

ICOM TURKEY Presentation

National Committee of Turkey was founded in August 24, 1956 with a code declared by Turkish Council of Ministers which was based on the UNESCO convention adopted in 1946. The official code of ICOM Turkey inured on December 11, 1970.

By 2020, ICOM Turkey has 290 active members. We have 8 institutional, 7 student, 2 retired, 1 benefactor and 272 regular members.

Our country contributed to ICOM's "revision of the museum description" with a workshop organised by ICOM Turkey, in Avanos, Nevşehir on April 20, 2018.

The workshop was organised to evaluate the actuality of the museology in Turkey from the beginning to present and also to prepare an exhaustive report on "museum definition" to be presented to ICOM. The 50 participants of the workshop were members of ICOM Turkey, representatives of private museums, professionals and executives of the Museums administrated by the General Direction of Cultural Heritage and Museums, the representatives of museum studies departments of universities and museum related NGO's. The report of this workshop is published in Turkish and in English versions and sent to ICOM. It is also available in pdf version for the online distribution.

Recently, ICOM Turkey organised a second meeting on the new alternative definition of museum announced by ICOM in Ankara, Turkey on February 6, 2020. During this last meeting, a group of 25 participants from ICOM Turkey Administrative Board, representatives of state and private museums, of universities and NGO's evaluated the new museum definition and prepared a primary report to be sent to ICOM. In the meeting of February 6th, the new museum definition proposed by ICOM Executive Board was examined. The key words, the concepts and the functions that should take place in a museum definition were evaluated. The questions as "What is a Museum?", "What is its function?", "For whom it exists?" were discussed.

For now, Turkey contributed to the revision of the new museum definition with these two meetings.

The opinions of Turkey, after last meeting can be summarized as follows:

- The new definition text is too long,
- The new definition is not clear, some expressions such as "polyphonic, critical dialogue, conflicts..." are uncertain,
- There are political expressions,

- The new definition does not define a museum. It does not emphasize the relation of a museum with tangible and intangible heritage which makes it distinctive from other cultural institutions.
- The new museum definition does not include the fundamental terms and concepts such as; education, training, intangible heritage, restoration and conservation which must take place in a museum definition.

ICOM Turkey determines a series of key words which are proposed for being included in a new museum definition. The list will be reported and available for consulting. (Annexe 1, attached)

As a result; the new museum definition should be one that will be accepted by the integrity of the international community, that the majority of the member countries agree on, free from political expressions and that the sensitivity of countries are also taken into account. In the new definition, fundamental concepts that emphasize the distinctive features of museums from other cultural institutions should be included.

The work launched by ICOM for the new definition of museum should be carried out in a transparent, participatory and democratic way and should be open to the knowledge, approval and contribution of all member states. Countries participating in the process of the new definition must absolutely be informed about the process and developments.

NEW MUSEUM DEFINITION

(ICOM TURKEY)

KEY WORDS / BASIC ACTIONS AND CONCEPTS FOR DEFINITION

- Past and Future
- Sense of Curiosity/Concern
- Recording, Protection, Research, Documentation, Display
- Aesthetic/Aesthetic Pleasure
- Active Learning / Education and Learning Spaces
- Social and Cultural Development Spaces
- Communication/Dialogue
- Human Focused Spaces
- Transferring to the Future / Future Generations
- The Link Between Collection and Society
- Non Profit
- Equal Access, Equal Opportunity
- Accessibility / Inclusion
- Institutions of Memory/ Center of Social and Cultural Memory
- Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Sustainability
- Living Spaces
- Scientific Institutions / Scientific Research
- Open to Public
- Awareness/ Making a Difference
- Tolerance and Inspiring Spaces
- Multidisciplinary
- Sharing Historical and Functional Information
- Ethic Values/Codes
- Working in Cooperation/Harmony
- Common History
- Integrative
- Bringing Differences Together in a Common Purpose
- In Service of Development of Society And Humanity
- Information Center, Source of Information
- Permanent Institutions
- Objective and Transparent Institutions
- Digital / Technological Exhibitions
- Virtual Museums / Independent from a Structure