



International Conference
on Heritage Interpretation
Sigtuna, Sweden 2013

Call for papers

International Conference on Heritage Interpretation

Sigtuna, near Stockholm, Sweden
15-18 June 2013

Sharing our natural and cultural heritage Interpretation can make us citizens of the world

1 Welcome to Sweden

We are holding our 2013 conference near Stockholm, Sweden's capital city. Our venue will be the Folkhögskola, a college for adult education, in the historic town of Sigtuna on the shores of Lake Mälaren. There are many interesting interpretive sites in the greater Stockholm area such as Skansen, the world's oldest open air museum; the Vasa Museum with its magnificent 17th-century warship; one of Europe's oldest national parks; ancient Viking settlements and much more.

We are looking forward to a truly global event as the conference is being organised by Interpret Europe jointly with the Swedish Centre for Nature Interpretation, based at the Swedish Agricultural University [SLU] and the National Association for Interpretation [NAI], based in the USA.

2 Heritage interpretation and citizenship

Our conference theme has been inspired by European Year of Citizens 2013, but we will widen the scope to consider citizenship at all levels from the community to the wider world. We want to explore the ways in which interpretation of cultural and natural heritage can develop a shared sense of belonging, of ownership, of responsibility and of mutual understanding.

We shall debate how skilled interpretation of a place or site – natural or cultural – can reinforce civic values and encourage engagement by local people as well as by visitors from further away:

- How can interpretation help people to broaden awareness of their own and of other communities?
- How can interpreters promote more inclusive approaches and foster understanding of different (and even 'conflicting') heritage and cultures? How can community volunteers in heritage interpretation help to deliver good practice at sites and foster local pride?
- Should professional planning and delivery of heritage interpretation invite participation from stakeholders and special-interest groups in an area and consider the interests of those from elsewhere?

We want to take advantage of discussing these questions among interpreters with diverse cultural backgrounds. We want delegates to be challenging, thought provoking and even controversial in what they present and what they debate.

We encourage presentations and workshops relating to the theme of the conference. But there will also be time for papers about interesting developments, new approaches, research findings or project reports about interpretation in your country or internationally.

3 Conference aims

We want the conference to provide a professional forum for presenting, debating and learning about the latest developments in interpretation internationally, nationally and locally, that reflect its theme. In particular, we hope to raise awareness of interpretation's potential in fostering diverse cultural identities, mutual understanding and a shared sense of citizenship. We expect it to provide an opportunity to hear from leading experts of interpretation from across the world and to mix with many experienced practitioners but we also want it to provide an opportunity for those who are new in the field of interpretation to learn about the profession, to experience interpretation in practice and to network with others.

We have arranged visits to see and discuss examples of interpretation at outstanding sites – both long-established and recent – in and around Stockholm and we are sure that the conference will not only provide delegates with a fulfilling and energising experience, which will lead to further development, experiment and improvement in interpretation wherever they are based, but will also provide valuable feedback to our hosts in their own interpretive planning work.

4 Programme arrangements

The formal sessions of the conference will include the following:

- Invited keynote speakers
- Parallel presentations of either 25 minutes or 55 minutes, including questions
- Workshops of either 55 minutes or 1 hour 25 minutes

The programme will contain at least four parallel presentations / workshops at any time.

5 Abstract requirements

If you are interested in presenting a paper or workshop, either related to the conference theme or on another topic, please submit an abstract by **7 December 2012**. Late submissions will be acceptable only if there is space left in the programme.

Abstracts should include the following:

- Length and type of contribution requested: presentation or interactive workshop
- Working title of the paper (max. 100 characters)
- Summary for the conference programme (max. 1000 characters)
- Aim of the presentation / workshop – how it will contribute to the theme of the conference or to the wider study of interpretation? (max. 500 characters)
- Author's full name, email address and phone number(s)
- Current job title / course and organisation where the author is working / studying
- Résumé of your experience in working with or studying interpretation (max. 400 characters)

Additional information for interactive workshops:

- Activities planned and materials needed (max. 800 characters; eg group work with flip chart, individual work with hand outs etc)

Submitting proposals

Proposals of papers/workshops must be submitted using the [on-line form available at the Interpret Europe web site](#).

Please note that as a matter of fairness and of the programme scheduling process each accepted paper / workshop must have one (or more) individually-registered author by 7 December 2012.

Any presenter may co-author up to two presented papers / workshops (or one of each), but there must be two registered delegates – at least one available to present each of the two, ie there must be at least one, individually-registered, delegate per paper / workshop presented at the conference.

6 Process of selection

Proposals, including abstracts, will be reviewed by a programme committee who may ask for modifications of approach or length to be made. Some proposals may not be accepted, eg because the topic does not support the themes of this call for papers (Section 2), because the programme is full or for another reason. The decision of the programme committee will be final.

If your submission has been selected, you will be informed by 7 January 2013 at the latest.

You will receive an invoice for the conference after the 7 January. This gives you the option to cancel your registration in case your paper would not be accepted. Please do not pay before having received an invoice from Sigtuna Folkhögskola.

7 Post-Conference Publication

The presentations and the results of the workshops will be published on-line in the conference proceedings, which will be available after the event.