

# Working Internationally in a Post-Brexit World

M+H Show, 18 May 2017

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M+H Show  
Stand X8



@UK\_ICOM  
@dana\_museums

# ICOM UK

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**ICOM UK, the only museum association in the UK dedicated to international work, connects you to the global museum community, the issues that affect it and professional colleagues worldwide.**

- 119 National Committees
- 30 International Committees (specialist interest groups)
- ICOM General Secretariat based in Paris

# Conference & Partners

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The Working Internationally Conference is organised by ICOM UK and NMDC in partnership with the annually changing venue.

2013 – British Museum, London

2014 – Victoria & Albert Museum, London

2015 – York Museums Trust, York

2016 – Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester

2017 – Natural History Museum, London

2018 – National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh (Wednesday 7 March 2018)

# 2017 Working Internationally Conference

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- Focus on Working Internationally in a Post-Brexit World
- 89% of attendees already working internationally
- 38% national museums or galleries
- 19% independent museums or galleries
- 16% university museums or galleries
- 8% private museums or galleries
- 5% other
- Conference programme: [http://uk.icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/FINAL\\_Programme\\_WI2017-1.pdf](http://uk.icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/FINAL_Programme_WI2017-1.pdf)
- Videos and presentation slides: <http://uk.icom.museum/events/annual-conferences/2017-working-internationally-conference/>

# Common questions & comments from speakers

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- What new opportunities will Brexit create? How can museums use change to their advantage?
- We are likely to face a long period of uncertainty as negotiations take place, and what can we do to mitigate against the risks arising from this period of uncertainty?
- UK is already outside the Schengen Zone so visas for visitors to the UK are unlikely to change much but it may be more challenging for UK citizens to travel (visa-free) for work and leisure.
- A weaker pound makes the UK a cheaper place to visit for international visitors. Will this change the demographic of international visitors and what could the impact be on museums?
- International perceptions of the UK may change (not necessarily for the better).
- Expect an impact on the international movement of objects.
- Uncertainty of status of EU citizens in the UK museum workforce is a risk for museums

# Common questions & comments from speakers

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- The need to work in partnership, and maintain and develop new partnerships, will be even more important.
- Brexit may not have a great direct impact on the type of work some museums do but any impact on the wider economy could have a greater impact.
- Until the Brexit vote, perhaps we took the ease of working in Europe for granted.
- Many museums have a long history and this is not the first major challenge they have faced.
- Museums have the opportunity to be the bridge for ‘cultural gulfs’ in society and be an agent for giving a voice to our changing world.
- Museums have become more localised in recent years so there is an opportunity to strengthen the link between the local, national and international contexts.

# Common questions & comments from speakers

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- Other EU countries have always been more invested in the EU than the UK.
- The UK has attractive cultural, heritage and creative services to offer the world and is seen as a leader in these areas.
- There are already some EU funding programmes that allow ‘associate partners’ from outside the EU, so this might be an option for the UK post-Brexit.
- Working together won’t change but the mechanism for doing so will.
- Need to remember that a sizeable number of museum professionals voted to leave the EU.
- Are we being nostalgic towards the EU? The European Union is not the only model for being European.

# Evaluation: What will be the biggest impact of Brexit on your organisation?

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- Increased cost and bureaucracy for the international movement of objects and exhibitions.
- Loss of EU staff, researchers and expertise.
- Impact on the wider economy and how this will affect funding for museums.
- Effect of long period of uncertainty on existing and/ or new partnerships.



# Evaluation: What opportunities will Brexit create for your organisation?

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- It is still unclear.
- Changes in the exchange rate may work in our favour and make our services and touring exhibitions more financially attractive to international partners.
- May help museums to focus outwards and review what they offer and who it is for.
- Potential for new partnerships (inside and outside the EU).
- Increase the need to collaborate to enable more projects.
- Encourage the museum sector to be more vocal in the political sector.
- Working more bi-laterally with EU partners may foster closer relationships.
- An increase in international work by UK museums because of a heightened interest in global citizenship.
- More UK partnerships.
- A chance to do things differently / think more creatively.

# Further Information & Reports

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- NMDC submission to Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Inquiry on the impact of Brexit on creative industries, tourism and the digital single market  
[http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/media/documents/responses\\_position\\_statements/cms\\_select\\_committee\\_brexit\\_response.pdf](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/media/documents/responses_position_statements/cms_select_committee_brexit_response.pdf)
- Arts Council England: The arts and culture sector and exit from the European Union  
[http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Arts\\_culture\\_Sector\\_exit\\_from\\_EU\\_NOV\\_16.pdf](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Arts_culture_Sector_exit_from_EU_NOV_16.pdf)
- Arts Council England: Getting the best deal for culture as we leave the European Union  
<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/blog/getting-best-deal-culture-we-leave-european-union>
- Arts Council England: international collaboration post-Brexit <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/news-and-jobs/blog>

# Further Information & Reports

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- Creative Industries Federation: Brexit Report  
<http://www.creativeindustriesfederation.com/assets/userfiles/files/Brexit%20Report%20web.pdf>
- Institute for Government: Brexit pages on website  
<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/brexit>
- Culture Action Europe: A Little Guide to the UK-EU Negotiations  
[http://cultureactioneurope.org/files/2016/11/CAE\\_A-Little-Guide-to-the-UK-EU-negotiations\\_Nov2016.pdf](http://cultureactioneurope.org/files/2016/11/CAE_A-Little-Guide-to-the-UK-EU-negotiations_Nov2016.pdf)
- European contacts and resources on ICOM UK website  
<http://uk.icom.museum/resources/useful-contacts/european-resources/>
- British Council: As Others See Us: culture, attraction and soft power  
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/as-others-see-us-report-v3.pdf>

# ICOM UK & HWB Europe Travel Grants

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- Grants for travel to EU countries and greater Europe
- Focus on mutually beneficial projects and partnerships with organisational impact
- £7,200 available over two years (2017 – 2018)
- c. £700 available per application
- Open to non-ICOM UK members
- Application form and guidelines available at the end of May 2017
- Deadline for applications expected to be end of June 2017
- Global Travel Grant Scheme (supported by the British Council) to launch in October 2017

# Thank you!

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For further information visit the ICOM UK website: <http://uk.icom.museum>

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Visit ICOM UK's Ask the Expert stand at the M+H Show (Stand X8)

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