



NORDIC ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATORS - FINLAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Nordic Association of Conservators - Finland ra (NKF-Finland) was founded in 1963 and is a member organization of the Nordic Association of Conservators (NKF). The cooperative body that oversees NKF is the Federation Council, which consists of the Council's chairman and the chairman of each organization that is a member. NKF has about 1200 members in the Nordic countries.

The Nordic Association of Conservators - Finland functions as a link between conservators and Finland's cultural heritage sector. The association monitors training in the field, promotes conservation activities and the professional qualifications of its practitioners. The association seeks to monitor the social benefits of the profession and regulate the use of the conservator title.

According to a decision made by the Finnish Ministry of Education, the title Bachelor of Arts (conservation) – Konservattori AMK in Finnish – is protected. The term 'conservator', on the other hand, is task related and can be used without limitation, thus enabling untrained individuals to potentially interfere with culturally important objects or sites. The aim of clarifying this situation is one that NKF-Finland shares with the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers (E.C.C.O.), which is also concerned with resolving the matter at the European level. NKF-Finland is a full member of E.C.C.O.

Membership

At the close of 2020, NKF-Finland had 285 members, of which 164 were full members. The membership consisted of 146 regular members, 90 student members, 15 retired members, 3 honorary members, 10 associate members, and 5 community support members.

In 2020, the association's Board of Directors held 7 meetings, 2 of which were email meetings. Anni Tuominen was Chairperson of the Board and Polina Semenova its Vice Chairperson. Other Board members were John Gayer, Katri Lahti, Katariina Ruuska-Jauhijärvi, Johanna Lehtola, Sanna Niemi-Pynttari ja Helena Salo. Saara-Maija Pesonen served as the Board's Secretary, Riina Uosukainen as the Membership Secretary and Emmi Heinonen as the association's Treasurer.

Oy Soinio & Co and Mari Lenck audited the association's 2020 accounts.

Annual meetings and training days

The association held two regular meetings and one extraordinary meeting. The association's spring meeting was held in Helsinki on 10th June 2020. The autumn meeting was held on 30th November as a virtual meeting due to regulations on gatherings related to Covid-19 pandemic. The extraordinary meeting, a virtual Zoom-meeting as well, was held on 16th December. In the meeting, Nina Jolkkonen-Porander was elected as the association's Chairperson for 2021-2022.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to organize the annual training days. Instead, NKF-Finland paid the attendance fee of all the members who registered to the IIC virtual conference

"Current Practices and Challenges in Built Heritage Conservation" (2nd to 6th November). Attendance amounted to 100 members.

NKF-Finland's Paper Conservation Working Group held a 3-day workshop on 3rd to 5th March at Finnish Heritage Agency's Collections and Conservation Centre in Vantaa. The theme of the workshop was the use of gel-based polysaccharides in paper conservation. The visiting lecturer and instructor was Ekaterina Pasnak from the University of Bergen. 16 paper conservators attended the workshop.

Information

The association's journal is called *Konservaattori*. In 2020, issue numbers 134 and 135 were published; 300 copies of each were printed. The journal's working group comprised Heidi Alanen, Elviira Heikkilä, Anniina Hatakka, Elina Wirkkala, Kaisa Lepistö, Saara-Maija Pesonen, Taru Tervo ja Sissi Vuorjoki. The working group is responsible for the journal's editorial content, design and other's aspects related to the publication. The publication can be accessed on the association's website. In addition to being distributed to the association's members, complementary copies of the publication are also forwarded to the association's partners.

NKF Finland, together with the other members of the Nordic Association of Conservation publish NKF's journal *MoK* (Meddelelser om Konservering) once a year. This science-based journal features peer-reviewed articles. Jaana Kataja is NKF Finland's contact person for the journal. *MoK* is also published electronically at www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org/.

Details about the association and its activities is available from the association's website www.konservaattoriliitto.fi. It also includes a list of those members who provide conservation services along with their contact information. The members' pages of the website allow members to keep their contact details up to date and assists the association in the distribution of information about its activities. In 2020, Accessibility statement was added to the website and some visual changes were made to the website to increase accessibility.

The association's Facebook page, administered by the association's board members, serves as another channel of information. The association also maintains an Instagram account.

The conservators' mailing list konservaattorit@lists.oulu.fi, moderated by Jari Heinonen, serves as unofficial information channel that serves conservators who are and are not members of the association. It is an excellent channel for discussing matters related to the profession.

The Nordic Association of Conservators also hosts a common website for its five sections www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org.

International activities

The annual meeting of NKF's Federal Council was held as a virtual meeting, on 20th November 2020. NKF-Finland was represented by Chairperson Tuominen. Topics addressed at the meeting included the activities of the member sections during the previous year, the Federal Council's finances, future training events and conferences, as well as the future of *MoK*, NKF's journal.

NKF is the Nordic IIC group of The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC). IIC was founded in 1950 and is based in London.

NKF Finland is a full member of the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organizations (E.C.C.O.). E.C.C.O. currently consists of 22 full and 3 associate member organizations. It aims to develop the conservation profession at the European level. NKF Finland and its members are committed to adhering to the E.C.C.O. Code of Professional Conduct. The E.C.C.O. General Assembly was as a virtual meeting on 24th April, 2020. John Gayer, the association's E.C.C.O. representative, attended the meeting.

NKF Finland is a member of Europa Nostra (EuNo). EuNo is the European cultural heritage NGO that aims to protect Europe's cultural heritage and provide a strong network for debate. The organization presents annual awards for the best projects in the protection of cultural heritage,

promotes conservation policies and high standards in cultural heritage protection activities, and strives to campaign against all threats to sensitive buildings, sites and landscapes. Katariina Ruuska-Jauhijärvi is NKF Finland's EuNo contact person.

NKF Finland is a member of the CEN / TC 346 Monitoring Group. In Finland, the SR 216 Monitoring Group for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage acts as the national expert body for standardization in its field. The remit of the monitoring group is the same as that of CEN / TC 346, the only European standardization committee responsible for preparing standards for the preservation of cultural heritage. The standards it develops concern renovations, conservation, lighting, energy efficiency, packaging and transportation, preservation of collections, indoor and outdoor climate measurement and conservation processes. Riitta Koskivirta represents NKF Finland in the national monitoring group.

Office

The association has no physical premises. Facilities are rented on an as-needed basis. The association has a post office box.

Other activities

NKF Finland is a member of the Advisory Board for Metropolia University of Applied Sciences' Conservation Program. The board monitors the standard of education and seeks to bring education and working life closer together.

In 2020 NKF Finland gave five grants of 200 euros each to graduated student members.

The association supports working groups active in different areas of conservation. The working groups operate and plan their events independently. It is possible for them to receive a grant for their projects. The Asbestos and Harmful Substance (AHA) Working Group is active.

In late 2020, a working group was formed to discuss matters related to municipal labor agreement and salaries.

In the autumn of 2019, NKF Finland together with Finland's Union of Academic Museum Employees prepared a joint statement titled "The professional title indicates the special expertise in a particular field." The statement addresses the widespread practice of recruiting people for positions in which the required level of education and skills do not relate to what is indicated by the job title. This statement was again in 2020 forwarded to recruitment personnel in relation to two different types of situations. In one, the conservator's abilities were below what was indicated by the job title, and in the others, it concerned employees who were working under the title of Conservator, but lacked the requisite conservation education/training.

Financial Summary for 2020

In 2020, the Ministry of Education and Culture awarded the association a general grant of EUR 10 000 for annual activities.

NKF Finland's financial statements registered a surplus of EUR 1 506. The 2020 membership fees were EUR 50 for full and associate members, EUR 42 for student members and EUR 125 for community support members.

Although NKF Finland's accounts are on a stable footing and balanced, the association's financial situation is entirely dependent on the grant awarded by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.

Annual report was approved by the association's Board on 23rd March 2021.