

Important Message Regarding COVID-19

Brussels, 12 March 2020

Due to the current situation affected by the coronavirus, as to be expected we are taking the implications of COVID-19 very seriously. Our thoughts are with everyone globally who has been affected by the current outbreak.

Following the TEFAF [press release](#) published yesterday late afternoon, the evening [statement](#) of the WHO and the highly increased outspread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) across Europe and the world announced by the media this morning, we deeply regret to inform that the **ENCATC Meeting on Evaluation “Impact of Art Fairs on Regional-Local Level”** ready to start this afternoon 12th of March in Maastricht is **cancelled**.

Useful Links:

- Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment <https://www.rivm.nl/en>
- European Commission https://ec.europa.eu/health/coronavirus_en
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china/questions-answers>
- World Health Organisation <https://www.who.int/ith/en/>
- EACEA: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about-eacea/news/news/information-for-beneficiaries-whose-activities-are-impacted-coronavirus_en

We echo the message of many other organisations that in parallel to our concerns for the wellbeing of our members and followers, we do not want to accelerate a sense of panic. We understand the situation in the Netherlands and neighboring countries is changing. We have also taken into account the growing concern of participants and speakers as well as the ever-growing difficulties regarding travel and transport.

We recognize in response to COVID-19 that broader elements of isolationism and xenophobia can arise and increase. That's why we very much hope to be able to postpone the event later in the year and will keep our members and followers informed so that we may continue to support the building of better societies with informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online communication spaces.

In the meantime, we are working with speakers to see how to share their knowledge and expertise with the participants who were eager to learn more about evaluation and the impact of art fairs.

On behalf of ENCATC and all our partners involved in the design and in the implementation of this activity, we wish to thank everyone very much for their interest in our event and study visits.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our future events and remain at your disposal for any further information.

Best Regards,
GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens
ENCATC Secretary General