

Krems Convention on the Need for Continuing Education in Preservation of Documentary Heritage

Krems, 19th July 2015

Krems Convention aimed to define the type of further education needed for the best possible safeguarding of our written heritage, in terms of both teaching material and the methods of delivery. The Convention placed special focus on some of the topics, such as interdisciplinary education, economic aspects and future challenges (to be covered by oral contributions) with subsequent public discussion of these subjects and preparation of a written paper. It provided reference to other conventions and codes already formulating the need for further education in conservation/restoration of written/documentary heritage and other related fields without, however, limiting its scope to any specific proposed activities. Programme of the Convention meeting:

Welcome addresses

J. Schiro (Malta): The culture change - experience in economic and practical aspects of further education for conservators

R. Ion (Romania): Further education of conservators and archivists/librarians in science

C. Römer (Austria): What philologists and historians can learn from paper conservators and restorers - an example from Ottoman studies.

R. Padoan (Italy, Netherlands, UK, Germany): The need for exchange and networking in further education in preservation/conservation/restoration of written heritage and how the young generation sees education.

Th. Aigner (Austria): The need for learning and the methods of raising funds.

C. Senfett (Italy): Further education programmes already existing in Europe

E. Moussakova (Bulgaria) UNESCO - the national Memory of the World committees in connection to the planned university course.

Discussion

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The participants of the Krems Convention meeting adopted the following statement:

1. Interdisciplinary continuing/lifelong learning is mandatory to properly preserve, keep, maintain and restore¹ European documentary² heritage.
2. The participants refer especially to
 - a. the E.C.C.O. Professional Guidelines;
 - b. the European Qualification Framework; and
 - c. the Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage in the Digital Age
3. Such lifelong learning is needed to fill the gaps in, and widen the knowledge, skills and competences of professionals responsible for the documentary heritage.
4. Public awareness for the need to preserve, maintain and restore the documentary heritage will also be promoted by establishing continuing education in the field of maintenance of documentary heritage (see 1.).
5. Along with this, security for European documentary heritage will be enhanced
6. Continuing education based on an interdisciplinary approach will bring about greater flexibility of the professionals in the field and intensify the flow of knowledge within the profession.
7. The level of the lifelong learning should be kept at the highest level through co-operation of universities, memory institutions and other bodies in the relevant fields at the European, national and regional level.

¹ Terms are used according to definitions given in E.C.C.O. Professional Guidelines, Brussels 1 March 2002, I. Definition of the Conservator- Restorer and in ENCoRE document of constitution, Dresden, 9th Nov. 1997

² The term is used in the sense it is used in the "Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage in the Digital Age", UNESCO General Conference 37C/48 resolution, 20th Aug. 2013