

## **ERG: The Chairs of European Registrars Groups**

The origin of the ERG lies in the signing by nine European registrars groups of a letter of intent in Amsterdam on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015, to foster international cooperation between the groups and their members. These founding groups were:

- Association française des régisseurs d'œuvres d'art (AFROA);
- Asociación Española de Registros e Instituciones Culturales Españolas (ARMICE);
- Hungarian Registrars Group;
- Nederlandse Registrars Groep (NRG);
- Nordic Registrars Group;
- Registrars Deutschland;
- Registrarte;
- Swissregistrars;
- UK Registrars Group (UKRG).

More groups have since joined the ERG, and there are currently eighteen countries represented in the network. The national groups range from well-established and officially registered to more informal ones with members from several countries. Some are still in the process of establishing themselves, where the experience of the older groups can be of great benefit. New groups are always welcome to join us, and we reach out actively to colleagues in European countries not yet involved in our network. We also keep in touch with groups further afield, such as the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists, and the Australasian Registrars Committee.

Lending, borrowing, and creating/managing touring exhibitions from collections fosters a genuine and beneficial exchange of cultural enrichment. The aims of the group are:

- to facilitate this exchange by sharing ideas and finding commonalities to make the processes more effective;
- to operate as a forum for the registrars of Europe to share their questions and innovations, and to profit from a collective pool of expertise;
- to develop and promote high standards of practice, widely comprehensible across Europe;
- to nurture the professional education of registrars, thereby promoting the profession of registrar as an expert specialism in its own right;
- to create the structure and continuity to assist in organising the biennial European Registrars Conference (ERC), in particular to create a forum for deciding and appointing the future hosts/organisers, and obtaining a clear transition from one to the next.

## **Terms of Reference**

The member groups have no legal or financial obligations or liabilities to one another or to the wider group.

The ERG will meet twice a year in the structure outlined below, but may also agree to meet at any time in addition, in response to circumstances.

The ERG may appoint Working Groups on any relevant topic. Each working group chair is drawn from the ERG, but they may invite outside experts to join the group alongside ERG members. Any member interested in the topic can volunteer to join a working group. Volunteers should make sure they help to define the scope of the task and then ensure they commit enough time for the work. Updates are given by the chairs at each ERG meeting, with an interim update by 30 June.

Each ERC conference organiser is to be selected three years in advance of the event, to allow adequate time to prepare. The concentration of ERC-related matters in our network also allows the organising group to benefit from the collective pool of knowledge gathered from previous conferences.

All meetings and communications will be conducted with the utmost courtesy and respect, reflecting the highest professional esteem in which the members hold one another.

## **Meetings**

The ERG meets twice a year: one formal meeting in the spring and another at a conference (either the ERC or ARCS as these are biennial) in the autumn. While meetings have been, and can continue to be, held online, the preference is to meet in person.

Each registrars group is normally represented in the network by its chair and secretary, but this may vary. Meetings are attended by one or two people per group or country, to note where a group represents more than one country.

The location of each spring meeting is decided at the previous autumn meeting, by a group or country representative volunteering to host. The host may choose to chair the meeting themselves or ask another ERG member to do it. The chair of an autumn meeting is also decided in advance, chosen from those who will attend the conference at which it is held, (excluding the group organising the event).

The language at the meetings is English: a native English speaker, often a representative of the UKRG, shall usually take the minutes. These should contain clear action points, which should be checked and addressed at the following meeting. The minutes are circulated among the ERG, but while the purpose is to share information, members are advised not to share the actual minutes with their groups, as they may contain sensitive information.