

Transcript

Workshop 2005
“European Identities: Shifting Borders, Changing Identities” [Working Title]

ICOM Ukraine, ICOM Belarus, ICOM Lithuania
Patron ICOM Europe

Planning Meeting on October 24, 2004
in the Art Gallery of the Palace in Lviv, Ukraine

Participants:

Alexander Kalbaska, ICOM Belarus (President)

Boris Voznitsky, ICOM Ukraine (President)

Zenoviyk Mazuryk, ICOM Ukraine

Svetlana Stets, ICOM Ukraine

Hans-Martin Hinz, ICOM Europe (President)

Katja Roßocha, ICOM Europe

The representative from ICOM Lithuania was unable to come on short notice.

Project

A series of workshops titled “Museums in Post-Communist Times” took place in Minsk/Belarus, Tver/Russia, and Berlin/Germany during 2003 and 2004. Building on the success of that series, ICOM Belarus and ICOM Germany have been motivated to propose further events of this kind. In addition, in its first years of operation, the current Board of ICOM Europe has designated Eastern Europe as a “focus region.” ICOM Europe would like to become active particularly in regions along the European Union’s new borders, regions that are exposed to a new historical situation. This type of international cooperation in the realm of museums seeks to avoid new exclusions; we hope to encourage a view of the “total character” of the continent. Of particular concern to the region is the frequent change in identities caused by the fact that many of the states have belonged to different sovereign nations within short periods of time. A joint event in the fall of 2005 will address the central question of how museums can deal with shifts in identity connected to changing nationhood in Europe’s increasingly international context.

The meeting in Lviv took place in the Art Gallery of the Palace, which will become a part of the Department of Ancient Art in the city’s Picture Gallery beginning in early 2005. A tour of this former residence of the Austrian representation to Galicia preceded the event. Mr. Hinz thanked all present for their participation, especially Mr. Alexander Kalbaska from Minsk, and Ukrainian colleagues for their hospitality. He indicated that the three ICOM Presidents had agreed on fundamentals and the implementation of the project before the meeting on the basis of ICOM Europe’s “Brainstorming Paper.” He thanked Mr. Kalbaska for his additional coordination in preparing for this discussion.

Mr. Vosnitsky emphasized the importance of the conference and will support it to the best of his ability. At this juncture, he mentioned that ICOM Russia had invited the National Committees of former CIS states to Moscow. Mr. Mazuryk states that one should not see opposition or contrast between ICOM Europe and ICOM Russia, and in that vein, between Europe and Russia; on the contrary, that it is about the diversity of Europe. Mr. Hinz emphasized that Europe should not be seen as the Europe of the European Union, but as the community of values of a whole continent.

As coordinator of the project, Alexander Kalbaska puts forward his thoughts. He proposed that each of the three conference locations (Lviv, Brest or Grodna, and Vilnius) take up different examples of the same larger theme. Museum visits in Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine would study how each country is represented with reference to frequent border shifts. The motto for this inquiry could be “Cultural Identity and Diversity.” Similar to the other cities, Brest in Belarus would be an outstanding example for the changing history and different identities: at certain points the city had been Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, and Belarusian.

In addition, the desire was expressed to invite colleagues from countries of other European regions that have had similar experiences, for example colleagues from Poland, Alsace, Germany, or South Tyrol.

To avoid repetition, one could also have a different focus in each of the three cities, for instance:

- museums and society
 - museums and marketing
 - museum and culture (all in all)
- (or also museums and visitors?...and borders?...and exhibits?)

All in all, Mr. Kalbaska cautioned that one has to be careful not to discuss the topic only from a political perspective. There is consensus to bring together both theory and practice – that panel discussions be held for half the day and the other half should be reserved for study-visits to various museums. The curator of any given exhibit, however, should pre-select the most relevant themes of the exhibit on which to concentrate. Those involved should decide among themselves which museums of each respective country would be appropriate selections to illustrate these questions.

Mr. Voznitsky returned to practical questions: the distance to each location must be taken into consideration, the season (is November not already too cold?), and the question of visas. Plans exist to rent a bus for the week. The bus would cover the route between Lviv and Brest (or Grodna) and Vilnius (and for those that would like, back again). The distance between Lviv and Brest/Grodna is, however, shorter than the distance between Brest/Grodna and Vilnius. There was agreement on the following framework:

Dates of Conference

Saturday, September 17 – Arrival and Opening Reception

Sunday, September 25 – Departure

- Sat, 17.09. arrival in Lviv and Opening Reception in the evening (perhaps in Palace)
- Sun, 18.09. full conference day in Lviv (lectures and tours)
- Mon, 19.09. full conference day in Lviv (lectures and tours)
- Tue, 20.09. morning continuation to Brest/Grodna (ca. 6 hours), conference beginning upon arrival
- Wed, 21.09. full conference day in Brest/Grodna(lectures and tours)
- Thu, 22.09. morning conference day in Brest/Grodna, afternoon continuation to Vilnius
- Fri, 23.09. full conference day in Vilnius (lectures and tours)
- Sat, 24.09. full conference day in Vilnius (lectures and tours)
- Sun, 25.09. Closing Reception, departure, bus goes back to Lviv

(January 2005: Because of a parallel happening fair in the city of Lviv, the conference changed ex post its local progression. It will begin in Vilnius, will be continued in Brest and will close in Lviv.)

Visa Information for Participants and other Passengers

Ukrainians and Belarusians require a visa for Lithuania

EU citizens require a visa for Belarus and Ukraine

Information needs to be gathered about:

- The cost of the bus for various group sizes (through ICOM Ukraine)
- Should there be quotas for how many participants from each country (Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Germany)? Decision will be made later, when plans are more concrete.

Official Languages

Russian and English. There is a need to define how extensive and expensive the simultaneous or consecutive translation need be.

Audience

(in each city, not on the bus): who will participate?

- cultural studies experts, cultural policy experts
- museum colleagues
- students
- ICOM members of each respective country
- museum colleagues from France, Poland, Germany (who are not on the bus, but invited to a specific conference location)

Press

There could be a press conference in each of the three cities, possibly a journalist from one of the countries could accompany the entire tour.

Publication/Handling of Thesis Papers

The question was discussed whether speakers should pre-circulate thesis papers and how the conference will be documented afterwards.

Dates/Structure

Alexander Kalbaska will sketch the basic ideas of the workshop based on the results of these conversations and will send them to those involved for comments. The conference program is to be completed by January 2005.

In March/April there is to be a follow-up meeting in Brest or Grodna to fix a final version of the program. A printed version is to be completed by the end of June. (300 copies are to be printed. The four Committees will send them to select contacts.)

Funding

Each conference location will fund itself. The question of honoraria for speakers needs clarification, particularly whether they will receive a stipend for lodging.

The superordinate costs will probably not come from the EU, since those funds can only be given to conferences that connect to EU-supported exhibits. We will apply to the ICOM Central Office in Paris for a printing budget (through ICOM Belarus). Possible private sponsors from the regions are to be approached. ICOM Germany will finance travel expenses for German participants and, if applicable, the bus.

Berlin, 11.11.2004,

Katja Roßocha