



# ICOM

international  
council  
of museums  
**Slovakia**

- 20. 11 1946 – foundation of the Czechoslovakia ICOM Committee. Czechoslovakia was among the 14 founders of ICOM.
- 1993 - [peaceful dissolution](#) into the [Czech Republic](#) and [Slovakia](#)
- 1994 Slovakia ICOM Committee

# Membership



- Individual members 137
- Students 40
- Retired 40
- Institutional members 23

- Already before KYOTO, ICOM Slovakia Board has received from some museologists (theoreticians) negative reaction on new definition. ICOM members who were in Kyoto followed the discussions, some of them voted for new definition some against. After Kyoto we sent the questionnaire to all ICOM members and museum experts. Some preferred the current (2007) definition (employees of national museum), some preferred new definition (2019) - national minority museums - some would delete specific some terms in the proposed text.

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- Positive points – striving for democracy, political independence, critical dialogue about the pasts and the futures, guaranty of equal rights and equal access to heritage for all people
- Negative points – political statement rather than definition, some terms – democratizing, inclusive and polyphonic, social justice, global equality and planetary wellbeing – vague, clichés
  - „Acknowledging and addressing the conflicts and challenges of the present, aiming to contribute to human dignity and social justice, global equality and planetary wellbeing“ - museums can not guarantee anything mentioned above, because it is far above their competence, they can try not to ignore these values, but they cannot guarantee and safeguard them
  - does not distinguish a museum from a cultural centre
  - it would be difficult for most museums to correspond to this definition, considering themselves as 'polyphonic spaces
  - does not take into account a variety of museums

Museums are democratizing, inclusive and polyphonic spaces for critical dialogue about the pasts and the futures - this part of the definition could in long-term help in motivating museums to enhance democratic values both in national and international levels

- As museums are legally defined by the laws of individual countries, the ICOM definition does not have the short-term impact of museums
- **The global ICOM museum definition should above all declare that the museum is a permanent institution with the right for independent, democratic, serious and apolitical research, exhibition and interpretation of exhibits supported by adequate conditions for collecting, preserving, researching, interpreting and exhibiting of the heritage.**



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would like to thank the MDPP for their great  
and effort. We hope that this democratic  
session will bring some mutual conclusions to be  
ted in new overall accepted definition.

Slovakia ICOM Board

