

**ICOM Slovenia, ICOM Italia, ICOM Europe, ICOM SEE
GO! Borderless
MUSEUM CONFERENCE
Borderless Museums. Redefining Museum Narratives and Inclusivity**

**18–21 May 2025
Nova Gorica – Gorizia
ECoC GO! 2025**

ABOUT

In 2025, the prestigious title of European Capital of Culture will be shared by Chemnitz, Germany, and an unprecedented cross-border collaboration between the cities of Nova Gorica in Slovenia, and Gorizia in Italy. This partnership marks the first "borderless" European Capital of Culture, symbolising a groundbreaking cultural union. Under the slogan "GO! Borderless", Nova Gorica and Gorizia will join forces to create an innovative cultural experience that transcends borders, inviting everyone to explore and celebrate the rich, intertwined heritage of both cities.

The symbolic significance of this partnership is particularly striking. This region, which peaceful coexistence, multilingualism, and multiculturalism, was devastated by the First and Second World Wars. Awarding the European Capital of Culture title to these two bordering towns, long divided by history, reconnects them with their common roots and past glories. It opens the door to renewed peaceful coexistence and creates a model for dialogue and exchange – a vital alternative in Europe's challenging times.

At the heart of this initiative is the creation of EPIC (European Platform for the Interpretation of the 20th Century), a participatory museum designed to promote cultural dialogue and shared democratic values. Conceived as a dynamic cultural hub, EPIC will use participatory methods to empower the local border communities to share their stories, experiences and perspectives. It represents a departure from the divisive narratives of the past, focusing on amplifying the diverse perspectives within the community. More than just a cultural space, it aims to be a beacon of unity, creating a participatory museum for the people, shaped by the people.

This conference seeks to explore and redefine the narratives told by museums, with a focus on inclusivity. It will examine how museums can move away from traditional models to become truly inclusive educational spaces, fostering global understanding and collaboration.

Our goal is to facilitate the exchange of ideas, best practices, and expertise among museum professionals from diverse backgrounds. This international conference will explore the potential of a paradigm shift, one that values personal narratives and addresses issues that are often omitted, erased, or difficult to discuss in contemporary societies.

We will explore how national narratives should be rethought, who gives voice to the unheard and vulnerable, and reflect on how personal encounters can be the key to understanding our rapidly changing world. This is particularly important as we witness the resurgence of antisemitism, racial prejudice, stereotypes and hate speech.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Exchanging Best Practices: Museums as Borderless Platforms of Knowledge
- Ethics in Museums: Curatorial Roles and Dilemmas
- Museums Serving Their Communities: Building Connections
- Hidden Frontiers: Plural Communities Reflecting on History and Shaping the Future

- Transnational and Cross-Border Museum Collaboration: Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, and Opportunities
- Museums and the European Capital of Culture: Sharing Experiences and Best Practices

VENUES AND VISITS

The Conference will be held exclusively on site. The conference will be hosted at the premises of

- **EPIC, Transalpina square (Trg Evrope) on the 18th and the 19th of May 2025**
- **Auditorium della Cultura Friulana, Via Roma 23, Gorizia on the 20th of May 2025**

On the fourth day (the 21st of May) participants may join the optional day trip to WALK OF PEACE trail - <https://www.thewalkofpeace.com/>.

LANGUAGES

Presenters may use any of the ICOM languages – English, French or Spanish. However, the Conference official language is English and no additional translations are expected.

REGISTRATION

Those interested in attending the Conference as participants (ICOM members, Non ICOM members, Students) must fill in and submit the relevant online application form hosted on this site. Registration fees will also be paid via this site.

IMPORTANT: the number of participants is limited.

REGISTRATION FEES

The organizing committee is pleased to welcome all community members to participate in the conference. While ICOM membership is not required, registration fees are based on ICOM's tiered pricing structure to ensure fairness, reflecting the economic capacities of different countries.

For Conference Speakers and Moderators:

Fee	50 €
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For ICOM Members:

Early bird registration (until the 31st of March)	75 €
Registration (until the 12th of May)	95 €
Registration after the 12th of May	115 €

For Other Participants:

Early bird registration (until the 31st of March)	85 €
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Registration (until the 12th of May)	105 €
Registration after the 12th of May	125 €

For Students and Retired Museum professionals (ICOM members):

Early bird registration (until the 31st of March)	55 €
Late registration (until the 12th of May)	65 €

The Conference Registration fees include:

- ~ An opening evening reception at the EPIC venue on the first day (18th May)
- ~ Coffee breaks and light lunches (19th – 20th May)
- ~ Conference material (bags, information material, publications, etc.)
 - Guided tours at museums / cultural venues
 - Other cultural events to be confirmed.

As flight tickets and accommodation are not included in the registration fees, presenters and participants will have to cover their own expenses.

OPTIONAL: Full day trip (extra charge) Wednesday (21st May) - Organised in collaboration with the WALK OF PEACE Foundation

start: 8.30 via Upper Isonzo Valley to Kolovrat
<https://www.thewalkofpeace.com/locations/kolovrat/>
 12.00 Kobarid / Caporetto WW1 museum <https://www.kobariski-muzej.si/en/>
 13.00 lunch
 14.30 Cividale del Friuli <https://www.turismofvg.it/it/cividale-del-friuli>
 18.00 return to Gorizia / Nova Gorica

IMPORTANT: the number of participants is limited.

Price	20 €
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Half day trip (TBA) (optional - extra charge) Wednesday, 21st May
 start 8.30 - return 13.00

IMPORTANT: the number of participants is limited.

Price	15 €
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PROGRAMME

Sunday, 18th May 2025	EPIC building, Transalpina square
Early arrivals can visit the exhibition	

16.30 registration, EPIC building

17.00 GREETINGS

Mayor of Nova Gorica
 Mayor of Gorizia
 Representatives of the organisers
 Representatives of the government

17.30 Opening: Emma Nardi, President of ICOM

#IMD 2025: *The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities*

18.00 Key note speech Sharon Macdonald (TBA)

19.00 Presentation of GO! 2025 Borderless ECoC programmes

19.30 Reception (21.00 finish)

Monday, 19th May 2025

EPIC building, Transalpina square

8.30 - 9.00 REGISTRATION, coffee

9.00 – 10.00 **Steph Scholten, ICOM Slovenia**

10.00 – 11.00 **Tamara Nikolić Đerić, PhD, Independent senior curator, ICOM SEE**

THREE POSSIBLE ASPECTS OF BORDERLESSNESS IN MUSEUMS

11.00- 11.15 coffee break

11.15- 12.45 **EXCHANGING BEST PRACTICES: MUSEUMS AS BORDERLESS PLATFORMS OF KNOWLEDGE** moderator: ICOM SLOVENIA

Stanislava Paunović, University of Glasgow:
Engaging Imagination, Emotions and Bodies: Inclusive Practices in Modern Art Museums

Michela Perrotta and Elena Minarelli, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation:

Io vado al museo / I go to the museum / Я ИДУ В МУЗЕЙ / Je vais au musée / ฉันไปที่พิพิธภัณฑ์ / МЕН МУЗЕЙГЕ БАРАМЫН / 私は美術館に行きます /

Joni Karjalainen & Titta Kallio-Seppä, Museum of Torne Valley (Tornionlaakson Museo/ Tornedalens museum)
Our Shared Museum of Tornio and Haparanda

Lidija Nikočević, Ethnographic Museum of Istria
Tightrope Walk: Cross- Border Cooperation on Difficult Heritage Issues

12.45 – 14.00 lunch

14.00 – 15.30 **ETHICS IN MUSEUMS: CURATORIAL ROLES AND DILEMMAS** – moderator: ICOM SLOVENIA

Suy Lan Hopmann, Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin:

How to deal with BIPOC staff in participatory exhibition projects?! The model exhibition “Dekoloniale – _What remains?!” as a case study

Manuel Scortichini, Research Fellow in Industrial Design, University of Camerino:
Curatorial Ethics in the Digital Age: Navigating Data-Driven Dilemmas in Museums

Tanja Roženberger, Slovene Ethnographic Museum:
The Museum and the Isolated Individual

Aleksandra Berberih Slana, Zagreb City Museum:
Zagreb City Museum on the crossroads between tradition and inclusivity

15.30 – 17.00 **MUSEUMS SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES: BUILDING CONNECTIONS** – moderator: ICOM SEE

David Kožuh, Goriški muzej:
Art Beyond the Visible

Elena Corradini/ Sara Uboldi/ Francesco Gherardini/ Elisabetta Genovese, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia:
TOUCHWELL A project to employ Archaeological Museum Collections for People’s Care Welfare and Wellbeing

Tanja Kocković Zaborski, Ethnographic Museum of Zagreb:
“RemekTijelo“ project as a part of Ethnographic museum dealing with mental illness stigma in our society

Francesca Monachino/ Stefania De Vincentis/ Elisa Mazzella/ Cecilia Vicentini, eCampus University,/ Ca’ Foscari University of Venice:
Accessibility in Museums for Individuals with ASD: A Systematic Review of Cognitive and Digital Approaches Using Advanced Technology for Enhanced Cultural Engagement.

Corinne Brenko/ Nejc Kovačič, Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana (MGML):
Breaking Barriers and Making Connections: 40 Years of Ljubljana’s LGBT Community

Mario Buletić/ Jan Franjul, Ethnographic Museum of Istria/ Process – Association for the Promotion of Queer Culture and LGBTIQ+ Rights (Pula): *Encounters Beyond Boundaries: Fostering Inclusion and Acceptance in the Coming Out Museum*

17.20 --- 19.00
guided tours EPIC/ border museum / city center Nova Gorica / smuggling museum
coordinator GORIŠKI MUZEJ

Tuesday, 20. 5. 2025

Auditorium della Cultura Friulana

9.00 – 10.00 **Charles Esche**, Van Abbemuseum; **ICOM Italy**
Hidden Narratives. Museums and plural communities reflecting together on art, collections and histories

10.00 – 11.00 **Roberto Balzani**, Department of History, Cultures, Civilisations of the University of Bologna, **ICOM EUROPE (TBA)**

11.00- 11.15 Coffee break

11.15- 12.45 **HIDDEN FRONTIERS: PLURAL COMMUNITIES REFLECTING ON HISTORY AND SHAPING THE FUTURE** – moderator: ICOM ITALY

Kristina T. Simončič, Galerije B. Jakac- Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Kostanjevica na Krki:
Cisterscapes - Cistercian Landscapes Uniting Europe. Unity in Diversity.

Constanze Itzel, House of European History:
Go Europe! Transcending borders in narratives, space and museum practice at the House of European History

Roberta Altin / Katja Hrobat Virloget, University of Trieste / University of Primorska:
"In the garden of the (in)visibles." The traveling exhibition on the material traces of borders and migrations

Reem Elshorbagy, Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM):
The Role of Loans and Travelling Exhibitions in Transnational and Cross-Border Museum Collaboration: Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, and Opportunities

12.45 – 14.00 lunch

14.00 – 15.30 **TRANSNATIONAL AND CROSS-BORDER MUSEUM COLLABORATION: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES** - moderator: ICOM EUROPE

Alenka Černelič Krošelj/ Jurica Sabol, Posavje Museum Brežice / Museums of the Croatian Zagorje:
Borderless: The Croatian Zagorje and Posavje Regions – From Past Stories to a Project with a Vision for a Strong Network

Michele Toss/ Anselmo Vilardi, Trentino history museum foundation:
The Euregio Digital History Museum: how to build a new approach for a common transnational narrative.

Darja Komar/ Tadej Pungartnik/ Gerald Hartman / (et.), Podzemlje Pece, Carinthian Regional Muzeum, EGTC Geopark Karawanke- Karavanke (et.):
Opportunities of the crossborder Karawanken/Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark for the development of regional museums

Uršula Lipovec Čebtron / Marijana Hameršak, University of Ljubljana/ Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research Croatia:
Museums – places of counter-commemorative practices of border deaths?

15.30 – 17.00

Cristina Da Milano, **Community engagement: processes and methodologies;** participative workshop

17.20 --- guided tours Gorizia castle / museum / city center Gorizia/ guided city tour (TBA)

Wednesday, 21st May 2025

Path of peace guided tour

Finish around 18.00

optional: half day trip; finish around 13.00

GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKERS:

1. All presenters will attend the Conference in person. Online presentations are not foreseen.
2. You may present in any of the ICOM languages – English, French or Spanish. However, the official language for the Conference is English. French or Spanish speakers must ensure that their presentation slides are in English, or with English translation, and that the text included on each slide is as detailed as possible.
3. During your presentation, please:
 - provide context for the audience to understand your museum / site
 - speak slowly, so that international audiences can follow your presentation
 - arrive at least 15 minutes before your presentation's session starts, in order to prepare yourself
 - respect the allocated time, to ensure the Conference runs smoothly
4. The slides of your presentation must be submitted to **epic@go2025.eu**, no later than the 5th of May, so as to give the organization team the possibility to check the technical details. Presentations cannot be uploaded on site at the Conference. For file size larger than 20MB, please save it on Google Drive or use a file sharing platform such as WeTransfer and share the link with us.

ACCOMMODATION

SLOVENIA

Park, Hotel & Entertainment Nova Gorica
<https://park-novagorica.com/>

Hotel Perla
<https://perla-novagorica.com/>

Hotel Sabotin (Solkan)
<https://hotelsabotin.com/>

Hotel Lipa (Šempeter pri Novi Gorici)
<https://hotellipa.com>

(booking reference is EPK2025)

Hostel Garage <http://garagehostelsolkan.com>

ITALY: OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS:

https://www.go2025.eu/en/discover/borderless-map?FILTER_CATEGORY=CLASS_TYPE_HOTEL

CREDITS

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PARTNERS:

- Poti miru
- Goriški muzej

ADMINISTRATION and other information:

For any queries regarding the event, please contact Conference Organizing Committee:
epic@go2025.eu

The coordinators will get back to you as quickly as possible on working days.