WELCOME

Museums as Agents of Reconciliation & Social Cohesion

XXXIII ICOM Arms and Military Annual Conference · Lisbon, Portugal · 2 – 6 November 2026

Dear all,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Lisbon for the XXXIII Annual Conference of ICOM Arms and Military.

This year's conference is dedicated to the theme "Museums as Agents of Reconciliation & Social Cohesion". Museums of arms and military history care for collections shaped by conflict, loss and memory. For precisely that reason, they are uniquely placed to open spaces for dialogue, to give a voice to different communities and to help societies engage with difficult pasts.

Over two days, we will explore these questions together through four thematic panels, on community voice and participatory practice, transnational memory and heritage diplomacy, curatorial approaches to difficult heritage, and museums as agents of social cohesion and peacebuilding, complemented by a keynote address and two workshops.

The sessions will take place at the Museu de Marinha, in the historic district of Belém. The programme also includes visits to the Museu do Ar and the Museu Militar de Lisboa, and is followed by a study visit to Almeida, Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo and Porto, offering a closer look at Portugal's military heritage beyond the capital.

We are sincerely grateful to all speakers, moderators and workshop leaders for sharing their research and experience, and to the partner institutions whose support has made this conference possible.

Above all, we thank you for being here. We hope these days will be rich in discussion, new ideas and lasting friendships.

Welcome to Lisbon!

Event app

All the useful information about the conference is available in our event app. Scan the QR code to access it.

With warm regards,

The Organising Committee

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