



Collection Mobility 2.0/ Lending for Europe 2009 – 2011

A group of nine highly ranked institutions from eight European member states received a grant from the European Commission for their project Collection Mobility 2.0/ Lending for Europe. The grant has been awarded within the context of the European Culture Programme (2007-2013).

Exhibitions and museums play a vital part in spreading knowledge of and appreciation for our richly varied European culture. Sharing our heritage is of great importance to the European ideal and stimulates the European intercultural dialogue. Therefore we should enhance the access of European citizens to our common cultural heritage by improving the mobility of our collections between member states.

The aim of the project Collection Mobility 2.0/ Lending for Europe is to introduce the most recent concepts, standards and procedures on lending and borrowing of museum collections into the every day museum practice. A large part of these concepts, standards and procedures have already been developed within the context of *The Action Plan for the EU Promotion of Museum Collections' Mobility and Loan Standard* (2006). Now is the moment to widen the horizon.

From these working groups a network of dedicated museum professionals and policy makers evolved who took the initiative to further promote and implement the mobility of museum collections. The project Collection Mobility 2.0/ Lending for Europe aims at implementing the progress made so far into the daily practice of museum workers at all levels. 'Getting practical ' is the main aim of this programme.

In order to do so, an innovative **training package** will be developed, covering best standards and practices for lending and borrowing between museums in different member states. The training package will be made available to each member state on a '*train the trainers*' principle: Collection Mobility 2.0/ Lending for Europe will provide three three-day expert courses that will cover subjects including: insurance, legislation, indemnity, long term loans, standards, safety and environmental conditions. The courses are open to professional delegates from each country. After the course each delegate can cascade the training programme to others in their own country, using the training package that is being developed. This approach is quite different to the classical way of organising international conferences

To sustain the information of the training package and to centralise the relevant information in a practical and accessible way for trainers, trainees and other professionals a new **digital platform** will be set up. Added to this a **handbook** will be published which provides theoretical background to the subjects covered by the training programme.

By combining the training package, portal and handbook and promoting all three aspects of this project together, it will be possible to reach all the different levels of museum workers dealing with collection mobility on a professional level. The outcome will be a change of mindset as well as the improvement of knowledge throughout the EU as new networks develop based on mutual trust. And the overall aim will be achieved of increasing the mobility of objects and collections between institutions holding collections throughout Europe, which will in turn provide an improved offer to citizens throughout Europe to share our rich cultural heritage.

The institutions working together in this project are:

- Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage (ICN)
- Erfgoed Nederland (The Netherlands Institute for Heritage)
- General Directorate of Fine Arts and Cultural Goods of Spanish Ministry of Culture
- Hellenic Ministry of Culture-Directorate of Museums, Exhibitions & Educational Programmes – Department of Exhibitions & Museum Research
- Finnish National Gallery
- The Romanian Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs
- Agency for the Arts and Heritage of the Flemish Community
- Department for Culture Media and Sport of the UK
- State Museums Berlin, Institute for Museum Research
- Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest

The project is also supported by eleven associated partners from eleven different Member States:

- Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO)
- National Board of Antiquities, Finland
- Netherlands Museum Association, Netherlands
- Amsterdam Historical Museum, Netherlands
- European Registrars Group (network)
- Byzantine and Christian Museum, Greece
- Collection Trust, United Kingdom
- Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture
- The Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp, Belgium
- Swedish national Gallery
- Landesmuseum Linz

Contact information: ICN, Frank Bergevoet, project co-ordinator, frank.bergevoet@icn.nl, +31(6)54674438