

Per Rekdal - ICOM Activities

As can be seen from his CV, Rekdal has been a member of diverse boards since his student days. He is typically elected to represent his fellow students, his colleagues. He is asked to become chair when a critical problem shall be solved and he is a (vara) Board member of museums like the Norwegian Folk Museum and the Oslo City Museum, sharing with the board members from the outside his professional knowledge about museums.

Shortly after having become member of ICOM, he was elected to the Board of the Norwegian National Committee of ICOM in 1992 as well as member of the Board of ICME, in both roles being part of the team that prepared the General Conference in Stavanger for 1995. The year after Stavanger, in 1996, he takes over the chairmanship in ICOM Norway, reorganising the Rules for ICOM Norway to better fit a large number of Norwegian ICOM members, actively recommending them to be active in the organisation. After few years ICOM Norway had more individual members than the National Museum Association of Norway.

Upon being elected chair of ICME in 1998 in Melbourne he resigns from being chair of ICOM Norway. As chair of ICME he arranged conferences in Mexico, Denmark, Romania and Zambia. The latter focused on how to make poor museums function better.

The Reform Task Force's recommendations from 2000 were to be followed up with further explorations into ICOM's structure. The International Committees Task Force (ICTF), was established in 2001, led by Martin Schärer, with Rekdal as one of its members. An important output of this task force was the establishment of Rules for International Committees, including Rules for the Establishment of New International Committees.

The focus of the new Rules was that they should be minimal, but be true to ICOM's basic principles and give precise practical guidance.

The ICTF also proposed the establishment of a permanent Committee for International Committees (CIC), with the task of distributing the yearly dues to each IC, based on yearly reports of their activities.

Thus, in 2005 the International Committees Task Force was replaced by the CIC, chaired first by Yani Herreman and later Sandra Lorimer, with Rekdal as member from the start.

Until 2005 the yearly dues to International Committees were based on the number of members only. Now it was split in 3: 1) A basic sum, equal for all, 2) number of members, 3) the largest sum, based on reported activity level.

The CIC was replaced in 2010 by SAREC which had a much wider area of responsibility, not only connected to the International Committees.

From 2007-2009 Rekdal was Chair of the Working Group on Regional Alliances and Regional Affiliated Organisations. Besides Rekdal, the working group consisted of the Chair of each Regional Alliance and Regional Affiliated Organisation. The working group set up Rules for the Regional Alliances..

In 2004 in Seoul Rekdal was elected to the Executive Board.

The 2004-2007 term was largely used to follow up the recommendations of the Reform Task Force (RTF). The period from 2010 to 2013 was characterised by a high number of conflicts on different subjects until the Director General left ICOM in 2013. This was followed by considerable confusion regarding procedures and authorities.

As a consequence ICOM President Hans Martin Hinz appointed a Working Group on Governance with Rekdal as chair.

To Rekdal this task must have seemed like a continuation of the work he'd already done on International Committees and Regional Alliances, with the same method: Study the Statutes and Internal Rules, take away inconsistencies, state clearly ICOM's basic principles, make the result workable and easy to understand.

The political climate of 2013 was open, with a sincere interest in reducing differences that had created conflicts. In line with the open climate, Rekdal chose to invite to his working group's electronic debate all who registered an interest in being part of it. The result was some 70 «members». He actively encouraged disagreements, expressed opinions of his own, but were always grateful for opposition and credited those who made him revise his former opinions. Not only did this lead to a constructive debate, giving quality to the revisions that were made; it was also a conscious process of reconciliation, aiming at mending ICOM.

As of today, Rekdal is member of the Working Group of International Committees, chaired by Kristiane Stretkvaern. Rekdal has completed the loop, back to the International Committees, systematically building the ICOM, preparing it for the future.

Of course Rekdal has not done this on his own. He has always been part of a we. But his efforts have been consistent, recognisable as a thread through it all, independent of whether he has been a member or a chair.

1992-1996	Board member ICOM Norway
1996-1998	Chair ICOM Norway
1992-1995	Board member ICME (International Committee for Museums of Ethnography)
1995-1998	Secretary ICME
1998-2004	Chair ICME
2004-2010	Member of ICOM Executive Board
2001-2005	Member, International Committees Task Force
2005-2010	Member, Committee for International Committees

2007-2009	Chair, Working Group on Regional Alliances and Regional Affiliated Organisations.
2013-2016/17	Chair, Working Group on Governance
2017-2019	Member, Working Group on International Committees