



FEPA'S PROGRAMME FOR 2023

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PRIORITIES FOR 2022-2023

- 1. Maintain and enhance existing programmes for:**
 - Sharing information.
 - Supporting exhibitions.
 - Rewarding achievements.
- 2. Promote innovation and best practice.**
- 3. Look for new opportunities for cooperation between Members.**
- 4. Build FEPA NEWS as the Newsdesk on European philately.**



ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2022

- News postings on the *fepanews* website have increased substantially.
- Distribution of FEPA NEWS magazine has increased to 1,500.
- Three seminars have been held at exhibitions in Europe this year.
- We have given Patronage and support to the Liberec exhibition.
- The awards programme for 2021 has been carried through successfully.
- The experimental introduction of two and three frame exhibits, first tested at NOTOS, is being tested again at LIBEREC.
- Plans are being rolled out for international cooperation on future digital strategies.
- A round table discussion in Monte Carlo next month organised by FEPA will focus on how attitudes to philately in the wider world can be improved.

OUR AIMS IN 2023

We want to continue to:

- Promote innovation, best practice and sharing of information.
- Maintain an exhibition programme and recognise achievements.
- Promote cooperation between Members in formulating responses to key issues.



PHILATELY AND ITS PLACE IN THE WORLD

Let's have a quick look at the current state of philately.

We see many encouraging trends:

1. Strong philatelic market.
2. Expanding use of digital technology.
3. Thriving philatelic research and publication.
4. Steady improvement in philatelic exhibiting.
5. Expansion of philately to embrace new disciplines.
6. Recognition of philately as part of cultural heritage.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

There are also negative trends:

- Philately has a poor public image in the wider world, mainly based on ill-informed comment.
- Many philatelic organisations associated with FEPA report:
 - ❖ Membership of societies is falling.
 - ❖ The average age of club members is increasing.
 - ❖ It is more difficult to find volunteers to carry out essential tasks.
 - ❖ Fewer new exhibitors are coming forward.
 - ❖ Attendances at events are down.
 - ❖ Dealers are retiring.
 - ❖ Organisations are disappearing.

WHAT CAN WE CONCLUDE?

- In many respects philately in Europe is in good shape.
- There are lots of collectors and high standards have been achieved.
- But we have not succeeded in presenting an attractive image of philately to the wider public.
- Many philatelic organisations face a difficult future.
- Vital organisations could disappear with serious consequences for organised philately.
- They could be replaced by new organisations less dedicated to maintaining the high standards attained over many years.

WHAT IS NEEDED

1. An initiative to improve the image of philately.
 - Focus on appealing themes in philately, including:
 - Conservation
 - Research
 - Personal Development
 - Local and Cultural History
 - Emphasise the benefits philately brings for the individual:
 - ❖ A route to lifelong learning.
 - ❖ A social network with people of similar interests.
 - ❖ A beneficial activity for mental health.
 - ❖ The 'thrill of the chase'.
2. Digital strategies to help philatelic organisations adapt to a rapidly-changing world.

WHAT FEPA WILL DO

We will work with Members to:

- Develop ways of improving the public perception of philately.
- Produce a framework to help Federations formulate their digital plans, including:
 1. An exhibition data-processing tool.
 2. Guides on organising digital meetings and virtual exhibitions.
 3. Information about digital activities in Europe and on-line philatelic resources.
 4. Video-based on-line resources for research, and guidance on mounting exhibits.

This will require effective cooperation between FEPA and its Members. Please give it your full support.