ESACH Statutes

August 2020

Definition

ESACH is an informally recognised network that includes undergraduate and graduate university students, PhD candidates, early career researchers and young professionals with an interest in cultural heritage studies. It is not a legally registered entity.

Goal

The aim of ESACH is to establish an interdisciplinary network of university students, from undergraduate to postgraduate levels, young researchers and early-career professionals working in cultural heritage within Europe. The development of such a network will increase youth participation in heritage practice, contribute towards a more cohesive heritage practice in Europe and provide members with valuable inter-disciplinary knowledge which will prepare them for work in the challenging field of cultural heritage study, conservation and protection.

Principles

It is an inclusive, open platform founded on the values of civic involvement and participatory democracy, driven by the commitment to expand youth involvement in heritage studies, conservation and management. Members who do not abide by our principles will have their membership immediately revoked.

- ESACH is an inclusive, open platform founded on the values of civic involvement and participatory democracy. Diversity of opinions is always welcomed, as long as they respect the democratic values of autonomy, inclusiveness, equality, freedom of assembly and speech, and minority rights. Hate speech and violence will not be tolerated.
- ESACH is a platform for sharing knowledge and networking, and not a platform for personal or economic gain. Members shall not use the ESACH network for their personal gain in detriment of the common goals.
- ESACH is not defined by geopolitical boundaries. Although we share common principles with the European Union and the Council of Europe, we are not associated with these institutions, but with a common vision of shared values and principles.
- ESACH embraces the plurality of cultural expressions within Europe. Our general communications are in English, as it is the most commonly spoken language amongst our members, but we always welcome the use of other languages when relevant.
- ESACH believes in the importance of academic rigour and attribution. We stand by objectivity, scholarship, peer reviews, due referencing and attribution of ideas. We require the use of thorough, standardised referencing and strongly condemn plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Structure

ESACH is composed of individual members, working groups and a coordination committee

1. Individual members

Individual members are undergraduate and graduate university students, PhD candidates, early career researchers and young professionals with an interest in cultural heritage studies.

Understanding the variety of backgrounds and topics involved in cultural heritage studies, conservation and management, there are no specific requirements for the area of knowledge to which our members belong, and applications will be considered on a case by case basis. A committed interest in the field of cultural heritage must be demonstrated by the applicant at time of membership through a motivation letter and/or CV.

Members from all nationalities are encouraged to apply. Applications for membership must be made through the official website www.esach.org

2. Working groups

In order to increase the local impact of ESACH in the individual countries, members are encouraged to form Working Groups. Working groups are created by groups of two or more individual members of ESACH. There is a large amount of flexibility regarding the structure of said groups: they can legally recognised associations, be associated with a particular degree or university, or be a more loosely structured association formed by individual members belonging to a particular city or region (such as ESACH Portugal, Poland).

Working groups are independently organised and funded. The Coordination Committee can provide advice on how to become a legally registered association and how to achieve funding but ultimately working groups need to work independently. They are responsible for their own activities and programs, and collaboration with other working groups is encouraged. Membership to the ESACH network will help the group expand their opportunities for collaboration and action by providing an existing platform.

The working group can be created specifically for the purpose of becoming an active working group within the ESACH network, but we also welcome local, existing associations who have similar goals and principles.

Each group must have one coordinator who represents the group in the European network; the coordinators must stay in contact with the rest of the network and participate in regular meetings with the coordination committee and the rest of the group coordinators. We strongly encourage working groups within universities to provide a permanent point of contact (typically, someone from university staff who will stay in their position for the long term).

3. Coordination Committee

The coordination committee is in charge of the coordination of members, groups and activities at European level. It organises network-wide activities, liaises with European partners, facilitates the communication between different members and groups, manages memberships and assists groups in foundation and working. The committee meets in a monthly virtual meeting to update on ongoing projects. Current and former members of the committee are listed publicly on the website.

Participation in the committee is open to all members of ESACH. Members of the Committee are elected annually by all members in a General Meeting, in which candidates are selected based on a relative majority or plurality rule. The Committee member's particular roles and tasks will be decided during the annual meeting. Members of the committee can be re-elected. The general meeting must be accessible through a virtual meeting platform such as Skype or Zoom and remote voting must be considered. The date and details of the General Meeting will be announced through email to all members.