

DEMHI

NATIONAL WORKING GROUPS GUIDELINES – 2026

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DEMHI

NATIONAL WORKING GROUPS

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National Working Groups (NWG) are local representatives of House Museums and Historic Residences, connecting professionals within individual countries. They focus on the conservation management and research of house museums, ranging from castles to cottages and from all historical periods. These groups are active teams within the DEMHI

Committee that address specific projects, issues, or emerging topics within the house museum sector. Through short-term objectives, research initiatives, and specialized tasks, these groups play a crucial role in advancing the goals and sustainability of DEMHI

, ensuring the organization remains responsive to the evolving needs of the local museum communities. DEMHI

NWG and their representatives act as DEMHI

ambassadors in their country / area, that will in fact increase the amount of individual and institutional DEMHI

members.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DEMHI

NWG organize ICOM-DEMHI

members at a national level, ensuring the interests of house museums, museum professionals and students in related fields within their respective countries. They represent their group members within the DEMHI

International Committee, contribute to the realisation of the association's programmes, and enhance collaborative practice. The main purpose of a DEMHI

NWG is to serve as a link between DEMHI

, (the International Committee for House Museums and Historic Residences of ICOM) and the House Museums and Historic Residences and their professionals in a specific country.

In practice, this connection is established through actions such as:

- Acting as a channel for timely information regarding DEMHI
- calls for proposals, activities, news, publications, meetings, and seminars.



- Communicating concerns related to DEMIST or ICOM from the national DEMIST group to the International Committee, so they can be addressed or redirected as appropriate.
- Creating supportive, action-oriented, and professional feedback links among House Museums and Historic Residences within the same country.
- Facilitating the organization of professional, academic, or educational meetings between participating House Museums.
- Promoting the formation of a community of House Museums at a national level, motivating its participants to constantly improve the management of the House Museums under their responsibility.

ESTABLISHING A DEMIST NATIONAL WORKING GROUP

Each DEMIST NWG is a volunteer and non formal, yet effective, body of ICOM-DEMIST constituted as a separate entity:

- composed of a minimum of 3 DEMIST individual members or institutional representatives and previously authorised by the DEMIST Board to represent the interests of DEMIST in a given State, in accordance with the National Committee. Founding members will be considered the core of the NWG.
- Extraordinarily, some of the members could be DEMIST friends or have DEMIST as an International Committee of interest.
- Encouraged to have a basic structure for organizing functions. They can appoint a representative, that might be in first place a founder member of the NWG, or a designated member inside the group. For the interaction with DEMIST (meetings, General Assembly, etc.) this representation can be alternated between several NWG members, due to availability needs. They can maintain a generic email account.
- Meeting regularly and carrying out at least one activity to exchange knowledge and/or professional experience per year, such as a seminar, conference, meeting, or symposium.
- Sending an annual report of activities to the DEMIST International Committee, in any of the 3 official languages of ICOM (English, French or Spanish) and in PDF format. They might be asked to share their results in the General Assembly every year.



BENEFITS

- Acting as an active link provides members of the DEMIST NWG with the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the activities offered by the ICOM-DEMIST international network.
- Having access to information related to financial sources, loans for museum exhibits, community-based exhibits, programming, and cultural use of museum collections.
- Opportunity to develop flexible action models, community impact, and establishing links with other local educational and cultural institutions.
- Building engagement and community involvement, ensuring diverse perspectives are represented in House Museums.
- To be included in the DEMIST ICOM minisite, recognizing their contribution and work.

