reflection on the evolution of the definition of the museum for ICOM.

This has taken two forms:

As President of CECA, I initiated a broad international consultation, drawing on the Committee's dense and active network of regional representatives and national correspondents. The feedback I received from each region enabled me to draw up a summary with a twofold aim: to inform the Presidency and the entities concerned of the CECA's position, and to produce an article which is due to be published in ICOM Education 29 in the autumn of 2020.

## **Budget**

Following the SAREC evaluation of the 2019 activities, the budget has been consolidated, with the obtaining of a credit card allowing online purchases, which are essential for access to high-performance virtual platforms.

## **Interventions of the President in various environments :**

- In person, in conferences organised before the confinement by various national committees: Budapest, Seoul, Paris
- Subsequently in virtual form: Russia, ICOM France

Solicitation by the ICOM Executive Board to be part of the MDPP2

Participation in the work of the various ICOM assemblies: General Assembly, Working Group of International Committees

Participation in the work of the Advisory Council of the CAM (Committee of Commonwealth Museums) for the reform of their distance museum education programme.

## **Working around the network of members :**

An important work could not be carried out satisfactorily and will constitute one of our projects for the coming year: It is the updating of the list of our CECA members, made extremely fragmented and irrelevant by the very uneven use of the IRIS database by the national committees, thus depriving us of the contact addresses necessary for the circulation of information. Thanks to the energy deployed in certain regions (France, Spain, Latin America and the Caribbean) the work has been started and will be continued.

To compensate for this weakness, information through the site is constantly being fed: welcome message, new sections, liaison bulletins (February and May 2020).

CECA is therefore preparing for another complex year in terms of international communication, which will probably still have a strong impact on what we will be able to achieve. It is, I believe, around the development of professional sharing webinars and the improvement of our list of members that we can, from now on, whatever the health situation that awaits us, orient the development of our action in the first place.