

2016 December

Dear colleague,

are you interested and/or engaged in community-based projects for heritage management, aimed at local development? If so, we invite you to join the *2016 Milan Cooperation Charter*.

Between July 6th and 8th, 2016, a group of enthusiastic cultural professionals met in Milan, Italy, in order to share ideas and experiences related to community-engaged museums. This meeting, under the banner of *Forum of Ecomuseums and Community Museums*, formed part of the 24th General Conference of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The participants, guided by the overarching theme of the ICOM conference, "Museums and Cultural Landscapes", discussed opportunities, challenges and responsibilities associated with furthering the work of ecomuseums and community museums. You can review the forum program and sessions abstracts at http://www.ecomusei.eu/?page_id=987

In addition to discussions and papers delivered during the Forum, a far-reaching network has been created to help guide an extended global dialogue on cooperation between ecomuseums and community museums. The network is being guided by a steering committee, made up of representatives from all over the world. Together, we have reviewed and compiled ideas, issues and debates raised by participants during the Forum. From this compilation process, a common vision emerged which has resulted in a provisional "2016 Milan Cooperation Charter" (<http://bit.ly/2196onq>). Our hope is that the Charter will be shared widely amongst our community and their partners, thereby becoming a rallying point for all those who share this vision of museums.

As the number of people who sign the Charter grows, this network will help advance the agenda for community-engaged museums. The Steering Committee expects to produce a revised Cooperation Charter during 2017, built on the inputs from the expanding group of engaged professionals.

We invite you to adopt and sign the Charter by using the online membership form, available at http://www.ecomusei.eu/?page_id=1792

We hope you'll join us!

Best regards and happy New Year
The Steering Committee, Milan Cooperation Charter

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