Museums and Innovations, Annual Conference of the ICOM International Committee for Ethnographic Museums (ICME), Zagreb

The annual conference of the ICOM International Committee for Ethnographic Museums (ICME) was held for the first time in Croatia and in Zagreb at the Museum Mimara on 14-16 October 2014.

The Conference was organised by the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb, the Museum Mimara in Zagreb and the University of Leicester, and sponsored by the City Department of Education, Culture and Sports and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia. At the Conference museum experts from all over the world and from Croatia discussed and described new ways in the presentation of heritage in ethnographic museums (permanent displays, museum exhibitions) and new challenges, possibilities and problems faced in the process. The keynote speakers were Prof. Tomislav Šola, Prof. Amareswar Galla, and Dennis Chevallier, Ph.D. In 44 papers they presented the latest research related to the field under consideration. All the summaries were published in the Abstracts and on http://www.icme-conference2014/com/.

The ICME Conference was attended by 96 participants from 29 countries (United States, Canada, China, South Korea, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Australia, Russia, Georgia, Italy, Israel, France, Malta, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, Serbia, Slovenia, Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Spain and Croatia) (Fig. 1/p. 350). The working part was held at the Museum Mimara. The participants had the opportunity to visit the Zagreb City Museum, the Ethnographic Museum and the Museum of Broken Relationships, and to attend several events with performances by leading Croatian artists and ensembles such as the Zagreb Quartet in the Dverce Palace and the LADO Ensemble of Croatian National Songs and Dances in the Museum Mimara. The Zagreb Tourist Board organised a tour of the Upper Town.

The ICME conference was organised by Zvjezdana Antoš, Ph.D. (Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb) and Viv Golding, Ph.D. (University of Leicester) with the collaboration of Ana Hoić from the Museum Mimara and Gordana Viljetić, Matija Dronjić, Željka Petrović-Osmak and Renata Santo from the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb.

After the Zagreb Conference Mario Buletić and Lidija Nikočević, Ph.D. from the Ethnographic Museum of Istria organised a three-day study tour is Istria during which 35 participants were briefed on the cultural and natural heritage of the region.