



Network of European
Museum Organisations

NEMO Statement to reopen the museums in Europe with a comprehensive and sustainable plan

Berlin, 22.02.2021

Museums in Europe are ready to reopen, to reactivate urban life and to accompany people in the new normal. In many countries, museums have been able to open their doors to the public again, while other countries keep their museums closed. While NEMO applauds the opening of museums in a growing number of countries, our goal is to see all museums being able to open to the public across Europe. Why?

Museums are important during the pandemic

- Museums have been acknowledged as places that facilitate emotional processing of difficult situations such as the corona pandemic.
- Museums have an important role to play in social cohesion. Art and culture make life worth living and museums provide places of democratic debate and social understanding.
- Museums are an essential part of local educational landscapes, they systematically cooperate with schools and day-care centres and they combine offers of informal learning, fun and entertainment.

Museums provide safe spaces during the pandemic

- Museums provide large spaces that allow controlled and safe visits of the public. They are educational institutions offering different kinds of informal and non-formal learning and debate.
- Museums have developed comprehensive hygiene concepts, have invested in ventilation measures, online ticket systems, control systems to limit visitor flows, and sanitary facilities among others to make their spaces safe. These measures apply to the visitors as well as the employees. Museums have proven to be safe places – no incidents of wide-spread infection have been reported from museums in Europe so far.

The lockdown has shown how much people need each other and a connection to their community. Arts and culture are foundational to the sense of community and our shared values. While reopening to the public, museums saw encouraging visitor returns and recently witnessed lines of eager visitors. This, along with multiple statements from culture sector professionals, demonstrates the pressing need for access to cultural life during the pandemic.

NEMO asks policy makers at all levels to acknowledge that museums are a resource, instead of an additional cost, in crises times. Museums now need comprehensive and sustainable frameworks and processes to open their doors to the public and stay open during the fluctuating pandemic situation. Stable public funding - now and in the future – is required so museums can resume their activities despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic.



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Country-specific information of museums' status quo, of political and museum sector statements and reactions and inspiring best practices concerning opening strategies and hygiene measures from museums in Europe

NEMO has gathered information from the museum sector in 31 European countries to provide an overview of the situation of museums across the continent, and to share good examples from successful cooperation between public authorities and museums to develop frameworks allowing museums to open safely during the pandemic, to encourage the opening of museums' doors across Europe.

The [overview](#) includes information organised along the themes:

Are museums opened or closed

- Including information whether museums are open or closed and which regulations they follow.

National guidelines and safety measures to reopen

- Including information about safety regulations, special ticketing systems and organisation of spaces including maximum allowance for visitors, approaches to the use of resting areas and cafes, regulations for additional programmes, devices, and services such as tours and school programmes.

Political statements and advocacy from the sector regarding reopening of museums

- Including information about statements and points of discussion from both the political and sector level.

Museums' reaction and status

- Including information about how the sector has reacted to regulations and policies regarding reopening museums.

The overview is available [here](#).