

29th Forum – AMMM | Sesimbra | Portugal | 2 – 5 October

29th AMMM Forum: Celebrating Maritime Heritage

Maritime Museums and Maritime Communities

From 2 to 5 October 2024, Sesimbra became the stage for an important meeting of experts in maritime heritage history, as it hosted the 29th Forum of the Association of Maritime Museums of the Mediterranean (AMMM).

The Association aims to preserve maritime history and culture by promoting professional quality standards in collections and projects. It also fosters cooperation between institutions, promoting research and raising awareness about maritime heritage, as well as annual Forums for international scientific debate.

The Forum, an event of recognised prestige and attended by delegates of 26 cities of 9 states, brought together international researchers and professionals and is a benchmark in the promotion of scientific knowledge and reflection on the fundamental role of maritime museums in contemporary social dynamics.

The event was hosted, organised and promoted by the Sesimbra Maritime Museum and the Municipality of Sesimbra. Sesimbra once again stood out as a centre of knowledge and culture, particularly with regard to its maritime history and the tradition that permeates local identity and culture.

The opening ceremony was attended by prominent personalities, including the Head of the Cultural Heritage Division of Sesimbra City Council, Andreia Conceição, who stressed the honour of hosting the various international museums for the Forum's scientific debate focused on maritime communities and museums.

The President of AMMM, Davide Gnola, emphasised the importance of inter-institutional collaboration, stressing that interconnection between museums is essential for the promotion and preservation of cultural heritage. João Neto, from APOM, reiterated the central role of cultural institutions in educating and raising awareness among communities, while the Mayor of Sesimbra, Francisco Jesus, reaffirmed the municipality's commitment to supporting initiatives that enhance the region's maritime culture and history, recognising the importance of fishing in Sesimbra's identity.

The Forum was structured into four thematic sets, providing an in-depth analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing maritime museums today. In the First Thematic Set, which explored the active participation of communities, speakers from different countries addressed cooperation between museums

Augusto Alves Salgado, Director of the Portuguese Marine Museum, reflected on collaboration between national and local museums. The story of the Trini tuna, told by Lurdes Boix Llonch, from the Museum of Anxova and Sal da Escala, highlighted the link between the museum and the fishing community of l'Escala, revealing the importance of local traditions in the contemporary context.

The Second Thematic Set focused on the role of museums in the defence and safeguarding of maritime heritage. Inês Bettencourt da Câmara, Director-General of Mapa das Ideias, discussed the relationship between Portuguese water dogs and maritime communities, symbolising the link between culture and the sea, and still an emblem of local and national maritime culture.

Mariona Font Batlle's presentation on the patrimonialisation of the 'Paca' boat, the Anxova Museum and Sal de l'Escala exemplified the impact of initiatives that value local history and the safeguarding of maritime heritage.

The Third Thematic Set addressed the active role of researchers and communities in safeguarding maritime culture.

Nuno Costa, Director of the Ílhavo Maritime Museum, emphasised the pluralisation of memory, while representatives from various institutions, including the Comune di San Benedetto del Tronto in Italy and the Hrvatski Pomorski Muzej Split in Croatia, discussed the importance of inclusion and co-curation as paths to a more sustainable future for museums. Pedro Bicudo, from the Portuguese Maritime Heritage Association (APPM), spoke about 'Inventory, Recovery and Sustainability of Traditional Vessels', emphasising the importance of preserving traditional vessels. Contemporary. The presentation by Andreia Conceição, from the Sesimbra Maritime Museum, entitled 'The Impact of Maritime Narratives on 21st-Century Society, from a Socio-Museological Perspective: The Paradigmatic Case of the Sesimbra Maritime Museum', offered an innovative perspective on the role of museums in constructing cultural narratives in the 21st century.

Finally, the Fourth Thematic Set centred on innovation and the legacy of maritime museums. Michelle Teixeira dos Santos brought up the 'salty memories' at the Michel Giacometti Labour Museum, highlighting the role of women workers in Setúbal's canning industries. Cristina Conceição, from the Sesimbra Museum, brought a historical perspective with her presentation 'A Manifestação de Fé e Gratidão no Hospital Medieval do Espírito Santo dos Mareantes, Sesimbra, Século XVII', a detailed analysis of the town's religious traditions.

The relevance of the Maritime Museum of Crete, in Greece, and the Ecomuseo Marittimo di Salerno, in Italy, were also discussed as examples of initiatives that promote the preservation of cultural heritage.

This forum emphasised the growing importance of inter-institutional collaboration to meet the challenges of preserving maritime heritage. The various presentations, featuring speakers from countries such as Italy, France, Spain, Croatia and Portugal, highlighted the need for innovation and international co-operation.

Sesimbra, with its rich history linked to the sea, once again proved to be a centre of reference for maritime culture. 29th AMMM Forum was thus consolidated as a space for dialogue and sharing, making a decisive contribution to the preservation and promotion of maritime heritage, a legacy that will continue to be an essential element in the identity and belonging of communities linked to the sea.

Special thanks go to the Sesimbra Maritime Museum team and the municipality of Sesimbra, which tireless job was fundamental to the success of the event.

Courtesy of: Iolanda Ávila, Câmara Municipal de Sesimbra, Divisão de Património Cultural. Centro Cultural Costeiro and Maritime Museum

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Programme

Thursday 3 October 2024 – Cultural Coastal Center | Sesimbra Maritime Museum.

08:30am – Executive Committee Meeting.

Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums (AMMM) – Sesimbra Maritime Museum.

09:30am – Registration

Cultural Coastal Center.

10:00am – Official Opening of the Forum – Greetings by:

- Director of Sesimbra Maritime Museum – Andreia Conceição.
- President of AMMM – Davide Gnola.
- APOM – Portuguese Museology Association – João Neto.
- Mayor of Sesimbra – Francisco Jesus.

First thematic set: Maritime Museums and the active participation of their communities.

10:40am – Introductory guest speaker: **Augusto Alves Salgado**, Director of Museu de Marinha, Portugal –
“National and Local Maritime Museums. How can we increase cooperation?” (Portugal).

11:00am – I Session, I Part:

- *Strengthening the naval hub*
Danijela Djukic – Museum and Gallery Tivat (Montenegro)
- *Attività e Progetti dell'Associazione per la difesa dell'isola di Pianosa ODV – Activities and Projects of the Association for the defense of Pianosa Island ODV*
Alessandro Scotto – Filippo Torrigiani – Pianosa (Italy)
- *Maritime museums and their communities in Croatian Adriatic - state of affair 2024*
Tea Perinčić – Robert Mohović – Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka (Croazia)

11:45am – Coffee Break

12:15pm – I Session, II Part:

- *The incredible history of the Trini tuna and the involvement of the Museum with the fishing community of l'Escala*
Lurdes Boix Llonych – Museu de l'Anxova i de la Sal (Spain)
- *Intangible heritage and the community. Cervia salt*
Annalisa Canali – MUSA Museo del Sale di Cervia (Italy)

- *From the Museum boats to the book on the ship REX; the contribution of the community*
Franco Juri – Maritime Museum Piran (Slovenia)

01:00pm – Lunch Break

Second thematic Set: – Museums Role in the Defence and Safeguarding of Maritime Heritage.

02:30pm – Introductory Guest Speaker: **Inês Bettencourt da Câmara**, General Director of Mapa das Ideias – *“From Portuguese Water Dogs to Rising Tides: Maritime Museums and Communities in a Changing World”* (Portugal).

03:00pm – II Session. I Part

- *A new life for the "Paca" boat. The patrimonialization of a fishing boat, a pioneering project in Spain*
Mariona Font Batlle – Museu de l'Anxova i de la Sal de l'Escala, Catalunya (Spain)
- *Museums' Role in the Defense and Safeguarding of Maritime Heritage*
Md. Arafat Ali – National Museum of Science & Technology (Bangladesh)
- *The Piran Lighthouse: A New Museum Achievement on the 70th Anniversary*
Duška Žitko – Maritime Museum Piran (Slovenia)
- *Tangible and Intangible Maritime Heritage of the Trieste Littoral*
Franco Cossutta – Fisheries Museum of the Trieste Littoral (Italy)

04:00pm – Coffee Break

04:30pm – II Session, II Part:

- *Seixal Municipal Ecomuseum (SME) case study*
Adelina Gomes Domingues – Ecomuseu Municipal do Seixal/Câmara Municipal do Seixal (Portugal)
- *The recovery of the fisherman's heritage in the Council of l'Escala*
Martí Guinart López – Ajuntament de l'Escala, Vereador (Spain)
- *Tradizioni, saperi artigianali, comunità locali per una rete museale diffusa degli "squeri" storici*
Pietrangelo Pettenò – Marco Polo Project - Società Mutuo Soccorso Carpentieri e Calafati (Venezia/Italia)

06:00pm – Guided tour to Sesimbra Maritime Museum – Fort of Santiago

Friday, 4 October 2024 – Centro Cultural Costeiro.

Third thematic set: The Active Role of Researchers, Communities and Associations in the Defence and Safeguarding of Maritime Culture.

09:00am – Introductory guest speaker: **Nuno Costa**, Director of Ílhavo Maritime Museum – *“Ílhavo Maritime Museum: The Pluralization of Memory as a Cultural Endeavor”* (Portugal).

09:30am – III Session, I Part:

- *MARINA" and the museum community of traditional maritime heritage*
Thierry Pons – Carlos Pires – Álvaro Lopez – Brigitte Richert – Association Aventure Pluriel, Cagnes-sur-Mer (Alpes Maritimes, France)
- *Etnografia marinara della Comunità di San Benedetto del Tronto*
Giuseppe Merlini – Comune di San Benedetto del Tronto (Italy)
- *Catalogue of protected cultural and natural heritage of the municipality of Sant Feliu de Guíxols*
Sílvia Alemany Nadal – Museum of History and Cultural Heritage Department of Sant Feliu de Guíxols (Spain)
- *Inclusivity and co-curation as a future for maritime museums?*
Jade Nijman – EHESS (France)
- *High and low tides at the Croatian Maritime Museum Split*
Ljubomir Radić – Hrvatski pomorski muzej Split/Croatian Maritime Museum Split (Croatia)
- *Traditional Boats' Inventory, Recovery and Sustainability*
Pedro Bicudo – APPM – Associação Portuguesa do Património Marítimo, Portuguese Maritime Heritage Association (Portugal)

11:00am – Coffee Break

11:30am – III Session, II Part:

- *Il Galata Museo del Mare compie 20 anni: riflessioni sull'esperienza fatta, guardando al futuro / Galata Museo del Mare turns 20: reflections on the experience made, looking to the future*
Pierangelo Campodonico – Galata Museo del Mare (Genova, Italy)
- *The Impact of maritime Narratives on 21st Century Society, from a Socio-museological perspective: The paradigmatic case of the Sesimbra Maritime Museum*
Andreia Filipa Conceição – Sesimbra Maritime Museum (Portugal)

12:00pm – Working groups: updates on activities developed.

01:00pm – Lunch Break

Forth thematic set: Maritime Museums and Innovation: A look into the future of the legacy.

02:00pm – Introductory guest speaker: **Michelle Teixeira dos Santos**, Archaeologist, Director of the Municipal Museum Service of Setúbal and the Setúbal Municipal Museum Network – “*Salty Memories at the Museu do Trabalho Michel Giacometti. The women canners of Setúbal*” (Portugal).

02:30pm – IV Session, I Part.

- *The Museum Boat 'Smilja'*
Tea Rosić, Crikvenica Town Museum
- *A manifestation of faith and gratitude in the medieval hospital of Espírito Santo dos Mareantes, Sesimbra, 17th c.*
Cristina Conceição – Museu Marítimo de Sesimbra (Portugal)
- *Maritime Museum of Crete, 50 +1 years since the its Foundation*
Emmanuil Petrakis – Maritime Museum of Crete (Greece)
- *Adriatic Portland, ARCA Adriatica: 5 anni di progettazione europea sul patrimonio marittimo adriatico*
Davide Gnola – Museo della Marineria Cesenatico (Italy)

- *Com'era,cosi' e' "Delfino " - Gozzo a vela latina - tributo a due giganti della letteratura mondiale :
Camões e Pessoa*
Alberto Senatore – Ecomuseo Marittimo di Salerno e della Costa Campana (Italy)

04:00pm – Coffee Break

04:30pm – **AMMM General Assembly** (for members only).

06:00pm – Visit to Sesimbra Historical Center.