

ICOM CECA 2022 Report

Marie Clarté O'Neill

President of CECA

The first important piece of information in this report is the evolution of ICOM members who have chosen CECA as their international electoral committee. Our committee exceeded 2000 members in 2022, despite the impact of COVID on all ICOM re-registrations and particularly on museum educators, many of whom are in very fragile situations and have been particularly affected by the closure of museums to the public for health reasons. The distribution of these members remains broadly unchanged, with a strong numerical predominance of Europe, the dynamism of the national groups being very uneven and linked to the dynamism of the national correspondents. The Latin American members, on the other hand, are few in number but develop considerable and multifaceted activities. Africa remains the least explored region, a development to be focused on in the coming years. Details of the membership breakdown can be found in the detailed report by Marie Françoise Delval, the IRIS database manager.

The activity report of a chairperson contains two types of information

- 1) A synthetic view of the directions taken in the various sectors, in order to give a general political orientation.

In doing so, I will simply put into perspective the enormous amount of work carried out by all the members of the CECA board, whose involvement, efficiency, and availability I would like to salute once again, despite the heaviness of their professional lives. An account of these many achievements can be found in the sectoral reports published below.

- a) The most striking point of the past year is the possibility of a dynamic resumption of annual, regional, and national conferences. Most of these meetings have been able to take place in person, sometimes with the possibility of a digital extension to increase participation significantly:
 - Triennial conference in Prague with a very large number of activities specifically for CECA: 116 papers, 5 presentations of Best Practice projects, 6 workshops.
 - The European Regional Conference will also bring together a very large number of participants, papers and workshops, always with the intention of making the conferences more dynamic through interactive proposals.

- Regional and national conferences in Latin America, a region that is still very active with a particularly strong CECA network.
 - National conference in France.
 - During the Prague conference, the location of the 2023 annual conference was decided, and it will take place in Asia, in Singapore, after unsuccessful attempts to organise it in Latin America.
- a) The proposal to award prizes for exemplary professional and research achievements remains a specificity of the CECA, even if the Research Prize is still in the process of finding its modalities and the level of its requirements.
 - b) The steady development of the Special Interest Groups is also to be welcomed, as they continue to host virtual meetings, each at their own rhythm. A new theme, that of sensory mediation, was added this year. Another Spanish-speaking group should be created by the end of the year.
 - c) One of the highlights of the year was the campaign for the renewal of the Board. However, the results of this campaign were disappointing, with an insufficient number of candidates making the planned election futile. A show of hands in Prague was used as a membership vote. A number of additional members had to be co-opted in order to fulfill the many responsibilities of the Board. This small number of nominations for a committee with a large number of activities, and therefore a large number of officers, may be seen as a cause for concern. It is to be hoped that it is the return of visitors and the increase in activities that has discouraged young professionals from becoming involved. The expected departure of the majority of the current Board members after two terms will probably require an effective outreach campaign to encourage new applications.
 - d) Finally, the CECA was particularly generous with its budget towards members: systematic grants were offered to Special Interest Group coordinators to enable them to propose workshops at the Prague conference. Similarly, four young members had their travel and accommodation expenses in Prague paid for by the CECA, provided they presented a poster there. The conditions for the awarding of these Young Members grants could be modified in the coming years so that they are more rooted in active involvement in the life of the committee.
- 1) The report on the actions carried out directly by the President in the framework of her functions at ICOM:
 - a) A few months after the Kyoto conference, CECA was appointed to participate in a new elaboration of the definition of the museum, in the

framework of the Define working group. The chosen method of elaboration in the form of multiple consultations with members, the development of scientifically elaborated analysis tools, in-depth synthesis discussions and awareness raising seminars of the ICOM network, resulted in a considerable amount of work before arriving at an almost unanimous definition.

b) Collaboration with other committees helps to enrich the approaches and expertise of an international committee. Several collaborations can be mentioned:

- A project recognised and funded by SAREC with ICOM Belgium on the training of professionals in virtual mediation. The publication, which can be consulted by members, will be put online in the coming weeks.

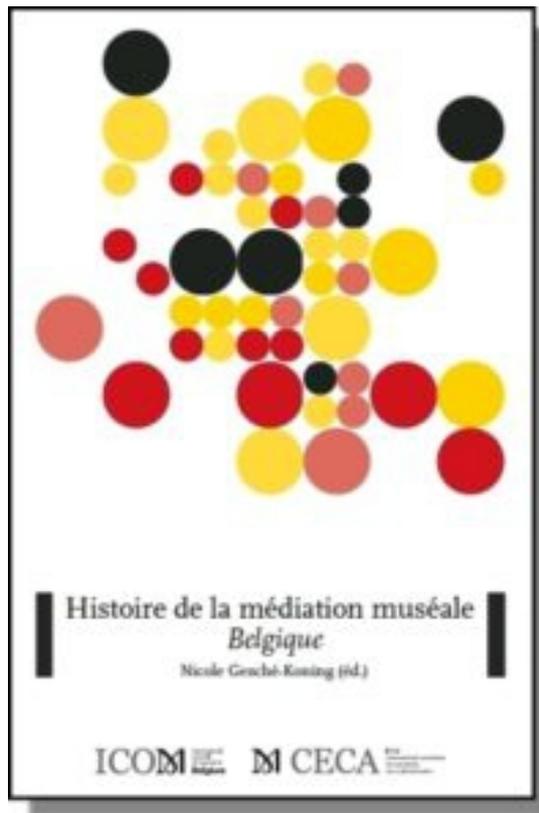


- After several failed attempts at collaboration due to COVID, a joint CECA/AVICOM session was organised during the conference in Prague, with published papers available on the AVICOM website.
- Active participation in the work on the evolution of the international committees in order to try to develop two aspects of the life of the committees: the importance of closer collaboration with the national committees, and more regular solicitation of the international committees specialising in the preparation of projects by the ICOM secretariat.

a) The field of publications, apart from the regular publication of Best Practice projects, has seen a new orientation in recent months:

- A new direction has been given to the planned publications of ICOM Education: A special book, gathering the most important texts around cultural action and education, the DNA of CECA, is being published in three languages.
- Another innovation is the beginning of a series whose aim is to try to bring together the history of museum education by country or region, in order to highlight the main international trends and regional specificities. A first edition dealt with the history of museum mediation in Belgium,

following the annual conference organised in Leuven. Other countries are in preparation.



- a) The steering of the communication was based on three instruments:
- A good institutional or free distribution on social networks.
 - The technical stabilisation of the website and its considerable enrichment, especially in terms of publications and photos.
 - Accelerating the pace at which regular newsletters are sent to each member, which should be further strengthened in the coming year.

As mentioned earlier, the sectoral reports enrich this presentation considerably. Questions about them can be asked during the General Assembly.