



European
Route
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Heritage



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Call for Papers: ERIH Annual Conference 2020

“Keeping the Wheels Turning”

Succession Planning for Industrial Heritage

This year’s ERIH Annual Conference tackles the topical issue of how we can protect industrial heritage by ensuring that skills and knowledge are passed on to future generations.

All those interested in European Industrial Heritage and its protection and promotion will be aware of the massive impact of Covid-19 on our activities. However we are looking forward with optimism and still hope our Annual Conference in Ghent can proceed as planned and in fact provide an opportunity to celebrate and come together again. In parallel we are planning an Online ERIH Conference 2020, in case it will not be possible to meet in October.

We are issuing this call for papers as a positive statement of intent at this time of uncertainty."

Conference venue: ERIH Anchor Point Museum of Industry, Gent, Belgium

Date of Conference: 7 to 9 October 2020 – Alternative: ONLINE Conference 8th October 2020

Deadline for Submission: June 22nd, 2020

Industrial Heritage is more than just industrial buildings and machinery, that is, the “tangible” remnants of industry. Industrial Heritage also includes the complex knowledge of running and maintaining machines, of numerous techniques and skills as well as of sector-specific social routines and intangible heritage. But this knowledge is in danger of being lost with the passage of time. Today heritage organisations are increasingly facing the retirement of their first generation professionals and volunteers – staff who experienced at first-hand life within these industrial communities. Against this background effective methods are needed for transferring and sharing knowledge with new staff and volunteers that engage in the field.

Most heritage institutions are facing these problems in a more or less similar ways. ERIH, as the largest European network of sites and organisations in the field of industrial heritage, has decided that its Annual Conference in 2020 will provide a platform for exchange and critical debate of experiences in the field of knowledge transfer and succession planning. The conference not only intends to explore and share innovative, successful ways of protecting and promoting industrial heritage and of dealing with generational change, but also to identify ideas of how ERIH can effectively support its sites in this field.

Invitation to speakers

ERIH invites speakers to present their experiences, methods and strategies for dealing with the preservation of site-relevant knowledge and its transfer to the next generation of staff and volunteers. We especially welcome papers from industrial heritage site practitioners, papers outlining institutional strategies of industrial heritage organisations, or project reports from academic researchers working in the field. Consideration will also be given to papers submitted by professionals and practitioners from other fields facing similar challenges (for example heritage preservation of arts and crafts; memory culture).

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Possible Topics

- Methods to document and convey technical knowledge on the operation and maintenance of historic machines
- Methods of storing and sharing human experience and people's stories, stories of witnesses who lived during the former operation of the sites
- Strategies to recruit new staff and to inspire the younger generation to engage with industrial heritage
- Exploring the potentials and pitfalls of digitalization within the field
- Experiences with oral history methods

Questions to be addressed

- What are the critical factors and lessons learnt for success in maintaining the technology of industry and stories of industrial society?
- What are the resources necessary for success?
- What would you recommend for others?
- How can knowledge be shared, and how can ERIH help and support sites and organisations in this respect?

Interested persons should submit a precis of their paper (in English) by e-mail to the secretariat by June 22nd, 2020. This brief description of the intended presentation should not exceed 2,000 characters. A brief CV and note of relevant experience should be attached.

The ERIH Board will consider the submitted papers at its meeting at the end of June. All those who have submitted papers will be informed whether they have been selected by the end of July.

IF YOU ARE INVITED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE

Successful speakers will be required to complete a power point presentation for submission to the secretariat by 28th September 2020 at the latest. Presentations must be delivered on 8th October in English within one of the 20 minute time slots allocated. Presentations should be available for upload to the ERIH website after the conference.

ERIH offers

- Travel costs and accommodation (up to two nights in selected conference hotels)
- Speakers can participate in the whole conference programme (incl. excursions) – except the ERIH General Assembly (for ERIH members only)
- ERIH will cover the conference fee for speakers

(all above mentioned only if conference and meeting in Ghent are possible)





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ALTERNATIVE – COVID-19 CONCEPT

We are still hoping to be able to meet personally in Ghent in October. Given the uncertain situation about the development of COVID-19, we have a “Plan B” for an Online Conference on the 8th October 2020 in case we are not able/ allowed to travel.

In this case your presentation would be given during the Online conference, length and format stay the same.

We expect to be able to take a decision about “live conference versus online conference” in July.

ABOUT

The ERIH Annual Conference has taken place annually since 2005 at different industrial heritage sites across Europe. Participants are international experts from industrial heritage sites, museums, tourism organisations, monument protection, public authorities and other sectors. The conference language is English.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact your national representative (<https://www.erih.net/about-erih/erih-association>) or the ERIH Office: info@erih.net / Tel. +49 2150 756496 / Mobile +40 171 6437345

