

ICOM DEMHIST

ICOM
international committee
for historic house
museums

2026 Open Talks

Online Event

HOUSE MUSEUM NETWORKS



Local, National, & International Best Practices

Presentations
Debate

Virtual cafe
Gameifications

27-28

April
2026

Online
16.00-19.00 CET

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OPEN TALKS 2026

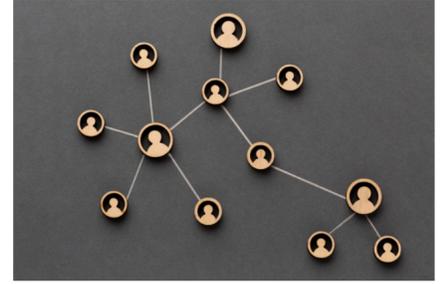
HOUSE MUSEUM NETWORKS

Dates: 27-28 April 2026
(Monday - Tuesday)

Timeslot: 16 - 19 pm CET
(Paris Time)



THEME



"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much."

Helen Keller

DEM HIST – the ICOM International Committee for Historic House Museums – is itself an international network of historic house professionals and enthusiasts.

We understand from our own experience how important networks and associations are to the museum world. House museum networks, from local associations, to national and regional consortia, international alliances, play a vital role in strengthening the visibility and impact of these distinctive cultural institutions.

It is by collaborating rather than operating in isolation that house museums expand their capacity to attract diverse audiences. Joint marketing initiatives, shared events, and cross-institution programming help visitors see our house museums not as isolated sites, but as connected experiences that collectively tell richer stories.

There are many aspects to the importance of networks. On the broadest level, networks amplify the collective voice of house museums. They strengthen advocacy efforts, open opportunities for funding, and enable strategic partnerships with tourism bodies, cultural institutions, and educational organizations. By presenting a unified sectoral identity, networks help house museums assert their relevance in contemporary cultural life.



THEME



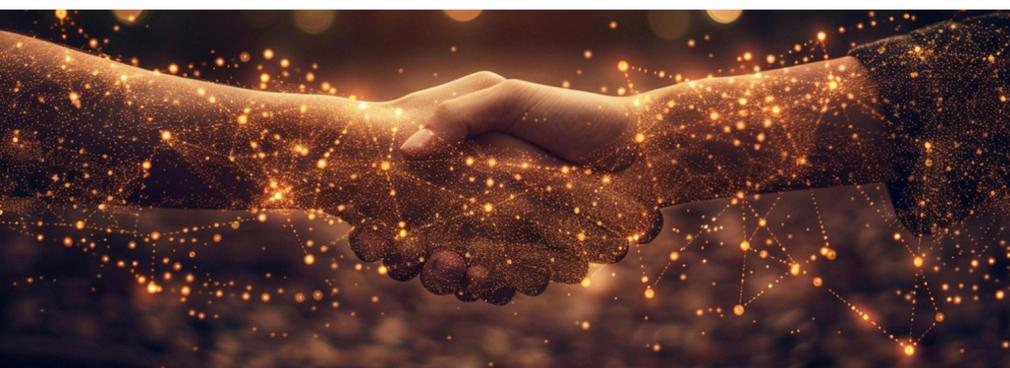
For those of us working in house museums, professional networking also fosters a sense of community. We often operate with small teams, and networks provide essential platforms for exchanging expertise, discussing challenges, and developing innovative approaches to interpretation, conservation, and visitor engagement. This professional support reduces isolation and elevates standards across the sector.

Ultimately, whether local or global, thematic or general, house museum networks cultivate resilience, creativity, and public value, ensuring these unique heritage spaces continue to thrive and inspire future generations.

Thus, our 2026 theme, “House Museum Networks: Local, National, and International Best Practices”, will explore:

- **Models of Collaboration:** structure, governance, and objectives of diverse networks, from thematic associations to national consortia.
- **Power of Connectivity:** how international initiatives amplify the visibility and impact of individual sites, as well as provide measurable outcomes and tools for local improvement
- **National Identity & Institutional Support:** role of national associations in providing advocacy, funding, and a unified voice for the sector.
- **Sustainability & Resilience through Networking:** how collective marketing, shared events, and professional "cross-pollination" help small teams overcome isolation and thrive in the contemporary cultural landscape.

We look forward to welcoming you to DEMHIST Open Talks 2026 — to share ideas, exchange experiences, and imagine together new possibilities for interpreting the past in ways that resonate today.



PROGRAM



Two online meetings both dealing with professional networks addressing the specificities of House Museums. The sessions include presentations, virtual tours, discussions, and interactive activities. Virtual cafes are open-mic sessions held during breaks for casual conversations.

SCHEDULE

** [PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE]

Monday 27.04.26

DAY 1

International Perspectives

Tuesday 28.04.26

DAY 2

Networks and working groups on a national scale

16.00

Introduction

Introduction

16.30

**Opening Remarks
Rosanna Pavoni**

**Opening Remarks
Daniela Ball**

17.00

**Session 1
International networks**

Creation of Working Groups

17.30

Break

**Roundtable: National
DEM HIST Representatives**

Break

18.00

**Results of the International
House Museum Days**

**Session 2
National Networks**

18.30

Q&A and Open Floor

Closing Session

19.00

Wrap-Up

FAQ



REGISTRATION

How to attend the Open Talks? Registration for the Open Talks will be open from **March 23rd to April 22nd**. You will be able to register through the DEMHIST website. The event is **free of charge** for all participants. A single link will be provided for accessing the sessions, through the Visio Agent platform (no personal account required; on registration you will be required to sign a GDPR compliance form).

Technical Requirements: Ensure you have a stable internet connection. Use a device with audio and video capabilities (e.g., computer, tablet, smartphone). It is recommended to use updated browsers such as Chrome, Firefox, or Edge for the best experience.

Joining the Sessions: The Open Talks link will be sent to registered participants 3 days before the event date. Simply click the link to join the conference sessions. Follow the prompts to enter your name and join the session. Please remember to connect with the same email account you used for registration, and to properly identify yourself (name, institution) when joining the sessions.

Support and Assistance: If you encounter any issues with registration or accessing the conference, please contact our support team via the contact information that will be provided on the DEMHIST website.

PROGRAM

The posted program is subject to change, the full and final schedule of speakers will be posted **by April 12th**.

PROCEEDINGS

Will ICOM-DEM HIST publish the papers or will there be any other chances for wider engagement? The conference recordings will be published on DEMHIST Youtube channel, there will be no printed proceedings.

