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Ειδική Συνεδρία “Museum Ethics”

Irene Nakou
Associate Professor
Director of the Museum Education and Research Laboratory
University of Thessaly, Greece
inakou@uth.gr

Title

The “ICOM code of ethics for museums” and museum education

Abstract

The paper focuses on main principles of the “ICOM code of ethics for museums” that refer to the intellectual, cultural, social and political aspects of museums’ broad educational role. With the aim to shed light on basic parameters that seem to either facilitate or restrain the enrichment, active endorsement and practical application of these principles, basic relevant topics such as *freedom of information, intellectual freedom, individual rights and information, and open access*, are discussed on the basis of a relevant research that was conducted in Greece, in relation to the following questions: How far do museums preserve, interpret and promote the natural and cultural inheritance of humanity, as it is stated by the first Principle of the ICOM code? How far do museums that maintain collections hold them in trust for the benefit of society and its development (see Principle 2)? How far do museums take particular responsibilities to all, for the care, accessibility and interpretation of primary evidence collected and held in their collections (see Principle 3)? How far do museums serve their important duty to develop their educational role and attract wider audiences from the community, locality, or group they serve, by interacting and collaborating with the constituent community and by promoting their heritage as an integral part of their educational role (see Principles 4 and 6)?