

Call for museums to take part in pilot scheme for Long Term Loan under the auspices of the EU Commission Directorate General for Education and Culture initiative on Mobility of Collections.

Premise

European continent is a treasure trove overflowing with millions of objects. But they are often locked away. How about your collections? Are they underused?

This is a call for any EU museum to take part in an exciting pilot programme of long term loans of artefacts and specimen with other European museums which join in. The initiative creates a unique opportunity for the participating museum to open its lesser known collections to an international audience, guaranteeing optimum display conditions, while fostering enjoyment of the items on show. The initiative will also give the opportunity to have these artefacts and specimen examined by different experts while opening up the horizons of accessibility Europe-wide.

With this current call we urge your museum to show its availability to the initiative by sending us back the form attached by November 23rd, 2009.

Long Term Loans

Long term loans are one of the important pillars of the **Mobility of Collections**, since it involves the exchange, on a long term basis, of artefacts and specimen from a collection in one country or region or locality to another, offering a different setting altogether to its usual one. This would encourage the use of [collections of] museum artefacts and items, usually from obscure display sections or reserve collections to be transferred for a definite period of time to another museum. This would offer the possibility to house the objects in a secure and healthy environment (of a permanent display) while juxtaposing them with different museum objects other than the usual ones.

The initiative seeks to enable the exchange of collections (preferably collections rather than single items) in such a way that these would eventually become standard practice between European museums. International exchanges are encouraged, but regional and local ones are welcomed as well. The terms of loans will be established between the two institutions making sure that as much as possible the loan itself does not incur extra costs to the lender.

The Pilot Project

The collections' mobility is taken forward by the EU working group on Mobility of Collections. Under this working group five subgroups were established to work on practical issues. The Long-term Loans sub-group is now seeking a number of museums (or groups of museums) which are willing to participate as pilot museums in this initiative. In order for the project to evolve properly, a variety of collections have to be offered and thus museums from a wide spectrum of fields are encouraged to partake in this phase in order for the sub-group to have the widest choice of types of collections, covering the most extensive area possible. This will enable the best selection of museums and institutions to initiate the process of exchanges.

Therefore it is important that your institution will offer its participation by filling out the details in the table below and return it by November 23rd, 2009. All applications will be acknowledged and participants will be kept up to date of all developments. The selection process has to be finalised by the end of this year. We already have a number of museums from across Europe that stated their interest. Eventually, pilot museums will be called to report to the working group upon the process in order to finalise a document and establish a way forward to have the project launched on a wider basis.

Other material relevant to the Programme

The **EU Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture current Work Plan for Culture 2008 – 2010**, launched an action plan on the Mobility of Collections. This is a result of numerous workshops and conferences (since 2004) fostering discussion and initiatives on the subject of Collections on the Move. The website indicated below gives a brief outline of the development of the project.

http://www.ne-mo.org/index.php?id=103&STIL=&C_PID=&C_UID=35

For further information, please contact

Dr. Susanna Pettersson
Director of Development
Finnish National Gallery
tel. + 358 40 736 0699
e-mail. susanna.pettersson@fng.fi

Martin Spiteri
Collections Manager
Heritage Malta
tel. +356 22954321 / 22954000
e-mail. martin.d.spiteri@gov.mt

Expression of Interest Details Form

Kindly fill out all details and send back to martin.d.spiteri@gov.mt and teijamari.jyrkkio@fng.fi by not later than November 23rd, 2009.

Name of Museum/Institution			
Address			
Region			
Country			
Website			
Contact person & Role			
Contact e-mail & phone			
Type/s of collections to lend		No. of items	
Type/s of collections to borrow			
Have you got any similar arrangement with any other museum? If yes, which? What items were loaned/borrowed?			