Marek Plura MEP is a Polish Member of the European Parliament since July 2014 and a member of the European People’s Party (EPP). He is a member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee and a substitute member of the Transport and Tourism Committee. His current parliamentary work also focuses on the integration and professional activation of people with disabilities. He is vice-chair of the Parliamentary Disability Intergroup. He is a strong promoter of Silesian heritage. He graduated from WSFP „Ignatianum” in Kraków as well as from a postgraduate degree in psychotherapy at Slask University in Katowice. In 2007 he was elected Member of the Polish parliament – Sejm where he chaired the disability subcommittee. He is married with two children. Since birth he has been suffering from a progressive muscle dystrophy. In 2012, he was awarded the Order of the Smile.

Prof. Dietmar Köster MEP is a German Member of Parliament since July 2014 and a member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. He is a member of the Committee on Legal Affairs, substitute member of the Committee on Culture and Education, and member of the PANA Inquiry Committee. His current parliamentary work focuses on copyright in the digital age, being a member of the Working Group on IPR and Copyright Reform, and the Free Trade Agreements CETA and TTIP. Before being elected as a Member of the European Parliament, he was a professor of sociology at the University of Applied Sciences Dortmund with a research focus on Geragogik (Age Education).

Prof. Dr. Meinrad Maria Grewenig is the General Director / CEO of the Völklinger Hütte World Heritage Site since 1999, and the President of ERIH since 2008. After receiving a PhD in History of Art and Classical Archaeology with Philosophy, Educational Studies and Catholic Theology from the University of Salzburg, he worked in a number of museums. He was the Director of the Historical Museum of the Palatinate in Speyer from 1992 to 1999. He has lectured on art history and culture management at a number of universities and has authored or edited more than 100 books.

Jonathan Lloyd worked in UK local government in Town Planning and Economic Development and from 2000-2009 was the Coordinator of Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. He has been closely involved in ERIH since its establishment in 2000 and for a number of years has been a Board Member and ERIH’s National Coordinator for the UK and Ireland. He has represented ERIH and presented papers about ERIH at numerous conferences and events within the UK and mainland Europe.
Christiane Baum was project co-ordinator of the ERIH INTERREG Project from 2003 to 2008. Since its establishment as a legal entity in 2008, she is the Secretary-General of ERIH. She graduated from the Munich University of Applied Sciences with a Diploma in Business Administration with a specialisation on tourism. From 1998 to 2002 she worked at the North Rhine-Westphalia Tourism Board in Cologne as Marketing Manager. She then set up her own consultancy and works part-time for ERIH.

Prof. Massimo Preite is a Board member of The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) and Board member of ERIH. He is Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Florence, and professor of Industrial Heritage and Landscape at an Erasmus Mundus Master’s course at the universities of Evora, Paris, and Padua. He has conducted intensive research for many years on the conservation and rehabilitation of industrial heritage. He is the author of numerous publications and has coordinated numerous projects for the redevelopment of mining and industrial heritage.

Adam Hajduga holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Silesia in Katowice. He lectures on cultural tourism at the Jagiellonian University. He currently holds the position of Head of Unit for the Promotion of Industrial Heritage in the Department of Culture of the Marshal Office of the Silesian Voivodeship. He is the co-creator and coordinator of the Industrial Monuments Route, and INDUSTRIADA, which is the biggest industrial heritage festival in Central Europe. He also is the Vice-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Museum of Coal-mining in Zabrze, one of the leading industrial museums in Europe.

Jolanta Nölle is a Member of the Executive Board of the Zollverein Foundation responsible for art and culture since 2008. From 1998 to 2007, she was the General Manager of the Zollverein Foundation. She was born in Krakow, Poland, and after studying German Philology and Applied Theatre Studies, she became a Production Manager first for a theatre in Berlin and then for the German Foundation for International Development, where she was responsible for a number of countries.

Walter Zampieri is the Head of Unit, Cultural Diversity and Innovation, DG Education and Culture, European Commission. Before taking up his current post, he was deputy head of the coordination unit and assistant to the Director General for education and culture; among his previous positions there is also the secretariat of the Social Protection Committee. Before joining the European Commission, Zampieri was Assistant Professor at University of Central Florida and Visiting Professor and Lecturer at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. He holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from The University of Connecticut and attended University of Padua, Italy.