

## **ICOMOS resumes its activities in Lithuania**

**(press release by ICOMOS Lithuania)**

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On the 10th of December 2019, a new national committee accredited by the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) - the Association "ICOMOS Lithuania" - started operating in Lithuania. In Lithuania, as in any other country, there can be only one ICOMOS National Committee, which is accredited by ICOMOS, which also grants the exclusive right to use the ICOMOS name in its activities and official documents.

ICOMOS is a global non-governmental organization, an associated partner of UNESCO and an official expert on world heritage. Its purpose is to promote the preservation, revitalization, and enhancement of monuments, complexes and sites, taking into account the tangible and intangible aspects of heritage.

ICOMOS has a community of professionals interested in cultural heritage protection. ICOMOS is a global network of over 10,000 members from 151 countries, 28 international scientific committees and 107 accredited national committees.

ICOMOS acts as a forum for discussion, bringing together authorities and academia, conservation professionals and anyone interested in ICOMOS. It also develops and promotes theoretical, ethical, legal and scientific-professional principles and standards for the protection of modern heritage. The ICOMOS doctrine assists UNESCO and the national authorities of various countries by validating these principles and standards in international and national law, university programs, and so on.

Realizing the mission of ICOMOS and understanding the great challenges and expectations of the present, "ICOMOS Lithuania" strives to open up best practices, disseminate the most effective ways of preserving cultural and natural heritage values, seek harmony between tradition and modernity to ensure the transmission of cultural heritage to future generations. All this would help Lithuania to strengthen its identity, emphasize its uniqueness and stand out in the global world and in the European Union space. Therefore, "ICOMOS Lithuania" will bring together ICOMOS members operating in Lithuania and other heritage researchers and advocates who wish to join in the pursuit of ICOMOS goals in the country.

The establishment of "ICOMOS Lithuania" was initiated by the management of ICOMOS, which formed a group of trusted members of ICOMOS from Lithuania.

ICOMOS accreditation to “ICOMOS Lithuania” means granting the rights of the National Committee, fully recognizing its purpose and empowering it to act for the benefit of future generations in the preservation of heritage.

The establishment of “ICOMOS Lithuania” had to be started after in July 2019, when the previous ICOMOS Lithuanian National Committee (legal entity code 191952135) lost ICOMOS trust and accreditation. The suspension and resumption of ICOMOS activities in Lithuania at the national level reflects the concern of the international heritage expert community and the indifferent part of Lithuanian society about the deteriorating situation of heritage protection in Lithuania.

“ICOMOS Lithuania” plans to take action as soon as possible to raise awareness of heritage issues in Lithuania, to hold discussions and to disseminate information on necessary changes.

Information prepared by “ICOMOS Lithuania” Board

More information is available at: [www.icomos-lietuva.org](http://www.icomos-lietuva.org) and by email: [memberships@icomos-lithuania.org](mailto:memberships@icomos-lithuania.org)