



EU Commissioner Mariya Gabriel gets unique insights into museum work during a NEMO Political Internship

Berlin, 1 October 2020

On the invitation of the Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO), the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth will participate in a NEMO Political Internship at the Children's Science Centre Muzeiko in Sofia (Bulgaria) on 2 October 2020.

During the half-day internship at [Muzeiko](#), the Commissioner will get first-hand experience of different kinds of museum work and the museum sector's contribution to lifelong education, development and social cohesion. She will also get insights into museum operations during a pandemic, including the new routines that are in place to ensure a safe museum visit.

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel looks forward to the internship and reinforces the importance of museums to build a strong and united society: *"Museums are real treasures, both physically and spiritually. Physically, because they house our historical, scientific, artistic, and cultural artefacts, preserving and promoting our cultural heritage. Spiritually, because they have the power to reflect and shape our society, by deepening our knowledge, making us reflect on our ideas, impressions, pushing us to make discerning judgments. When going to a museum, national or local, we learn from our past, bring the community together and educate future generations."*

Museums continue to bring people together and create a sense of community even when their doors are closed. Bistra Kirova, director of Muzeiko, points to the resilience and creativity that Muzeiko and other museums showcased during the initial months of Covid-19. She explains that *"Muzeiko entered the homes of thousands of families through "Muzeiko @ Home" on social media and provided meaningful, educational and fun content. Although we did not generate revenue, we increased the awareness, and we kept our visitors and followers motivated to come to Muzeiko once we opened again. We believe that we added value for the community – in particular to families with kids that have to stay at home. We know that children need us during the closure, and we also know that they will need us even more afterwards. With the coronavirus, children have missed one of the most important things for their development – the PLAY, and Muzeiko's role is to help families bring back play in the life of their kids."*

Muzeiko brings together a youth focused cultural experience with informal learning in an environment that promotes research and play. Considering that each NEMO internship is tailored according to the participant's field and interest, Muzeiko was a natural choice for the Commissioner's internship. Julia Pagel, NEMO Secretary General, adds that *"Muzeiko is one of those great examples that manage to bring together culture, science, learning and youth in a meaningful way. Museums can create an environment in which children have fun while learning about space travel which shows that they are ideal places to bring together different sectors. Sectors that individually wouldn't be able to create such an impact and need museums to amplify their message."*

Contact for press inquiries

NEMO

Rebecca Thonander

thonander@ne-mo.org

+49 30 397 156 61

Muzeiko

Aleksandra Ivancheva

aleksandra@8pm.bg

+359 885 342 333

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel

Under the leadership of Mariya Gabriel, the new Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and the cultural strand of Creative Europe programmes (2021-2027) are defined and implemented. Her main priorities are excellence in research and education (ERA, EEA); tackling the innovation divide in Europe; Europe as a leader in strategic area through the digital and green transitions, with a particular attention to young people and regions. “No one left behind” and “Think out of the box” are her mottos.

Between 2017 and 2019, Mariya Gabriel was European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. She proposed the new Digital Europe programme, worked on EU Strategy on AI, disinformation online, cybersecurity and launched the EuroHPC strategy. She has extensively engaged with external EU partners to enhance digital cooperation, in particular with the Western Balkans and Africa.

She was elected Member of the European Parliament (MEP) in 2009, 2014 and 2019. Mariya Gabriel is First Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP), and since 2012, Vice-President of EPP Women.

Commissioner Gabriel is a board member of the United Nations youth programme Generation Unlimited (GenU). She has been ranked among the 50 most influential women in Europe in the field of cybersecurity by the leading European cybersecurity magazine SC Media UK (2019). Mariya Gabriel is also known for her involvement in the fight for gender equality.

Network of European Museum Organisations

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. NEMO is funded by the EU through the Creative Europe networks strand and acts as voice of museums towards EU institutions.

Launched in 2018, the programme [NEMO Political Internship in Museums](#) aims to provide EU policy makers with a greater understanding of museum work and by showcasing museums' imperative value for society.

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel will be the third EU politician to complete a NEMO Political Internship. Previously, Luca Jahier, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), and Julie Ward, former MEP and member of the CULT committee, participated in the museum advocacy initiative.

www.ne-mo.org

Muzeiko

Muzeiko is the first and biggest science centre in Eastern Europe dedicated to children and families. It's cutting-edge interactive exhibit space of 2000 sq. m. sparkles curiosity and inspires learning in 13 scientific areas ranging from Archaeology to Space Research and Robotics. Muzeiko offers more than 130 educational formats for individual visitors, school groups, toddlers, kindergarten and adults, which were entirely designed by Muzeiko learning team.

Muzeiko has transformed the expectations for visitors' experience in science and cultural institutions and museums in Bulgaria by placing the young audience at the centre and focus on their needs. Muzeiko is an example of a professionally managed private museum, always trying to improve its standards of operations, programs, and customer experience.

www.muzeiko.bg