

**CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF VICE PRESIDENT
CANDIDAT AU POSTE DE VICE-PRESIDENT**

RIIN ALATALU

ESTONIA – ESTONIE



Associate Professor of cultural heritage and conservation and coordinator of UNESCO Chair on Heritage Studies in Estonian Academy of Arts; the Chairperson of Estonian Heritage Conservation Council.

PhD in cultural heritage and conservation (“Heritage in Transitional Society from Nation’s Conscience in the Estonian SSR into the Harasser of the private Owner in the Republic of Estonia”, 2012).

Career: National Heritage Board, Tallinn Culture and Heritage Department and Estonian Ministry of Culture on leading positions in supervision, maintenance and promotion of heritage. I have been in charge of important international programs like EEA grants for manor schools. In 2009–2013 I was a member of Estonian Delegation to World Heritage Committee; and as having been interested in daily administration and protection of heritage I was responsible for the item of state of conservation reports.

I have been involved in several research projects on national and international level. I am the author and co-author of several books and numerous articles both on academic and popular level and media.

In 2013 I run the campaign of Estonian National Cultural Heritage year, as well several years national campaign of European Cultural Heritage Days, Visit Baltic Manors and other awareness raising activities. I have also initiated cooperation between decision makers and wider audience, including NGOs, nature protection authorities, municipalities and local communities.

PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

I joined ICOMOS in 2008 and I have served as Vice-President and President of ICOMOS Estonia NC, I am the member of CIVVIH and of ICLAFI (Vice-President 2015–2018), ISC20C and member of Our Common Dignity/Rights-Based Approaches working group. As a President of a small NC, I have organized several significant ICOMOS meetings in Estonia: Nordic meeting in 2009, ICLAFI-Nordic-Baltic meeting in 2016; OCD-RBA trainings in 2019 and 2020 and co-coordinated some Heritage Thursdays webinars in 2021–2022. The Europe group meeting 2023 will take place in Estonia in June 2023.

I was elected as a Board Member in 2017 and Vice-President in 2020. Past six years have been very challenging, especially the last three ones as Vice-president for Europe. The World has changed a lot in these years due to pandemic, the war in Europe and conflicts around the world as well due to catastrophes, the latest to be the heartbreaking devastation caused by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria.

In this context ICOMOS has had to change too. We have managed rather to profit than to lose from the change from in situ to online and hybrid meetings. The possibilities to meet in person have grown little by little, but we have learned to plan better these meetings to have both – the focused discussions as well as talks in collegial spirit.

However, in the hybrid world the workload has grown. The plan to split the discussion of two long meetings to four shorter ones, has turned to be a demanding one both for organizers as well as participants. At the same time, it has enabled to be more efficient and timely in sharing information, adopting minutes and processing the decisions.

I am running for the Bureau for the third and the Vice-President for Europe for the second time. The continuity and sustainability of decisions and actions is important, thus naming priorities ahead I have to look critically back to the work done. I will name here the challenges of the past years together with different teams, especially the Bureau, Board, AdCOM and Secretariat, as well many members of ICOMOS.

I am satisfied to say that the priorities of ICOMOS I named in my previous statement in 2020 have been followed. I have contributed to the discussions and actions concerning wider visibility and respected position of ICOMOS and its international community; cooperation of NCs, ISCs and working groups; rights-based approaches; involvement of international individual members; promotion of cultural heritage as a source for sustainable development and control of climate change and the challenges of global COVID-19 pandemic in heritage protection. The work on these issues has to continue.

The report of the Emerging professional working group as well as the reports of ICOMOS activities in European institutions and projects like CHARTER for example, have become a permanent issue on Europe group meeting agenda to mobilize NCs in this work.

It has been and continues to be important to cooperate with other institutions and organisations like Europa Nostra or initiatives like European Heritage label to profit from each other strengths. We have been active in cooperation with Europa Nostra, however less effective in using the label of New European Bauhaus, its channels are the challenges to promote the goals of ICOMOS.

Many initiatives are still in evolution. For example, Europe group activated the working group on World Heritage, its first guidelines are expected to be approved in June 2023.

Europe group is also preparing its activities for ICOMOS University Forum, partly based on the successful international student workshop on Heritage Alerts I initiated in 2021 to promote Heritage alerts as an important ICOMOS tool.

A lot has been done to promote the Quality Principles on EU funded projects (2019). The document has been translated to 11 languages and is intensively introduced on national and European level to the decision makers.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine remains to be the main concern of the Europe group since the outbreak of the war. ICOMOS Europe group has been and continues to assist with moral, strategic and financial support to our colleagues in Ukraine and safekeep the heritage of Ukraine. We have focused on using existing tools of ICOMOS in this critical situation. For example, QP has proved to be a relevant document preparing for the post-war reconstruction in Ukraine. The crisis like the war need to be addressed on international and national level and the network of NCs continues to be important platform to exchange information and coordinate activities.

ICOMOS is the number one non-governmental heritage expert organization of global importance. Through its long and solid history, ICOMOS has run a powerful mission in safeguarding heritage. In comparison with many other organisations, especially the ones with state or regional support, ICOMOS faces more organizational and financial challenges. It may sound naïve, yet our biggest capital is the self-confidence and trust in the value of expertise. It is a challenge to introduce ICOMOS as a self-evident partner not only in World Heritage but all heritage discussions.

If re-elected as Vice-President, I will continue with ongoing work and new challenges actively involving Board members, national and scientific committees in a spirit of team work.

If re-elected to the Board and elected to the Bureau in 2023, I corroborate to serve in my elected position and to attend all Board and Bureau meetings.

Riin Alatalu
Tallinn 24.02.2023

CURRICULUM VITAE

https://www.etis.ee/CV/Riin_Alatalu/eng/

Institutions and positions

2021–... Estonian National Commission for UNESCO
2021–... Estonian Academy of Arts, coordinator of UNESCO Chair on Heritage Studies
2019–... Heritage Conservation Council, chairman
2017–... ICOMOS International, Member of Board
2016–... Estonian Academy of Arts, heritage conservation and restoration, associate professor
2018–2019 Hiiumaa Vocational School, Head teacher of restoration
2016–2019 Heritage Conservation Council, member
2013–2017 Estonian Ministry of Culture, EEA Programme of Manor Schools, coordinator
2012–2013 Estonian Folk Culture Centre, National Year of Heritage 2013, programme coordinator
2007–2012 Tallinn Cultural Heritage Department, head of the division of milieu areas
2002–2007 National Heritage Board, National Heritage Board, head of the division of supervision

Education and academic degrees

Riin Alatalu, Doctor's Degree, 2012, (sup) Mart Kalm, Muinsuskaitse siirdeühiskonnas 1986-2002: rahvuslikust südametunnistusest Eesti NSV-s omaniku ahistajaks Eesti Vabariigis (Heritage in Transitional Society 1986-2002: From Nation's Conscience in the Estonian SSR to the Harasser of Private Owner in The Republic of Estonia), Estonian Academy of Arts.

Riin Alatalu, Research Master's Degree, 2007, (sup) Epp Kangilaski, Taluarhitektuur kui rahvuspärand. Taluarhitektuuri väärtustamine ja kaitse maaarhitektuuri arengukava valguses (Estonian Peasant Architecture as National Heritage. Preservation and Protection of National Peasant Architecture in the Context of the Development plan "Rural Architecture and Landscape. Study and Preservation"), Estonian Academy of Arts.

1989–1990 Helsinki University, ethnology, cultural anthropology, MA

1986–1992 Tartu University, history

R&D related managerial and administrative work

2022–... ISC20C

2013–... Estonian Manorschools Association

2014–... Estonian Association of History Teachers

2013–... ICLAFI International Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues, member, vice-president 2015-2018

2013–... ICOMOS CIVVIH member

2007–... ICOMOS Estonia

1988–... Estonian Female Student Society

2009–2013 UNESCO World Heritage Committee, member of Estonian delegation

Honours & awards

2023 State Decoration: The Order of the White Star IV

2017 Award of National Heritage Board Promoter of Heritage

2016 Estonian Female Student Association, honorary alumni

2013 Nominee for Estonian award for publications on history

2013 Estonian Museums award of marketing

2013 Estonian Museum friend

Projects

Tallinn Old Town: Sustainable Management and Presentation (1.09.2019–30.06.2022)", Riin Alatalu, Estonian Academy of Arts.

2019 Training on World Heritage sites management plans (Bishkek, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office).