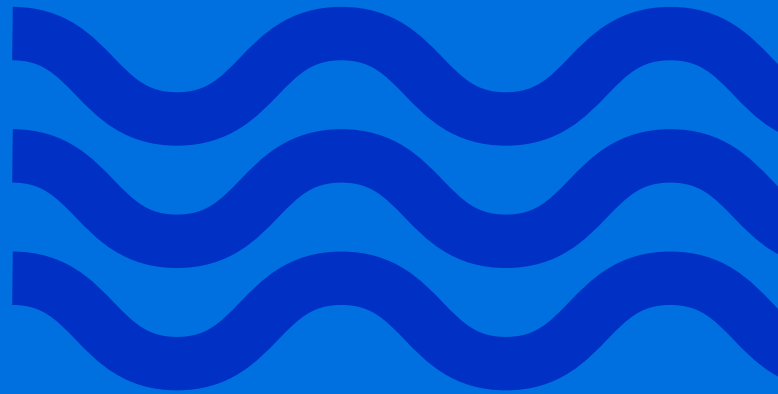


Network of European Museum Organisations

**European Museum Survey**

# Museums in the climate crisis

Findings &  
recommendations  
at a glance



Network of European  
Museum Organisations



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## RELEVANCE

### ✦ Recommendation

**Acknowledge and support the potential of museums as allies to help the public better understand climate change and become active.**

### 🔍 Finding

8 in 10 museums in Europe have acknowledged climate change and sustainability as important strategic topics and nearly 7 in 10 museums offer public actions and programmes around climate change and sustainability.

## FRAMEWORKS AND GUIDANCE

### ✦ Recommendation

**Ensure that guidelines, standards and reporting requirements reflect all aspects of museum work and are aligned to support sustainable goals.**

### 🔍 Finding

Despite the climate-awareness within the sector, a minority of museums have been able to take consequential steps toward fulfilling their potential, as shown by only 4 in 10 museums having methods or criteria to measure and assess their sustainable efforts.

## POLICY COHERENCE

### ✦ Recommendation

**Increase communication between governing and funding bodies and museums, encourage cooperation and develop cohesive, comprehensive frameworks for museum work.**

### 🔍 Finding

Only 1 in 4 museums are being consulted by public authorities when considering sustainable policies and transformations in their communities and only 1 in 10 museums are aware of local/regional or national climate policies that feature or address them.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### ✦ Recommendation

**Facilitate funds for investments in the infrastructure of museums, so that buildings can be maintained in a more energy-efficient, ecological and sustainable manner. Financial support should be streamlined and coupled with financial relief in consideration of the current energy crisis impacting museums across Europe.**

### 🔍 Finding

The main cause reported as impeding their museums' sustainable transition is a lack of funds. More than half of the museums reported that they do not have any climate-friendly construction, and only 2 in 10 museums claimed that they use a green energy supplier.

## RISK AWARENESS

### ➤ Recommendation

**Invest in future citizens' sustained access to European shared heritage by funding and encouraging risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation for museums.**

#### ⚡ Call to action

*Ensure the safety of collections, premises and functioning of museums for future generations by analysing the climate-associated risks applicable to them and their communities, and consequently preparing for those risks.*

#### 🔍 Finding

Less than 1 in 10 museums have completed an analysis about challenges associated with climate change in their region and only 3 in 10 museums have analysed the climate impacts they are likely to be challenged by.



## ALLIANCES

### ➤ Recommendation

**Fund global, cross-sector, climate-focused networks and umbrella organisations that address and enable mutual sharing of skills, knowledge, and expertise - supporting and empowering the sector to address climate change.**

#### ⚡ Call to action

*Build alliances with other museums and cultural heritage organisations, open doors to external expertise and work with researchers, local communities, and stakeholders to ensure that the museum establishes an effective network to support the sustainable transition in Europe.*

#### 🔍 Finding

Only 1 in 10 museums are part of a cultural network that focuses on climate change, but professionals of those networked museums are more confident in their climate related activities: The amount of museums dedicating staff resources to climate-related issues doubles, they have more knowledge about the SDGs, and they raise or advocate climate and sustainability issues in the public discussion more often.

## SKILLS AND TRAINING

### ➤ Recommendation

**Allocate financial support to upskill and train staff to contribute to the museums' sustainable transition and to support society's just transition.**

#### ⚡ Call to action

*Allow for internal and cross-departmental staff training - according to the position, task and field of action - to facilitate change across the museum departments.*

#### 🔍 Finding

2 in 3 museums report they do not have sufficient knowledge about the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate action in their organisation.

These recommendations are published by the [Network of European Museum Organisations \(NEMO\)](#). They are based on a survey that was answered by 578 museums from 38 European countries between April and June 2022. The recommendations and the [full report](#) reflect the status quo of European museums on their way to sustainable operations in the climate crisis.