

Announcement of the IE web conference 2020

Fostering heritage communities

The IE conference 'Fostering heritage communities' was due to take place in Haapsalu, Estonia. Some weeks ago, it became clear that this would not be possible.

Like us, many other heritage and interpretation organisations find their annual conferences are at stake. However, we think it is time to develop and to share ideas and see, how we can turn our conferences into online events.

We feel the need to overcome the consequences of social distancing but also to enable our almost 60 speakers, presenters and workshop leaders from all over Europe and beyond, whose proposals have been selected, to share their experiences and ideas.

We've decided, therefore, that our conference will take place as an online event. The dates will remain the same: **8-11 May 2020**.

Special challenges – and special opportunities

The conference theme 'Fostering heritage communities' calls for intense exchange. In order to take full advantage of the opportunities of a virtual event. We have developed a wide range of features and checked them against their technical practicality and reliability in order to allow for full involvement.

Building upon the confirmed speeches, workshops and presentations, we want to give more space to our attendees. We invite you to have a look at the new components on the [conference website](#) and consider whether you feel encouraged – and excited – to contribute.

For all who wish to do so, we have developed detailed guidelines on how to prepare and how to record your contributions. We have booked two appropriate online platforms and hired technical expertise to be at your service. If you have additional ideas, don't hesitate to bring them forward. We will be pleased to check them against their content and technological feasibility.

Of course, we do not expect you to stay in front of your screen for four days from morning until evening. All key sessions will be recorded, and one advantage of a web conference is that they can also be watched after the conference has ended. Attendees who realise that there was something of interest for them, or a key event they missed, can watch the recording of this event until 31 May 2020.

Attendees joining the web conference means experiencing how to design a complex web event in a participative way and to receive inspiration from taking their own steps in this direction.

Considering the conference theme

Heritage communities are a cornerstone of the Council of Europe's Faro Convention. But how do heritage sites become meaningful for everyone? What triggers volunteer engagement and what boosts someone's sense of fulfilment?

Our conference intends to bridge that gap between concepts such as participation and citizenship-building and the practical need to bring the theory to earth. Explore with us what challenges and opportunities heritage communities include and discover new approaches to heritage interpretation.

Each conference day includes a number of workshops, presentations and special features, and it will be opened by a distinguished keynote speaker:



Kathrin Merkle heads the Culture and Cultural Heritage Division of the Council of Europe's Directorate of Democratic Participation. She is also Secretary of the Steering Committee on Culture, Heritage and Landscape.



Dirk Gotzmann is the Director of Civilscape, an international association of civil society organisations, economic entities and public institutions dedicated to the ideas of the European Landscape Convention.



Agnes Aljas (to be confirmed) is Research Secretary of The Estonian National Museum, Chair of ICOM Estonia and a lecturer at the University of Tartu. She is a specialist in participant relationships with museums and how they can be made sustainable.



Diana Walters has worked in over 30 countries with heritage, museums, interpretation, diversity and peace building, as a researcher, writer and activist. For many years she has worked with Cultural Heritage without Borders in countries in transition.

Like all of us, our speakers are also challenged by the current situation and the quickly changing circumstances. Hence, our Estonian keynote speaker couldn't already confirm her previous commitment. **The programme will include at least one panel discussion on the role heritage interpretation can play in overcoming the crisis.**

Registration and contact

If you have further questions about the event, check www.interpreteuropeconference.net or contact our Conference Manager, [Nuria Mohedano](#).

Register [here](#) for our conference, 'Fostering heritage communities' from 8 to 11 May 2020. We look forward to seeing you on screen.

Join IE and benefit from reduced fees

Interpret Europe members taking part in our web conference pay less and institutional members or business members can send more than one delegate at reduced fees. Even if you cannot come to the conference but would like to benefit from the experiences of more than 1,000 professionals, organisations and companies from 56 countries, you should join IE. For members from countries with lower average income, membership fees are significantly reduced. Check it out at www.interpret-europe.net/join!

Important dates

- 15 April 2020 Final date for the delivery of full papers
- 20 April 2020 Final date for early bird registration
- 26 April 2020 Final date for the delivery of recorded presentations
- 6 May 2020 Final date for regular registration
- 8 May 2020 Online proceedings available