



European
Route
of Industrial
Heritage



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Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



“Taking off against the wind”

RESILIENCE - How industrial heritage sites accepted the pandemic challenge and survived the crisis

European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) Annual Conference 2021 - Call for Papers

The ERIH Annual Conference has been held every year since 2005 in industrial heritage locations across Europe. Participants include experts from industrial heritage sites, museums, tourism organisations, monument protection, public authorities, agencies and academia. The conference language is English.

*If everything seems to be going against you,
remember that the plane is taking off against the wind, not with it. (Henry Ford)*

The topic of this year’s conference is **“Resilience”**. The event will explore how industrial heritage sites have survived the Covid-19 pandemic and developed interesting and imaginative ideas for ongoing development in a post-pandemic world.

Conference Venue and date

At present, it is proposed that, subject to Covid restrictions, the conference will be held on Thursday 7th October 2021 as a hybrid event; in-person at the ERIH Anchor Point, Museum of Industry, Ghent, Belgium and online. A decision on whether the in-person part of the event will be able to take place will be taken by end of August 2021.

Call for Papers

Resilience is defined as “being able to recover quickly from difficulty or distress”. This year’s conference provides a timely opportunity to share experience on how sites and attractions are recovering from the impact of Covid and extended periods of closure. The conference will also explore ways to mitigate against wider and long-term impacts on the protection and promotion of our industrial heritage. We are calling for papers on how sites can successfully rise to the challenge of the “new normal” with imaginative and effective responses which can provide inspiration for all concerned with the future of the heritage sector.

The closing date for submission of papers is Monday 19th July 2021.

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Invitation to speakers

We are inviting speakers from a wide range of backgrounds; those involved with site management, academics and indeed anyone, including volunteers, with clear ideas on how industrial heritage sites can overcome the setbacks caused by the pandemic.

Possible topics

1. Managing visitor access restrictions caused by the pandemic, including practical ways to keep visitors, staff and volunteers safe.
2. Future funding and how to maintain financial viability with reduced visitor numbers.
3. Covid-safe ways to engage with visitors and to present and protect industrial heritage, including the potential for greater use of virtual offers.
4. Raising awareness of the impact that industrial heritage tourism has had on global warming
5. Maximising the potential for cooperation between industrial heritage sites locally, nationally and internationally.

Questions to be addressed

6. Which are the most severe effects and challenges the pandemic caused at your site?
7. How did you overcome these?
Are there long-term learnings for:
8. How can sites be funded and prosper commercially with reduced visitors and reduced income?
9. How can group tourism be safely accommodated on site?
10. What opportunity exists for increased use of virtual offers and promotion of industrial heritage?
11. Can volunteers play increased roles in site management and promotion?
12. Have working conditions developed or changed (home office, on site)?
13. Are there any other effects such as transport, sustainability, environmental protection etc. which have become more important or needed new visions?

Selection of speakers

Interested persons should submit a précis of their paper in English (not exceeding 2000 characters) to the ERIH Secretariat (contact details below) by Monday 19th July, 2021. A brief CV and note of relevant experience should be attached. The ERIH Board will consider submissions and those who submitted papers will be informed whether they have been selected by end of July/ early August.

Please indicate whether you intend to present online or physically.





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Arrangements for speakers

Speakers are required to submit a PowerPoint presentation to the ERIH Secretariat by Friday 17th September 2021. The presentation must last no more than 20 minutes. The presentation will be delivered during the morning session of the conference on 7th October. The speaker should be available to answer any questions on their paper. It is intended that presentations will be uploaded to the ERIH website following the conference, so copyrights and photo rights should be secured.

Speakers' costs

ERIH will cover the following costs:

- Travel to and from the conference venue and up to two nights' accommodation in selected conference hotels.
- Conference fee

Speakers will be able to participate in the entire conference programme, except the ERIH General Assembly which is for ERIH members only.

ERIH European Route of Industrial Heritage e.V.
Christiane Baum, Secretary General

Tel. +49 2150 756496
Mobile +49 171 6437345
germany@erih.net
www.erih.net

