

FINAL REPORT

Open Round Table of Museology No. 2 – Interpretation in museology and museum work

1. 3. 2017 – 31. 12. 2017

Project Open Round Table of Museology running from 1. 3. 2017 till 31. 12. 2017 supported by AKTION Czech Republic – Austria has fulfilled all the expected results and major activities.

Activities done March – November 2017

Preparatory phase – teaching activities at both universities (spring 2017/Graz and autumn 2017/Brno)

In this preparatory phase there were **two university teaching courses realized**. The first one with the title „*Theoretische Museologie*“ took place at University of Graz in spring semester 2017 and was dealing with basic themes correlating to the profile theme of the planned Open Round Table of Museology (The theoretical foundation of museology in connection with interpretation in modern museum work). The course taking place at Masaryk University in Brno (under the course title *Forum of Museology*) in the autumn 2017 dealt with the same topics and there were five topics arisen in the Brno course which were taken as a base of the Open Round Table of Museology project meeting in Graz at the beginning of December 2017. These topics were: 1) Advantages and disadvantages of oral history in the interpretation of topics on controversial history of the 20th century in the museums; 2) The issue of suitable interpretation in the work of museums to the untrained museum staff; 3) Interpretation in the museums as a tool for strengthening the social community; 4) Interpretation in connection with the use of new information technologies and 5) Interpretation in the public space. There were 28 participants in the University of Graz spring course and 19 students participating in the Forum of Museology course taking place at Masaryk University in Brno. In November Dr. Biedermann came to Brno to finalize the programme and details of the project meeting (22. – 24. 11. 2017).

Activities done in December 2017

Main phase – Austrian- Czech scientific meeting (December 2017/Graz)

The main part of the project, **scientific meeting of young and senior scientists of the field museology took place from 3. – 6. 12. 2017 at University of Graz in Graz** with 26 students and 5 teachers participating (16 students and 2 teachers from Masaryk University and 10 students and 1 teacher from University of Graz).

The project meeting started on **3rd of December** evening with the self- student **guided tour around Graz focused on controversial examples of interpretation**. The meeting continued on Monday **4th of December** morning by **two lectures of senior scientists from University of Graz** and after lunch was followed by **first student workshop** which has put together both Austrian and Czech museology students. In mixed up international Czech-Austrian groups they discussed together questions they dealt with in the preparatory courses. Their issue was to cover the base of one of topics mentioned above and during the whole project meeting work together on chosen topic. Then they prepared their group speeches for the scientific discussion which was taking place on the third day of the project meeting. Students should involve information from upcoming lectures and educational excursions to their final speech. The day continued with an **educational excursion to the Unigraz@Museum of University of Graz** where students and senior scientists discussed topics from the perspective of this historical site in situ. The next day, Tuesday **5th of December** started by **two lectures of senior scientists from Masaryk University** in the morning, was followed by **educational excursion to Grazmuseum** and ended by **second student workshop** focused on group work of international teams.

The top of the Austrian-Czech scientific meeting was **The Open Round Table of Museology discussion of senior scientists and young scientists/students** dealing with the theme *Interpretation in museology and museum work* which took place on Wednesday **6th of December** 2017. Young scientists presented there their opinions and research questions to one of the topics subordinated to the main Open Round Table of Museology theme and discussed them with the senior scientists. More than two and a half hours lasting discussion was ended by **certificate giving** to the participants. Lectures of senior scientists and the Open Round Table of Museology discussion was successfully **opened to professional public** and one of the project aims – to open actual themes in museology to professional public discussion – was fulfilled.

All three days of the project meeting were accompanied by **informal evening meetings** of participants discussing topics and students working on their Open Round Table of Museology Wednesday speech. Also the **logo** from the first project year was used to establish continuity and the **facebook event** was made for the project of Open Round Table of Museology 2017 https://www.facebook.com/events/1554011507999504/?active_tab=discussion. Despite of activities of students through the project meeting, of their interest and of active participation, also the main goal of the project – to give young scientists motivation for their own scientific engagement and experience of international cooperation and scientific meeting - was successfully fulfilled.

Activities done December 2017 – February 2018 - Final phase

This phase is running now and includes preparation of the **publications** available for the international science community in online versions of museological journal “Museologica Brunensia” in autumn 2018 issue. There will be a **common summary of the results** of the project and also **texts written by international Czech-Austrian groups of students** dealing with topics discussed by project meeting in Graz in December 2017 and supervised and learned about scientific writing in English. The Student’s text will also be published in volume 16 of “Curiositas. Jahrbuch für Museologie und museale Quellenkunde”, where a section to present texts of students is created. **Also three scientific texts** based on the lectures given by senior scientists during the project meeting will be published in Museologica Brunensia.

Experiences

The project “Open Round Table of Museology“, dealing with theoretical questions of the discipline realized during the year 2017, was successful which is shown by the results, by the interest of students and professional public. Furthermore in this context new topics were recognized as important for students of Museology in international aspects of Czech and Austrian museology tradition.

There were several experiences recognized during the March-December 2017 project period:

- 1) We were able to gain Grazmuseum and the Unigraz@Museum as important local partners for the project – despite of this partnership it was possible to make educational excursions on important examples of interpretation from history of Graz and also to integrate museum professionals from these institutions as partners for scientific discussions during the excursions. Excursions were shown up as very important because of their possibility to see scientific museological theory implemented in the museum praxis.
- 2) The format of mixed up international Czech-Austrian students groups working hard on chosen topics through the whole meeting was recognized as very functional. It helped students not only to overcome the diffidence of something new and unknown for them, but also by the group discussion they were more motivated and active. The project reflected the need of more time for independent work of students groups which was very functional for the quality of student final presentation.
- 3) Despite of the fact, that the price of the train ticket changed and finally was cheaper than expected, there were some money for the travel costs left. There are also some money left in Euro despite of illness of one Graz senior scientist, see cost overview enclosed.
- 4) According to the interest of Brno students and thanks to financial support of the dean of Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University it was possible to invite to the project one student more than planned, so finally there were 16 of Czech students participating.
- 5) The project was very important and successful not only in giving young scientists motivation for their own scientific engagement and experience of international cooperation and scientific meeting, but also in overcoming and positively using cultural differences to successful international cooperation. Students not only stayed in touch from the first run of the project, but they are still keeping professional and personal connection, which is extremely worthy for their professional future.

Brno 25. 1. 2018



Mgr. Lenka Mrázová

Additional illustrative materials

1. Logo
2. Facebook event
3. Programme of the project meeting
4. Certificate
5. Topics for the group work and guidelines for the discussion and written outcomes
6. Photos selection

1. Logo



2. Facebook event. (print screen)



3. Programme of the project meeting



Invitation to the Workshop

„open round table of museology no. 2 – interpretation in museology and museum work“

Date 3th - 6th December 2017

Place: University of Graz

In cooperation with Masaryk University Brno

Programme:

Sunday 3rd December 2017:

16:45: city walk

19:00: Opening and informal evening meeting of students and researchers

Monday 4th December 2017

08:45-12.00: official opening

University of Graz, HS 23.03, Mozartgasse 3, ground floor

Prof. Marlies Raffler, Institute of History, University of Graz: *“Museum and identity”*

Mag. Dr. Bernadette Biedermann, Institut of History, University of Graz, *“Museum interpretation using the example of Austrian history museums”*

12.00-14.00: Lunch

14:00-17:00: Student workshop, HS 23.02, Mozartgasse 3, ground floor

17:15-18:45: educational excursion to the university museum, Universitätsplatz 3, see: <https://unigraz-at-museum.uni-graz.at/>

19:00: informal evening meeting

Tuesday 5th December 2017

09:00-12.00: University of Graz, main building, SZ GEWI, Universitätsplatz 3, ground floor
Mgr. Lenka Mrázová, UNESCO Chair of Masaryk University: *„Interpretation of difficult Histories“*

MgA. Mgr. Barbora Svátková, Ph.D., Brno City Museum, *„Interpretation and Art“*

12:00-14:00: Lunch, Uni Café Campus, Libresso, Mensa or Resowi-Cafeteria

14:00-15:30: Educational excursion to Grazmuseum, Grazmuseum, Sackstraße 18, see: <http://www.grazmuseum.at/>

15:30-18:30 student workshop, University of Graz, main building, SZ GEWI, Universitätsplatz 3, ground floor

19:00: informal evening meeting

Wednesday 6th December

10:00-12.30: University of Graz, main building, SZ GEWI, Universitätsplatz 3, ground floor

Open Round Table of Museology: *“Interpretation in museology and in museum work”*

13:00 Lunch and formal ending of meeting

More information: bernadette.biedermann@uni-graz.at; mrazova.l@phil.muni.cz

4. Certificate



Katedra UNESCO
pro muzeologii a světové dědictví
UNESCO Chair
of Museology and World Heritage



UNESCO Chair of Museology
and World Heritage
Masaryk University



Institute of History
University of Graz

CERTIFICATE

was a part of international czech-austrian educational museological project

OPEN ROUND TABLE OF MUSEOLOGY

focused on

“INTERPRETATION IN MUSEOLOGY AND MUSEUM WORK”

GRAZ/03–06/12/2017

Supported by AKTION Czech Republic-Austria



and partners of the project



5. Topics for the group work and guidelines for the discussion and written outcomes

Topics of group work for the final written student outcomes

Topics of group work



1. Advantages and disadvantages of oral history in the interpretation of topics on controversial history of the 20th century in the museums
2. The issue of suitable interpretation in the work of museums to the untrained museum staff
3. Interpretation in the museums as a tool for strengthening the social community
4. Interpretation in connection with the use of new information technologies



Guidelines for the discussion presentation

For the discussion



- Say few words about your topic
- Match it to F. Tilden's ideas
- Show it on the Graz example
- Say something to interpretation in the public space from the point of view of your topic
- Ask three questions

Guidelines for the final written student outcomes

For the text



- Write about your topic
- Match it to Umberto Eco ideas (The Limits of Interpretation)
- Match it to F. Tilden's ideas (Interpreting Our Heritage)
- Show it on the Graz example
- Say something to interpretation in the public space from the point of view of your topic
- Ask three questions and reflect the discussion