

Museums in Times of Uncertainty: The Protection, Responsibility and Resilience of Cultural Heritage

ICOM International Conference, organized by the ICOM Slovak National Committee in cooperation with the national committees of the Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland
Trenčín, European Capital of Culture 2026

DATE	27. - 28.05.2026
VENUE	Trenčín Regional Administration Building, Congress Hall (1st floor), K dolnej stanici 7282/20A, Trenčín, Slovakia

Interpretation in the Slovak-English language combination will be provided at the conference.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

27.05.2026

9:30	OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE Margareta Musilová, Chair of ICOM Slovakia Stanislav Krajčí, Director of the Creative Institute Trenčín Peter Martinisko, Director of the Trenčín Museum in Trenčín Miloslava Borošová Michalcová, Chair, Council of Slovak Galleries Michaela Škodová, Chair, Union of Museums in Slovakia Juliette Raoul-Duval, Chair of ICOM Europe
SESSION 1	SESSION 1: CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION IN TIMES OF THREAT
10:20	Elke Kellner: Be prepared. Emergency management in museums in the context of armed conflict and climate change.
10:40	Milena Mierzejewska-Wasilewska: Guardians of memory: Protecting cultural heritage in times of war – lessons from the Polish Army Museum.
11:00 - 11:15	COFFEE BREAK
11:15	Gabriel Vizlay: Crisis management standards for museums: Then and now.
11:35	Barbara Davidson: Building capacity for community-based disaster risk reduction using the ICCROM methodology.
11:55	Margaréta Musilová: The PRISM Project in the Fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods.

12:15 - 12:30 **DISCUSSION**

12:30 - 13:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

SESSION 2 **INSTITUTIONAL RESILIENCE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH VISITORS**

13:30 Alexandra Kusá, Eva S. Kotláríková: The free National Gallery – lessons from the crisis.

13:50 Katarína Banyászová: A crash course in resilience and strengthening the professional infrastructure of museums in times of crisis: The case of the Slovak National Museum – Betliar Museum.

14:10 Marcin Matuszewski, Zuzanna Szor: Here and now: designing a self-guided mindful visit at the National Museum in Warsaw.

14:30 - 14:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

14:45 Anna Marks: A small institution, high expectations, and a dynamically developing community – the case of the Piaseczno Museum.

15:05 Ján Granec: Resilience is not a gesture | The day-to-day reality of working in the cultural sector in times of public dilemmas.

15:25 Eszter Molnár Aczél: Resilience of a museum collection in times of uncertainty: Examples from the practice of the Municipal Gallery of Budapest.

15:45 - 16:00 **DISCUSSION**

16:30 - 18:30 **GUIDED TOUR**

The old town centre of Trenčín, Trenčín Synagogue, Trenčín Castle.

28.05.2026

SESSION 3 **INFORMATION WARFARE, PROPAGANDA, AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVES**

9:00 Alexandra Trawińska: The museum as a battleground: National identity, crisis management, and institutional resilience.

9:20 Jędrzej Piekara: Countering the Kremlin's historical narratives: Cultural institutions in CEE and Russia's politics of history.

9:40 Marek Cieśliński: The 1939 Gliwice false-flag operation in contemporary information warfare narratives.

10:00 - 10:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:15 Jan Hrubecký: The Velichovky Museum – the End of World War II project.

10:35 Enikő Róka: Critical museology in the age of populism.

10:55 Marianna Nenning: This concerns everyone! The history of democracy at the House of Austrian History.

11:15 - 11:30 **DISCUSSION**

11:30 - 12:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

SESSION 4 **LEGAL AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES IN MODERN MUSEUM PRACTICE**

12:30 Martina Kočí: Can museums not registered as legal entities adequately ensure the protection of cultural heritage?

12:50 Paulina Gwoździewicz-Matan: Born digital – legally uncertain? Challenges in management and protection of digital collections.

13:10 Adam Bartalský: Human remains in museums: social issues between ethics and practice.

13:30 - 13:45 **DISCUSSION**

13:45 - 18:30 **GUIDED TOUR**

Čachtice – Draškovič Manor House, Lednické Rovne – RONA GLASS (museum and glassworks).

