



Network of European
Museum Organisations

NEMO POLICY STATEMENT

Who we are

The Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO) was founded in 1992 as an independent network of national museum organisations representing the museum community of the member states of the Council of Europe. Together, NEMO's members speak for over 30.000 museums across Europe.

Our vision

Museums safeguard tangible and intangible evidence of the manmade and natural world for current and future generations. Their collections tell a rich variety of stories, interpreting past and present history. Museums encourage dialogue, they stimulate us to think, learn and reflect; to celebrate differences and discover affinities. Museums contribute to developing cultural factors: they create memory and identity, and they foster creativity, diversity and knowledge. All these factors are crucial to the building of today's society.

Our mission

It is vital that cultural heritage has a strong voice in Europe. Museums need to be seen as institutions serving their communities in a meaningful way.

NEMO's mission is to ensure museums are an integral part of European society by promoting their work and value to policymakers and by providing museums with information, expertise and opportunities for networking, development and cooperation.

Our actions

We advocate

NEMO champions the cause of museums at European level and through its members at national level and influences policies that are relevant to museums.

We share

NEMO informs its members and the museum sector at large of current and prospective European policies on culture and museums, and of the funding opportunities offered by various EU programmes, thereby helping museums to function internationally. To achieve this NEMO liaises with relevant European Union (EU) institutions and other relevant stakeholders and regularly publishes news about EU programmes, policies and initiatives.

We train

NEMO enables its members and the museum sector to network and share best practice at all levels, building on their capacity and improving the service they offer to the public. It also encourages the building of skills of museum staff, thereby providing a quality public service.



We collaborate

Through its network and supported by its website, through initiatives and lobbying, NEMO empowers museums and museums organisations to collaborate on multilateral projects at European level and beyond.

NEMO works with other cultural organisations in Europe to highlight common causes and objectives and to show how cultural activities can be strengthened by working together. It establishes links with relevant stakeholders to enable its members to work and prosper internationally.

Our strategic focus

NEMO focuses on four key strategic areas that it considers to be important for the museum sector in Europe: The collection value is the basis to the social value, the educational value and the economic value, that museums have for society. Complementary, NEMO considers the digital and sustainable transformation of museums and a continuous professional development within museums of pivotal importance to successfully fulfil their mission in all four strategic areas.

The strategic areas are in line with the objectives of Europe's strategic agenda 2019-2024 and with the New European Agenda for Culture and underline museums' contribution to a sustainable and healthy society. They emphasize the importance of museums and cultural heritage as a bearer of common values, as drivers of economic sustainable development and social cohesion. They also contribute to NEMO's mission to help develop a comprehensive overall strategy for cultural heritage, an obligation stipulated in article 3.3 of the Treaty of the European Union.

COLLECTION VALUE

VISION

Tangible and intangible collections are at the heart of museums. NEMO wants to see that collections are well taken care of for present and future generations and are as widely accessible to all people as possible. They reflect different perspectives, cultural complexity and are used in multiple ways for the benefit of the society.

CONCERNS

The collections are not seen as a core of the museum work and a funding priority by policy makers and funding organisations.

The collection-related work does not always have adequate resources for taking proper care of their collections, developing and making optimal use of them.

MISSION

NEMO advocates for the manifold values and uses of collections and provides a platform for museums to exchange good practices for the acquisition, deaccession, conservation, preservation, research, accessibility, interpretation, identification and innovative use of museum collections.

SOCIAL VALUE

VISION

Museums are part of a good life and provide social well-being. They communicate with all generations and serve society at large. They strengthen the social fabric and serve as places for meeting and dialogue for different cultures and offer opportunities for individual growth.

CONCERNS

Museums are not fully acknowledged and supported in their role as social agents, they lack visibility and opportunities to cooperate with other sectors such as the health and the social sector.

MISSION

NEMO highlights the social value and supports the potential of museums for society by promoting their contribution to different social agendas such as health, tolerance, education, environment, democracy, active citizenship, social justice and poverty to policy makers and stakeholders from other sectors.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE

VISION

Museums help people develop as individuals and understand their place in the world. They are life-long learning environments, complementary to all other forms of education and they offer additional learning opportunities for all.

CONCERNS

Museums are still not acknowledged and supported as an important agent in the educational system.

MISSION

We support museums to be recognized as rich learning environments and places of public engagement and provide the platform for the exchange of good practices.

ECONOMIC VALUE

VISION

Museums are important actors in the economy and the creative sectors. They are at the heart of successful urban regeneration and cultural tourism initiatives. They are places of, actors in and partners for the creative economy.

CONCERNS

Museums are not fully acknowledged and supported as actors contributing positively to the economy and the creative sectors. There is still little comprehensive and comparable data available, and an appropriate framework to measure aggregate economic value and spill-over effects of museums is lacking.

MISSION

NEMO wants to ensure that museums are recognised for their positive impact on the economy and the creative industries and supports enhanced cooperation with partners to fully tap into museums' economic impact.

TRANSVERSAL THEMES

As transversal themes, NEMO considers the digital and sustainable transformation of museums and a continuous professional development of pivotal importance for museums to successfully fulfil their mission in all four strategic areas.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

VISION

Digital technologies affect all aspects of museum work today. With their digital potential museums contribute to different social aspects as sources of creative innovation, information and all forms of learning. They interact with different audiences and promote open and democratic access to their collections on a global level.

CONCERNS

Museums are lagging behind in fully tapping their digital potential, on an infrastructural, skills and knowledge and strategical level. To keep up with the exponential digital development museums have to fully embrace their digital extension. Public funding for digital transformation is scarce and should be made available for long term and experimental initiatives.

MISSION

NEMO advocates for tailored regional, national and European funding long opportunities for museums with a focus on the development of digital skills and infrastructure of museums, including the development of sound metrics, frameworks and methods to track digital activities and success factors.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

VISION

Museums contribute to a sense of belonging, shared values and solidarity among a society in constant change. The empowerment and capacity building of professionals who work in museums and take care of cultural heritage are at the core of successful museum work and meaningful social impact.

CONCERNS

The importance of life-long learning and continuous training in all aspects of museum work to help museum professionals and the museum sector at large to embrace new societal

developments and demands, and to enhance the value of museums to society, is not fully acknowledged and supported.

MISSION

NEMO advocates for support through continuous and targeted capacity building programmes for museum professionals that will equip them with new and emerging skills as an integral part of contemporary museum work.

NEMO offers museum professionals European capacity building programmes to share experiences and knowledge and to foster a European dimension in museum work.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

VISION

The consequences of climate change have a dramatic ecological and social impact on every sector and element of society and museums and the work of museum professionals are not an exception. Adaptations to museum operations are key to preserve the impact of collections and knowledge for the benefit of future generations. The potential of museums to educate, engage and activate the public to act for a sustainable future should be adequately acknowledged, supported, and streamlined in museum practice and strategy.

CONCERNS

Museums have not been adequately supported by governing and funding institutions to make a successful sustainable transition, nor has their potential to support the sustainable transition of our society been fully acknowledged.

MISSION

NEMO advocates for the potential of museums to be key actors in the fight against climate change and to be supported to tap their full potential through policies and funding programmes supporting Europe's sustainable transition.

NEMO helps museums create awareness, exchange and build capacities as they adapt to climate friendly operations and use their platform to incorporate the urgency and action necessary to prevent further global temperature increase, biodiversity loss and consequent social and ecological casualties.