



Museums in Danger

Annual IATM Conference 2024 Finland

Call for Papers



From 8 to 11 September 2024 IATM and the international community of transport and communications museums will come together in Finland!

The International Association of Transport and Communications Museums invites you to shape the conference by **submitting an innovative and forward-thinking proposal for paper presentations** for its annual conference.

The conference theme

With “Museums in Danger” the conference revolves around museums in times of multiple global crises. The accelerating climate crisis starts to affect our museums in many ways. As war has been – at least in Europe – a distant threat for a long time, we face a world in which we must deal with the possibility of destructions by warfare once again. After three years of a Corona pandemic around the globe, many cultural institutions see severe budget cuts by governments. Other threats through cyber attacks and natural disasters keep shaping the challenges museums face today.

How does this effect our museums?

What plans should we have to secure our work or collections? How, for example, has the war in Ukraine or Israel changed our work, changed our relationships with other countries, or what kind of economic impact do they have on our work? How is your museum preparing for extreme weather events, or do you have a lived example of reacting to crisis that would be a useful lesson for other museum professionals? Can museums offer security with their contents of history? How are transport and communications museums uniquely able to respond to these crises?

Possible topics

Different points of view could be taken to the crises we face:

- Financial mismanagement
- Collections in crises
 - o How do museums deal with hazardous substances, environmental pollution or collections with difficult, inappropriate or debated histories, as well as theft?
- Energy consumption
 - o What is the museum’s response to the rising price of energy, how are the needs for collection storage (temperature and humidity regulation in depots and the museum buildings), needs of visibility for public presence or security reasons justified?
- Natural disaster
 - o What kind of emergency strategies do museums and collections have in place? Are disaster plans in place? How do museums support each other (globally)?
- Disaster response, public reception and communication
 - o How do museums respond to the factors that they can influence? How do we deal with the public’s and visitors’ response, with political or other stakeholders? What do they find acceptable? How do we respond to unexpected disasters or factors that are out of our control?

Share your best practice and ideas with us! (Submission guidelines)

We are looking for papers for **brief and concise presentations of 15 or 30 minutes** in length. They should encourage discussion and new ways of thinking. We welcome innovative formats and approaches.

Your submission should include:

- a working title
- An abstract (max. 300 words) providing an introduction to the speaker's museum, description of the danger/challenge it is subjected to and the response or solution
- a biography of the speaker (max. 100 words)

Please send your proposal to: tiina.lehtinen@rautatiemuseo.fi

Deadline

Submissions are open until Sunday, 31st March 2024.

The selected proposals will be announced in April 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the conference or this call for papers, do not hesitate to contact us at tiina.lehtinen@rautatiemuseo.fi or office@iatm.museum.