Earlier this year, the Academic and Programming Board of ICOM-IMREC selected the winning proposal for the Targeted Research Call on Public Funding for Museums. The International Research Alliance on Public Funding for Museums (IRAPFM), led by the University of Québec at Montreal (UQAM) was the successful applicant. UQAM (Pr. Yves Bergeron, Pr. Lisa Baillargeon and Me Michèle Rivet, C.M.) is joined by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec in Québec City, Canada (Me Marc Lajoie), Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand (Pr. Conal McCarthy), the Universitat de Barcelona in Spain (Pr. Xavier Roigè) and the Universidade Federal Do Est Ado do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Dra Luciana M. de Carvalho). Additional researchers from India (Pr. Ambika Patel) and South Africa (Mrs. Catherine Snel) will also be involved.

The IRAPFM project consists of a statistical and a qualitative survey. First, a statistical survey will be sent to all ICOM’s National Committees and the corresponding museums’ supervising ministries in the coming weeks. We invite all ICOM’s National Committees to complete this important survey upon reception.

Second, a qualitative survey will be conducted among various museums across the world, selected by IRAPFM, as representative of their respective geographical area. This survey aims to highlight adaptative, exemplary or innovative funding practices.

The two surveys will allow for a better identification and understanding of variations in public funding for museums and their effects worldwide. They will also enable the development of strategies and recommendations for museums, including new business models.

The project will be carried out from July 1st, 2023 to June 30, 2024 with the final report expected by September 1, 2024. The results will then be disseminated via a series of webinars and a publication.

For further information regarding the IRAPFM project, you can contact Heidi Weber, project coordinator, at: museums.funding@gmail.com