

**18<sup>th</sup> ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium**  
**10 - 14 November 2014**  
**Florence, Italy**

**ICOMOS Youth Forum, 11 November 2014, 18:00 – 20:00, Auditorium al Duomo**  
**Call for Abstracts**  
**Deadline: 20 March 2014**

**Facilitating entry into working life for young professionals**

*What role can an NGO such as ICOMOS play in the training, professionalization and working life of young people? How can it help young people in the difficult transition from student life to the world of qualified work in the conservation profession?*

Italy, and in particular Florence, with its historical tradition of specialist knowledge and activity in the conservation field at all operational levels, is the ideal venue for this debate. The University of Florence and the city's specialist academic institutions, along with the Opificio delle Pietre Dure, the CNA, the CNR, the IGM, the MIBACT, ICCROM\* and other prestigious bodies, owe their position of excellence in the international field either to their technical and scientific capabilities or to operating in an urban fabric characterised by the knowledge networks and exchanges that exist between workshops of small craftsmen all the way to those in the most prestigious cultural institutions.

Appropriate documentation and experts will accompany the debate during the Youth Forum.

**Introduction**

The Youth Forum, taking its cue from the current international debate on the training and professional role of "conservation" experts, intends to launch a discussion on the difficulties and obstacles experienced by young professionals when attempting to enter the real world of work and the training that is necessary both to enable them to do so successfully and for the conservation field to meet the growing challenges it faces.

How can the curricula of Universities, specialist schools and higher specialisation courses adapt to the growing demands of scientific innovation? How can the working environment adapt to facilitate the inclusion of young professionals? How can young professionals be trained and involved in dealing with difficult challenges in the field, in particular the destruction caused by man-made and natural disasters and the management of World Heritage sites.

This debate on professions, employment and training links to both the technical and social values of the conservation of cultural heritage.

**Question**

**What specific training is needed and what technical contribution can young professionals make to meeting the challenges of heritage conservation and emergency situations? What organisational, technical and scientific responses are needed?**

- What is the role of the academic and professional world and how can it adapt?
- Training : Specific training for gathering knowledge and documentation using innovative systems and High-level training in the application of systems for the restoration and reconstruction of cultural assets
- How can ICOMOS attract and integrate young professionals into its structures?
- Is there a need for high level national and international cultural organisations to create a network responsible for professional accreditation in the conservation profession?

**Keywords**

young people, training (preparatory, post-involvement), profession, best practices



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## Scientific Committee

**Italy:** Carlotta Del Bianco, Emma Mandelli, Maria Teresa Jaquinta, Olimpia Niglio, Fernanda Prestileo, Luigi Petti, Carlo Francini, Giulia Cotta, Uliva Velo, Corinna Del Bianco.

**International:** ICOMOS Executive Committee Working Group on Young Professionals

## Coordination

**Italy:** Maurizio Di Stefano, Carlotta Del Bianco, Emma Mandelli, Luigi Petti

**International:** Daniel Young, Rohit Jigyasu

## Modalities for Abstracts

Students and Young Professionals (age limit 40 years) are invited to submit their abstracts (max. 3000 keystrokes) in English via e-mail to [GA2014-Youth-Forum@icomos.org](mailto:GA2014-Youth-Forum@icomos.org) by 20 March 2014.

## The abstract must contain:

- the complete title of the article;
- three to five keywords;
- the author's full name, the institution to which he or she is affiliated, and his or her contact information (address, phone, fax, e-mail etc.)
- if applicable, the author's ICOMOS membership number (as on your membership card)

The proposals will be selected by the Youth Forum Scientific Committee. The authors selected to make a presentation and/or for publication will be contacted and informed of the Committee's decision by 30 June 2014, and will be asked to provide their final paper (max. 15 pages) by 30 September 2014.

Please note that the working language of the Forum will be English and that no simultaneous interpretation will be available.

\*CNA (Confederazione Nazionale degli Artigiani), CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche), IGM (Istituto Geografico Militare), MIBACT (Ministero dei Beni e delle attività culturali e del turismo), ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property)



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