

Ensuring high quality in safeguarding Cultural Heritage

The vital importance of protecting the title
and regulating the profession of
Conservation-Restoration in Europe

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with the
participation of
E.C.C.O. &
D.C.A.M.M.



Overview

On the occasion of the presence of the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations (E.C.C.O.) in Athens, we are pleased to announce the 1st European one-day conference on the protection of the Conservation-Restoration (CR) profession entitled “**Ensuring high quality in safeguarding Cultural Heritage - The vital importance of protecting the title and regulating the profession of Conservation-Restoration in Europe**”. The conference is organized by the Association of Conservators-Restorers of Antiquities and Works of Art – Greece (ACAWA-GR) with the participation of the Directorate of Conservation Restoration of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture & Sports and E.C.C.O..

The aim is to present the legal framework in different European countries, which are also members of E.C.C.O., for the protection of the title and the regulation of the CR profession. The main goal of the conference is to present different existing legislations and regulations at national level in order to identify the minimum requirements for the protection of the title and the profession at European level. Moreover, emphasis will be placed on identifying potential areas of improvement.

Organising Committee

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Committee Member, ACAWA-Gr

Dimitris Goulas

Committee Member, ACAWA-Gr

Conference Programme

9:00-9:30	Registrations	
9:30-10:00	Officials-Welcome	
10:00-10:20	Summary of E.C.C.O. Presidents' Meeting	ECCO Committee Representative
10:20- 10:40	Covid-19 and ENCoRE activities	ENCoRE, Wolfgang Baatz
10:40-10:55	Conservation/Restoration Education and Vocational training in Greece: an undefined and awkward relationship	UNIWA, Greece, Georgios Panagiaris
10:55-11:10	Questions	
11:10-11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:30-11:55	Sticking to rules, consolidating the profession. <i>An overview of the legal framework for the protection of CH and the regulation of CR profession in Greece</i>	DCAMM, Greece Maria Mertzani
11:55-12:10	Issues and challenges in the existing legal framework in Greece	ACAWA-GR, Greece Zoi Sakki
12:10-12:30	The Conservator-restorer as a Regulated Profession History, Challenges and Opportunities of Italy's Transition to a Regulated Professional Sector	ARI, Italy Kristian Schneider
12:30-12:40	Questions	
12:40-14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14:00-14:20	Diverse and dynamic Slovenia, towards the necessary changes	DRS, Slovenia Martina Lesar Kikellj
14:20-14:40	The Slovak Example — Chamber of Restorers	KR, Slovakia Barbara Davidson
14:40-15:00	MAPCo-Re: Mapping the Co-Re essence of the profession	MAPCo-Re, Malta James Licardi
15:00-15:20	On the way to the recognition of conservator's skills and qualifications among cultural heritage professionals: the creation of a protected title by law	FCCR, France Clementine Bollard
15:20-15:40	Questions	
15:40-16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:00-17:30	Round Table (with short introductions)	
	CHARTER, an opportunity for visibility and recognition: The professional role and competences of the conservator-restorer in Europe	ECCO President Elis Marçal
	Preserving cultural heritage: a common or a public interest? Conflicting or converging approaches in European rules and national laws	CNRS, France Vincent Negri

Conservation/Restoration Education and Vocational training in Greece: an undefined and awkward relationship

GEORGIOS PANAGIARIS

Professor and President at the Department of Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art,
University of West Attica, GR (UniWA)

Abstract:

The Department of Conservation of Antiquities & Works of Art was established in 1985 as a Department of the Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Athens.

Since its establishment it has been and it is still, the only one existing Academic Institution educating Conservators of Antiquities & Works of Art, in Tertiary Education level in Greece. Since last years, it offers all the three academic levels degrees (Bachelor, Master, and Doctor of Philosophy) in Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Greece.

Up to 1985 the lack of such a field in tertiary education, affected the European profile of Greece (member of European Community since 1983) who claimed back the Parthenon marbles from British Museum!

The Department was placed by the Ministry of Education, under the auspices of a TEI, which were "hybrid" institutions between vocational training and academic education, was imposed by the need the Department to be staffed by competent professionals (coming mainly from the Ministry of Culture) who had not have the necessary academic qualifications at the time.

Since then, the Department Conservation of Antiquities & Works of Art, has been staffed by competent academic staff, its curriculum was updated and by following the Technological Educational Institutes' progress, it is today an emblematic Department of the University of West Attica, and it is member of ENCoRE and a member of staff serves on its board.

The vocational training in our country was created in 1992 with the establishment of the Institutes of Vocational Training (IVT) due to the need for technicians training, according to the priorities policy of the European Union who financed this action.

The establishment of Institutes of Vocational Training (IVT) was created, in general, without an in-depth planning, regarding the specialisations or the relevant curricula. In any case, the Department of Conservation of Antiquities & Works of Art, has no involvement in the foundation, development, and operation of the Institutes of Vocational Training (IVT) in Greece!

Since its creation, the institutional framework of the Vocational Training Institutes, has been improved and undergone evaluation. Today, they belong to the post-secondary education level of the formal education, and they are either public or private. Studies in the Vocational Training Institutes last 4 semesters (theory and workshops), and one semester of internship. The trainees obtain level 5 of the EQF while the university studies last 8 semesters and graduates are assigned the level 6 of the EQF.

At the same time, in Greece, there is also conservation/restoration Vocational Training in the secondary education level (Lyceum). The high school graduates obtain level 4 of the EQF or the level 5 after completing one year on job training. Believe it or not, in the Conservation-Restoration field in Greece, there has never been a dialogue between the University level education and vocational training!

A number of these high school graduates can continue their studies at the University after succeeding in Panhellenic (national) exams, while graduates of the Institutes of Vocational Training have recently acquired the right to continue their studies at the University after succeeding in specific exams.

The C/R Vocational Trainees meet the University graduates in the work field. The C/R Vocational Trainees are supervised by the University graduates.

Affiliation Short Description:

The Department of Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art was established in 1985, under the Faculty of Fine Arts and Design, and marked a turning point in the field of Conservation in Greece. Its graduates have gained recognition and their profession is protected under Greek law. The programme of studies offers education in three fields: natural sciences, humanities, and technology sciences related to Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Up to now, more than 1000 conservator-restorers have graduated, while an important amount of those have completed or continue postgraduate studies in Greece and abroad. A great number of them belong to the staff of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, in permanent and contract positions.

The Dept. of Conservation collaborates with cultural organisations, public and private bodies, and local governments.

The Dept. offers two postgraduate courses, one in Conservation of Cultural Heritage and one in Museum Studies (in collaboration with the Faculty of History & Archaeology and the Faculty of Geology of the National & Kapodistrian University – Athens). It also offers Doctoral studies.

Sticking to rules, consolidating the profession. An overview of the legal framework for the protection of CH and the regulation of CR profession in Greece

Maria Mertzani

Head of Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments,
General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage,
Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports

Abstract:

The Greek State persistently and unflinching implies policies for the protection of cultural heritage as a public good. The seed was planted during the war of independence and continued being supported by a succession of laws progressively stronger and more inclusive. The establishment of the Ministry of Culture, as a robust, structured service of committed personnel and well defined procedures, guarantees policy implementation. The Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments, established in 1977, is the central service for the conservation of movable cultural heritage as well as the architectural and decorative elements of immovable monuments. In close cooperation with professional, educational and research organizations, DCAMM works to promote scientific knowledge and to consolidate the CR profession in Greece.

The regulation of the CR profession begins in 1997 and falls under the responsibilities of the Directorate. In 2002 the law "On the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general" clearly refers to the license, as a requirement of CR freelancers in order to undertake interventions on monuments. The policy has been meticulously applied since and was revised in 2013. Although more than 1000 licenses have been issued, the actual number of active freelance conservators is much lower. Furthermore, the code of Ethics was issued in 2000, while the formation of the disciplinary body as well as a specific regulation for conservation laboratories are still pending. According to a research undertaken recently, it is generally accepted that although the regulation is a successful policy for the protection of monuments, it is in need of reform.

Having a strong legal framework and an organized authority is only one part of the protection equation. The other part is reality: the long and fierce financial crisis and strong professional competition. It is our common responsibility for action, in order to provide consistency in training, create equal opportunities for all, support newcomers and promote ethos.

Affiliation Short Description:

The Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments (DCAMM) of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports is the central service for conservation of cultural heritage in Greece. DCAMM's mission is to develop national strategies and policies for the conservation and restoration of movable cultural heritage and of architectural and decorative elements of immovable monuments, to draw up conservation studies, technical reports and project proposals, to implement conservation works and to conduct research for best practices in conservation and restoration of cultural heritage.

Overview of the issues and challenges for the conservation-restoration profession in Greece

Zoi Sakki, Kanelli Kolyvodiakou, Michael Koufopoulos,
Kalliopi Oreianou, Amalia Siatou, Dimitris Goulas

A.C.A.W.A.-Gr

Abstract:

Considering that conservation-restoration (CR) has been recognised as a profession for the past 25 years, it is still viewed as a new discipline and there is a constant need to communicate the importance of the work we do for the protection of the national Cultural Heritage (CH). There is still little public awareness for the profession and this has, as an indirect result, its disconsideration.

Conservators-Restorers (CRs) are responsible for safeguarding CH, for past and future generations, and the need for acquired competencies has been well documented over the years. In Greece, the professional CRs are the holders of an EQF-6 degree or higher ,however, the national educational system has created discriminations within this level that hinder their accessibility to the work market and professional development. Additionally, the existence of different educational levels is creating inconsistencies in the working environment.

The legislation for the regulation of the CR profession is well established in connection with the law for the protection of CH. Nevertheless, there are issues and challenges that need to be adjusted, revised and reformed. One of the most important limitations of the CH law is that it only protects objects/monuments prior to 1830, therefore not covering contemporary and modern monuments, allowing for interventions on the latter to be applied by non-CRs. Furthermore, parts of our CH that are not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture and belong to other state or private organizations, remain unprotected and unregulated considering their care and maintenance.

Part of the regulation of the profession is setting the rules and competences for the private sector by appointing a license to practice CR as a freelancer or contractor. The current version of the law is hindering the accessibility of younger professionals to enter the private sector thus limiting their professional development and requires reformation.

Although the legal framework that regulates the CR profession in Greece appears strict, it also includes ambiguities and generalities which result in creating significant inconsistencies. These legal, practical, ethical issues, A.C.A.W.A.-Gr is trying to resolve. Its mission remains the safeguarding of the profession and the promotion of public awareness on the protection of CH.

Affiliation Short Description:

The Association of Conservators of Antiquities and Works of Art-GR (A.C.A.W.A.-Gr) is the only association of Conservation-Restoration Professionals of tertiary level education in Greece, established in 1995. Its main scope stands in safeguarding the professional, educational and scientific status of Conservation-Restoration at a national level, as well as to ensure the legal and ethical rights of its members. The Association became a full member of E.C.C.O. in 2017.

The Conservator-restorer as a Regulated Profession History, Challenges and Opportunities of Italy's Transition to a Regulated Professional Sector

Kristian Schneider

ARI Associazione Restauratori d'Italia

Abstract:

Conservation-restoration has become a regulated professional sector in Italy at the end of 2018 with two professions – conservator-restorer (CR) and restoration technician – with a total of 12 specialization sectors based on materials and artistic techniques. This goal was reached 18 years after the first legal definition of the profession. A combination of a unified study curricular with a 5 years single-cycle study course (EQF 7) for newcomers and a public qualification process based on the evaluation of formal training and experience for everybody already working in the sector marked this transition.

The contribution highlights the milestones of this slow and sometimes excruciating process. A in depth analysis of the qualification process, which defined who would be recognized as a conservator-restorer, is presented, showing the ratio and the pitfalls of the chosen approach. The lobbying done by various stakeholders of the sector both to enlarge as to shrink the plateau of aspiring conservators-restorers is outlined, trying to give some helpful insight for any country who wants to proceed in a similar direction as Italy in regulating the sector.

Furthermore after 3 years of the system in place, problems, new challenges and the current activities of the ARI as professional association are illustrated, as the legal regulation of the sector is not the end, but the start in the process of professional development.

Affiliation Short Description:

ARI Associazione Restauratori d'Italia (Association of Conservators-restorers of Italy) has been founded in 1985 to achieve the legal regulation of the sector and further the technological and scientific training of the profession. Since 1998 it publishes a compendium of conservation-restoration operations and its respective prices, divided in sectors based on materials and techniques, which has become a fundamental reference in public tendering. ARI in collaboration with a national trade union and other stakeholders has developed the first collective labor agreement to recognize the figure of conservator-restorer as a discrete profession in the Italian labor market.

Beside other activities ARI contributes as a stakeholder to the national laws on cultural heritage and the concepts of sustainability in conservation-restoration; it has an observatory on the compliance of the national heritage law in public works and is in constant dialogue with educational institutions in regard to the training of conservators-restorers.

Diverse and dynamic Slovenia, towards the necessary changes

Martina Lesar Kikelj

Slovenian Society for Conservation-Restoration

Abstract:

The regulation of the conservation and restoration professions is relevant in Slovenia for the public sector and in the case of persons who independently perform a specialized profession, through recognition fees, from the point of view of covering the social instruments in the field of self-employment in the cultural sector. The status of self-employed person in the cultural heritage sector is granted by the Ministry of Culture. However, the profession is not regulated on the market, since anyone who believes to have sufficient knowledge can create and register a conservation and restoration business in any field without examination by a commission.

Conservation and restoration activities in Slovenia can therefore be based on three different starting points: Public sector (*regulated*), Status of self-employed person in the cultural heritage sector (*regulated*), and Independent entrepreneurship in the field of conservation and restoration (*unregulated*).

The basis of the regulation of cultural heritage is the Cultural Heritage Protection Act (ZVKD-1), which presents important articles of the law that explain the organization of the public services and their stakeholders and the role of volunteers. The articles determine the conditions under which individuals can work in areas related to heritage. The document specifically presents the profession of conservator-restorer. It contains detailed information on courses of higher education in Slovenia, and internal information on what the employer requires from the conservator-restorer. Due to the profession of conservator-restorer, national professional qualifications are also important, that can be obtained for specific restoration professions in Slovenia.

The Rules on Professional Examinations of Cultural Heritage Protection are one of those documents that define and thus protect the profession of conservator-restorer. Individuals who perform professional museum, conservation, and conservation-restoration work must pass a professional examination to obtain the first-level title. If they fulfil the required conditions and evaluation criteria, they can be promoted to higher titles.

The Cultural Heritage Protection Act (ZVKD-1) and the Rules on the Acquisition of Titles in the Field of Cultural Heritage Protection are in line with Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications; Directive 2005/36/ES on the recognition of professional qualifications. The list of regulated occupations is managed by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and is accessible on the eVem link, classified by competent ministries with contact details. The collection of information on regulated occupations for all EU member states can be accessed on the website of the European Commission, which also contains a lot of other information (e.g. links to regulations for individual occupations).

Although the profession of conservator-restorer has been regulated in Slovenia for a long time, the work on the market remains an open problem. Therefore, the first step is to regulate clear legislation for work on the market. It is also important to connect institutions and societies involved in cultural heritage protection and private conservator-restorers through training and participation in professional workshops that can provide quality knowledge and follow new methodologies and technologies in all areas of cultural heritage. In this way, a unified progress and a modern approach to cultural heritage conservation is possible for all professionals, regardless of their employment status.

A great challenge is to help young conservator-restorers on their way. It is important to give them some security in the market and to enable a system on the basis of which they can exist in their profession even as self-employed in the field of cultural heritage. It is also important to influence the necessary changes in the area of obtaining and maintaining the status of a self-employed person in the cultural heritage sector, as the current requirements do not promote individual success. The problem lies in the conditions for obtaining and maintaining the status, which are very poor or too strict. Slovenian Society for Conservation - Restoration helps by pointing out mistakes and proposing certain changes that would systematically solve the emergence and functioning of restorers in their work.

Heritage is the basis of Slovenia's cultural diversity, which is intertwined with the country's exceptional landscape and biodiversity, its attractiveness to its inhabitants, education, development, artistic creation, tourism, and other economic activities. While the Slovenian cultural milieu may be small, it is nevertheless extremely diverse and dynamic. Professions in cultural heritage are becoming more dynamic with each passing day. Employers are demanding more knowledge, and it is important to point out that certain skills are not or cannot be taught through formal education, but can be acquired through (in)formal lifelong learning.

Affiliation Short Description:

Slovenian Society for Conservation-Restoration was founded in 1993 with the purpose to assist professionals from the field of conservation-restoration to promote the profession and their views and approaches regarding the preservation of cultural heritage. The Society is a voluntary, professional association of conservator-restorers, who have completed the necessary training and passed a state-recognized professional examination for the field of conservation-restoration. Society also accepts members. In 2007, Society established a professional award, named after the pioneer of the Slovene conservation-restoration profession – prof. Mirko Šubic. The Board grants an Award for Life Work, a Commendation for the Professional Achievements and the Honorary Membership.

The goals of the Society are:

- to bring together conservator-restorers in the interest of the development of the profession and activities,
- to provide support to the legislator and others in resolving professional questions,
- to develop the profession,
- to strengthen and promote professional ethics among members,
- to organize professional training and further education through workshops, lectures, seminars and excursions.

The Slovak Example – Chamber of Restorers

Barbara Davidson

Michal Huťa

Komora reštaurátorov / Chamber of Restorers

Slovakia

Abstract:

The Slovak Republic decided to regulate the access to the execution of the profession "restorer" with establishing the Chamber of Restorers. As far as we know it is the only country in the EU where the attempts for self-regulation of the professionals executing the liberal profession "restorer" have been successfully transformed into creation of a so-called professional chamber. The idea and initiative came from the restorers themselves. In the beginning of the process of preparation of a proposal how to structure the law the Slovaks cooperated with their former federal partners from the already split up Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. However, the Czech situation developed differently. The lecture explains the restorers' chamber system, its historical preconditions in the Czechoslovak organisation of the profession's execution and study conditions. The performance of the Chamber however depends also on the overall legal organisation of the protection of the cultural heritage in Slovakia and its application practice. We identify reserves in the outdated educational schemes still in practice in Slovakia and try to take part in proposing their changes. The European striving for harmonisation and mutual recognition of professionals causes the conservative Slovak system to adjust. Now we follow the ongoing revision of international statistical tools for more exact measuring of the professions area of activity and players within its interdisciplinary nature. We realise the growing area of applicability of the conservation-restoration processes and the need to keep the well-established regulation of the professional title. However, this requires working towards more visibility and presentation of good practice.

Affiliation Short Description:

The KR was established by law in 1994 as a so-called professional chamber with compulsory membership. It gathers physical persons executing the profession "restorer" in Slovakia. KR acts as a public authority in two main areas:

KR decides about the ability to execute the liberal profession "restorer" in the relevant specialisation and keeps the list of its members. It is the public authority which decides about which natural person in which specialisation of restoration can carry out business activities in the SR in the field of restoration on national cultural heritage and collection items of works of art.

KR monitors that its members carry out their profession in accordance with the professional, expert and ethical principles and rules related to the execution of the liberal profession "restorer".

The law authorises the Chamber to issue internal rules legally binding for its members and accredits it with disciplinary authority over them.

MAPCo-Re: Mapping the Co-Re essence of the profession

Jeanine Rizzo
James Licari MSc
MAPCo-Re, Malta

Abstract:

Malta's laws make reference to Cultural Heritage and the promotion and preservation of Malta's Cultural Heritage – for example the Constitution of Malta (the highest law of the land) specifically makes reference to Cultural Heritage in its declaration of principles, whereas the Cultural Heritage Act contains a number of provisions which state the importance of safeguarding Malta's Cultural Heritage and its conservation.

With this legislative nod towards the focus on preserving and conserving our Cultural Heritage, the profession of “Conservator-Restorers” was also given its due legal recognition – first in the Antiquities Act (1925), now replaced by the Cultural Heritage Act (2002). The Cultural Heritage Act itself has gone through a number of revisions, one of which was principally dedicated to an overhaul of the provisions of the Act which regulate the profession of Conservator-Restorers.

This was because even though Conservator-Restorers had been mentioned in our laws for so long, and even though the 2002 Act had regulated the granting of warrants to Conservator-Restorers no warrants were ever awarded leaving Malta in a situation where working as a Conservator-Restorer was in some ways contrary to what the law required. Through a strong lobby by MapCo-Re and political will a legislative exercise was embarked upon to update that Part of the Act dedicated to the granting of warrants to Conservator-Restorers.

There were many changes that had to be dealt with by the law, such as the educational requirements for Conservator-Restorers which had changed over the years in Malta, and the need to recognise professionals who are moving to Malta from within the EU and from outside the EU. Apart from that there were other issues which the past 15 years' experience in the sector had revealed, such as, the carrying out of conservation-restoration works by persons not qualified to do so or restoration work being carried out on materials by persons specialised to work in other materials. There was also the reality that there were many persons in Malta who had particular and traditional skills learned through apprenticeship and which are adjacent to the profession of a Conservator-Restorer and whose craftsmanship needed to be recognised and rewarded.

All of these realities contributed to the work carried out by a working group who were asked by the Minister for Culture to prepare a draft for the rehaul of that Part of the Cultural Heritage Act. This work was carried out in the year 2011/2012 and presented to the Minister. The Ministry then took on the draft and new educational changes meant that the draft had to be revisited to accommodate all educational realities plus European obligations on the freedom to provide services in all EU Member States.

In 2019 the law amending the warrants for Conservator-Restorers was finally approved by Parliament and warrants started to be awarded. The presentation will cover all of the above in more detail.

Affiliation Short Description:

MAPCo-Re is the Malta Association of Professional Conservator-Restorers of cultural heritage. The association was set up in 2007 with the intent of being the lead voice for the profession in Malta, bringing together academically qualified and experienced professional conservator-restorers who abide by the code of ethics. It is committed to improve the understanding of and access to the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

MAPCo-Re has about thirty registered full- members to date, the majority of whom are holders of a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Conservation-Restoration or cultural heritage related subjects. These degrees provided academic training in the humanities (archaeology, history of art and architecture) and the sciences (material science, diagnostic science), as well as a solid foundation in documentation and hands-on practical conservation-restoration experience on objects/sites related to the area of specialisation chosen. There are 4 main areas of specialisation which were divided as follows: paintings and polychrome wooden sculpture; stones, metals, ceramics, glass, and composite items; textiles and carpets; paper and book materials. To date, no academic local degree was issued specifically covering the specialisation of wood and furniture, yet wood conservation was covered within the area of polychrome wooden sculpture. Various members specialized abroad.

The first local degrees were conferred by the University of Malta in 2003. Other vocational training courses have been provided locally by MCAST, but graduates in these courses should be appropriately certified and legally, should only work under the supervision of a professional conservator-restorer (who has obtained his/her warrant), according to the Cultural Heritage Act 2021. Our statute provides the latter as well as any persons working within the cultural heritage sector to join as 'Associate Members'. We also have a 'Student Membership' scheme.

MAPCo-Re has been locally registered as a Voluntary Organization since 30th November 2013. In 2013, MAPCo-Re was officially accepted as a fully federated member of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations, among 17 associations, all representing various professions. In the same year, MAPCo-Re was affiliated with European Confederation of Professional Conservation-Restoration Organisations [E.C.C.O.] and abided by their code of practice (apart from those imposed on local conservator-restorers by the local Warrant Board). In the past few legislations MAPCo-Re was consulted several times on the re-adjustment of anomalies within the said local legislation. In 2018, MAPCo-Re hosted the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorer Organizations' (E.C.C.O.) Committee Meetings (27th, 28th April and 1st May), the Presidents' Meeting (29th April) and the General Assembly (30th April). These events were held in collaboration with Heritage Malta, within Heritage Malta premises. Malta was chosen, due to it hosting the European Capital of Culture, as well as being the European Cultural Heritage Year (ECHY2018). In 2019, MAPCo-resigned a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Malta National Archives, in which it has agreed to share resources and knowledge.

Despite the COVID19 pandemic, MAPCo-Re has started to focus a lot of its energy and resources on providing its members with Continuous Professional Development (CPD). We have had our first series of short online lectures, which were greatly attended. We are looking forward to increasing our resources and hence we would like to see the possibility of establishing further collaborations with other entities or associations. MAPCo-Re aims to have various consultation meetings with local and foreign representatives on a varied agenda. We would be happy to hold a courtesy meeting with you and discuss various collaborative initiatives. Help us help you conserve our collective past for the appreciation of present and future generations.

On the way to the recognition of conservator's skills and qualifications among cultural heritage professionals: the creation of a protected title by law

Clémentine Bollard

Fédération française des professionnels de la conservation-restauration (FFCR)

Abstract:

The French situation regarding the regulation of the profession: a partially regulated profession by law.

In France, the profession is partially regulated by law, through what we commonly call the "loi musées" which was enacted in 2002. In 2004, all the legislative texts referring to cultural heritage were reunited in the code du patrimoine (Heritage Code), which contains seven "books": the first gathers the common features to cultural heritage, the five following books are dedicated to each heritage sector (archives, libraries, museums, archeology, historical monuments), and the last concerns overseas features. In book IV that refers to museums, its Title V, Chapter II, states that "restoration" on collections pertaining to approximately 1 200 museums qualifying as Musées de France, has to be performed by "specialists presenting qualifications or a professional experience defined in a decree". The decree lists the qualifications required globally as follow:

- Holders of a French diploma in the field of heritage conservation, awarded after five years of specialized higher education (or four years if the diploma was obtained before April 29th 2002);
- Professionals whose experience in heritage conservation has been validated through an accreditation of prior experiential learning process;
- Persons who, between April 28th 1997 and April 29th 2002, have been authorized by the Minister of Culture to carry out conservation-restoration activities on museum collections pertaining to a Musée de France.
- Civil servants belonging to bodies with a statutory vocation to carry out "restoration" activities.

Moreover, a specific accreditation procedure from the Ministry of Culture exists, for professionals who hold a diploma from, and/or have experience outside of France.

A protected title in line of sight to extend and reinforce this regulation.

Despite this law which partially regulates the activity of conservation, a need for more clarification remains: everyone can still call himself a conservator without having the above listed qualifications, and the role and responsibilities of conservators still need to be defined et recognized within the cultural heritage professions ecosystem.

The second pitfall of this regulation is that it is partial, as the qualifications required to work on cultural assets classified in other cultural heritage sectors (archives, libraries, archeology, historical monuments) are not clearly defined.

To reinforce and extend the existing regulation, the creation of a protected title has been requested by FFCR for years. This request could succeed within a few months, as a project of law for the creation of a protected title for conservator-restorers, comprising a definition of conservation, was deposited by the member of parliament R. Gérard last February. The bill must be adopted by the National Assembly, and then the French Senate. A second option exists, as a working group dedicated to the creation of a professional title for conservator-restorers has been established by the Ministry of Culture, making possible that a bill would be carried by the Minister of Culture him/herself.

At the same time, a dialogue has been established with other professions to explain the texts, their spirit and intentions, to ensure that no opposition will raise when it will be time that members of parliament and government discuss the text.

Affiliation Short Description:

FFCR is a non-profit professional organization, member of the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorer's Organizations, which promotes the profession of conservator-restorer. FFCR actions aim at the recognition of their skills and qualifications, the improvement of their condition of exercise, and at representing them among other cultural heritage professions. The organization is managed by a committee of 15 elected members - which further elect an executive office -, and employs a part-time permanent member of staff. Its members (approximately. 420) graduated from a master in conservation of cultural heritage or who are state-recognized conservators, for those who started working before the creation of specific trainings.

CHARTER, an opportunity for visibility and recognition: The professional role and competences of the conservator-restorer in Europe

Elis Marçal
President of E.C.C.O.

Abstract:

Within the context of Erasmus+ initiatives, the EU Skills Alliance framework has projects under the topic Sectorial Blueprints. They are designed to collect intelligence about the labour market as well as in education and training (E&T). The goal is to assess emerging and existing occupations, mismatches between professional practice needs and E&T provision, thus consequently identifying the needs and gaps in skills and competences for the sector not only currently but also in the future. These projects seek to develop solutions in specific economic sectors, designing a sectorial skills strategy where professional profiles, training programs, long-term planning and skills upgrades are combined in a sustainable strategic skills alliance.

The "CHARTER" project is the cultural heritage blueprint, running since 2021 to 2024, aiming to bring together and representatives from the whole range of the cultural heritage sector stakeholders in Europe. E.C.C.O. is a partner in this project playing an important role as the leader of working package 2 (WP2), which focuses on the strategic analysis of cultural heritage competences and occupational profiles. This falls within the scheme E.C.C.O.'s work assembled in the past years, by translating its vision and mission for the conservator-restorer at European level. It intends to promote the recognition of professional practice of conservation-restoration by defining its competences and its role towards cultural heritage. Since its establishment in 1991 E.C.C.O. has strengthened the relevance and visibility both for professionals and transnational networks by setting a standard competences profile, regulating practices and promoting mobility through mechanisms of mutual recognition. This knowledge laid the groundwork by setting the framework for cultural heritage professions and is in itself one of the main expected outcomes of a blueprint project.

E.C.C.O.'s competences were identified and referred as a model to design an occupational profile, which can serve as a template to other professions in the field. By working side-by-side with E&T providers and by defining the required learning outcomes and curricula subjects, necessary to deliver the competences to access the practice of conservation-restoration, E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE have built and implemented the first strands of a skill strategy for conservation-restoration. Ultimately CHARTER will allow conservator-restorers to establish their work profile, as well set the path for improvements, while enhancing the visibility and recognition amongst other professionals in the cultural heritage sector.

Preserving cultural heritage: a common or a public interest? Conflicting or converging approaches in European rules and national laws

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Abstract:

What is the position of culture, and of cultural heritage, in the European system?

While cultural policies and the protection of cultural heritage remain within national powers, European Union (EU) deals with cultural heritage in a singular way.

Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union sets out the EU's responsibility towards Europe's cultural heritage, as the EU "shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced". In support of this generic principle, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides, in article 167 that, in the field of culture, the EU shall encourage cooperation between Member States and support the improvement of the knowledge and dissemination of the culture and history of the European peoples as well as the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage of European significance.

The issue of heritage conservation is also subject to special measures in the chapter on State aids; such aids are prohibited insofar as they affect trade between Member States and distorts – or threatens to distort – competition (article 107 TFEU). However, exceptions to this prohibition are permitted, in the case of "aid to promote culture and heritage conservation where such aid does not affect trading conditions and competition in the Union to an extent that is contrary to the common interest".

European Union rules thus recognize the special nature of cultural heritage, reinforce the States' mission of conservation, and concerning the prohibition of State aids – one of the pillars of the European internal market – provides derogations. But at the same time as this law seems to draw a special status for cultural heritage in European rules, it sets its limits. Limits are established by overhanging the defence of a common interest, underpinned by the promotion of the European market and the rules of freedom of competition and trade.

The defence of this common interest, based on the dogma of a liberal economic model, is expressed in the same terms with regard to the professional environment of heritage conservation. Two principles support this common interest: the inter-state recognition of professional qualifications and the freedom to provide services. To derogate from these principles, or at least to adjust them in order to limit the conditions of access to a profession, is considered as a breach of the common interest.

Under European rules, imposing conditions on access to and limiting the exercise of a professional activity identify that activity as regulated professions. Only a justification on grounds of public interest objectives can authorize a State to create a regulated profession. The Directive of 28 June 2018 on a proportionality test before adoption of new regulations of professions set that the safeguarding and conservation of the national historic and artistic heritage constitutes such an objective of public interest. Based on this principle, the profession of conservator-restorer can be regulated, by overlapping the common interest defended by European Union and the public interest justified by the States.

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