

CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

Elena Korka
Greece - Grèce



Employment-Recent positions:

1979-Today: Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture.

- 2006-2014: Head of central Directorates
- 2014-Today: General Director of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage
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Positions held in ICOMOS NC or ISC:

- Member of ICOMOS since 1986
- Member of ICOMOS Hellenic NC Board (2013-Today)
- Vice-president of ICAHM SE Mediterranean since 2009
- Expert Member of ICORP
- Member of ICCROM since 2007
- Member of ICOM since 1986

PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

World Heritage at the present times faces more challenges than ever. Monuments are threatened, sites destroyed, objects looted. Worst of all basic principles and world values are at stake. The preservation of World natural and cultural Heritage more than ever should be the basic concern of all states, communities, actors and stake-holders as without our past there is no future.

We are in a new age of challenges. We should defend in the strongest way what mankind has preserved for so many years and fight for more resources and better conditions for our heritage. The possibility for working positions especially in the heritage sector should increase as heritage is closely connected to education, stability, development and above all dignity for humankind.

At the end of the day it is up to all of us to strive for quality, authenticity and capacity building. It is up to specialists in the field and NGOs among which ICOMOS ranks highest as its members are the most experienced and devoted to the values established by the relevant international charters, conventions and documents of principles, to persevere and preserve the standards required for the safe-guarding of our heritage. Above all ICOMOS, being the technical consultant to UNESCO has to support and wide spread the feeling of belonging and caring for the natural and cultural property of the planet.

Actions and campaigns for the sensitization of the weaker social groups of our communities, minorities and refugees, handicapped people and all the younger generation are a priority today. Recognition of cultural diversity, tolerance and the sense of belonging and caring are major challenges faced in all our societies as problems are common almost everywhere.

Greece has faced first the economic crisis and now the huge waves of refugees and immigrants as it is the gate-way to Europe from the east. The Greek society and above all the actors whether state, NGO or private have confronted these issues in a brave and most humanitarian way. What we had to feed one, fed more, what we appreciated most, which is our land and culture, can be shared by more. Greek civilization has always been ecumenical. These difficult times have given proof of this once more.

ICOMOS Hellenic plays a vital role in defending these high values through its professional and scientific character. A lot of work has been done in promoting the social aspect of heritage and the benefits, which ensue. ICOMOS Hellenic collaborates in this aspect with the Ministry of Culture and other NGOs.

This endeavor has made us wiser and more knowledgeable in regard to the management of our heritage in these difficult times. The challenges, which we face, require professional expertise, high scientific level, interdisciplinary collaboration and managerial skills. This experience should be shared and developed.

I believe that we should work for new networking and to strengthen the role of ICOMOS, increase responsiveness and professional development, implement a clear vision and mission for the organization, offer training possibilities especially for younger colleagues, provide effective responses to the new emerging issues and pioneer innovative approaches for the preservation of world heritage.

Through this candidature I wish to offer, promote and continue the very good work that has been done.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Elena Korka is a graduate of Athens University in archaeology, with a Masters degree from LA VERNE Uni. and a PhD from Athens Uni. Also speaks four foreign languages. She is a high executive official of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, having more than 33 years of service. Elena has a long excavation experience. She directs an excavation in Korinthia, Peloponnese. She is member of many national and international scientific councils, committees, working groups. Since 2014, Elena is General Director of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage at the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, which is the highest level of Service in terms of cultural heritage in Greece. She is also, ex-officio, representative of the Hellenic State in meetings concerning the UNESCO Conventions ratified by Greece.

She has mainly worked on the issues of illicit trafficking and repatriation of cultural goods and of Greek World Heritage Monuments and has been attending UNESCO, Council of Europe, ICCROM, ICOMOS and other meetings. She one of the most active members of ICOMOS Hellenic and under this status she has offered important work for the Hellenic Committee but also in the international field. She is currently member of the ICOMOS National Committee board, responsible for international affairs, Vice-president of the Scientific Committee and for Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) for the SE Mediterranean, expert member of ICORP and member of ICOM and ICCROM. She has received many honors, has given many lectures and is the author of many books and articles