



E.C.C.O. reports

No. 10 / 2012

E.C.C.O.

European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations

Confédération Européenne des Organisations de Conservateurs-Restaurateurs A.I.S.B.L. rue Coudenberg, 70 BE-1000 Brussels Belgique <http://www.ecco-eu.org>

Impressum

E.C.C.O. reports Nr. 10 / 2012

online version

E.C.C.O. is an international confederation established on 14 October 1991 under the Belgian Law of 25 October 1919.

E.C.C.O. is a member of CEPLIS (Conseil Européen des Professions Libérales).

Publisher

E.C.C.O. – European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations A.I.S.B.L. / Confédération Européenne des Organisations de Conservateurs-Restaurateurs A.I.S.B.L.

Contributions

E.C.C.O. welcomes all contributions of general interest for the profession of the Conservator-Restorer to the reports.

Official address

rue Coudenberg, 70
BE – 1000 BRUSSELS
BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

info@ecco-eu.org

www.ecco-eu.org

Disclaimer

E.C.C.O. has no responsibility for the content or opinions expressed in the E.C.C.O. Reports. Responsibility lies solely with the individual contributors.

Layout

Sebastian Dobrusskin (SKR-SCR, Switzerland)

Index

E.C.C.O. Members 2012	3
E.C.C.O. Committee 2012	4
Letter from the Vice-Presidents	10
General Assembly 2012	12
National Reports	16
Austria	16
Belgium	18
Bulgaria	19
Denmark	20
Finland	22
France	26
Germany	28
Ireland	29
Italy	33
Malta	35
The Netherlands	43
Norway	43
Portugal	45
Slovak Republic	46
Slovenia	48
Spain	49
Sweden	50
Switzerland	51
Associated Members	53
Czech Republic	53
Romania	54

E.C.C.O. Members 2012

Full Members

Austria

ÖRV – Österreichischer Restauratorenverband

Belgium

APROA / BRK – Association Professionnelle des Conservateurs / Restaurateurs d'Oeuvres d'Art – Beroepsvereniging voor Conservators–Restaurateurs van Kunstvoorwerpen vzw.

Bulgaria

ACB – Association of Conservator–restorers in Bulgaria

Denmark

NKF-dk – Nordisk Konservatorforbund – Danmark

Finland

NKF-FI – Pohjoismaisen Konservattoriliiton Suomen Osasto ry

France

FFCR – Fédération Française des professionnels de la Conservation-Restauration

Germany

VDR – Verband der Restauratoren e.V.

Hungary

MRE – Magyar Restaurátorok Egyesülete

International

IADA – Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Archiv-, Bibliotheks- und Graphikrestauratoren

Ireland

ICHAWI – Institute for the Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works in Ireland

Italy

ARI – Associazione Restauratori d'Italia

VRS – Verband der Restauratoren – Konservatoren Südtirols / Associazione dei Restauratori – Conservatori Dell'Alto Adige

Malta

MAPCo-re – The Malta Association of Professional Conservator-Restorers

The Netherlands

RN – Restauratoren Nederland

Norway

NKF-N – Nordisk Konservatorforbund / den Norske Seksjon

Portugal

ARP – Associação Profissional de Conservadores-Restauradores de Portugal

Slovak Republic

KR – Komora Reštaurátorov

Slovenia

DRS – Društvo restavradorjev Slovenije

Spain

ACRE – Asociación de Conservadores-Restauradores de España

GT – Grup Tècnic – Associació professional dels Conservadors-Restauradors de Catalunya

Sweden

NKF-S – Nordiska Konservatorförbundet / Svenska Sektionen

Switzerland

SKR / SCR – Schweizerischer Verband für Konservierung und Restaurierung / Association Suisse de Conservation et Restauration

Associated Members

Czech Republic

AMG-KKR – Asociace muzeí a galerií ČR-Komise konzervátoru-restaurátoru

Romania

A.C.C.R.O. – Asociatia Conservatorilor si Restauratorilor din Romania – The Conservators and Restorers Association of Romania

E.C.C.O. Committee 2012

President



Monica Martelli Castaldi (ARI, Italy)

Born in 1957 in South America where she lived several years. Diploma in Conservation of Easel and Mural Paintings at Istituto Centrale del Restauro (now Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro) in Rome in 1981. Coordinator of courses on Scientific Principles of Conservation and Mural Painting Conservation at ICCROM for approximately 10 years. Freelance Conservator-Restorer since 1981 with her own company, works mainly in the Campania region in the South of Italy. Since 1996 works especially in archaeological sites being consultant for the Archeological Superintendency of Pompeii for the conservation of decorative features. Since 2000 in charge of the conservation of all the decorated surfaces of the site for the Herculaneum Conservation Project, financed by the Packard Humanities Institute and directed by the British School at Rome. Since 1994 E.C.C.O. Delegate of ARI, the Associazione Restauratori d'Italia, and from 2003 in the E.C.C.O. Committee.

Vice President



Sebastian Dobruskin (SKR/SCR, Switzerland)

Born in 1960. Studied Conservation-Restoration at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. Diploma with focus on the Conservation-Restoration of paper and photography. Specialisation in Conservation-Restoration of photography at the National Archives of Canada, Ottawa. Employment at the Institute for Restoration at the National Library of Austria in Vienna. Set up – together with Gerhard Banik – the paper conservation course at the State Academy of Fine Arts, Stuttgart, as conservation studio manager. 1993 set up of the specialisation course Conservation-Restoration of Graphic Art, Books and Photography as Professor at the Bern University of the Arts (together with Erwin Oberholzer). Since 2005 head of the Research Area “Materiality of Art and Culture”. Member of the E.C.C.O. Committee since 2008.

Vice President



Mechthild Noll-Minor (VDR, Germany)

Born in 1966, after studying Mathematics and Conservation-Restoration she graduated with a diploma in Conservation of Mural Painting and Architectural Surfaces at the Academy of Fine Arts at Dresden. 1992–2002 she worked as freelance professional in East Germany with several stages at worksites in Georgia (former Soviet Union) and Italy (ICCROM, Opificio delle Pietre Dure, Florence). Since 2003 she is head of the Conservation-Restoration Department at the State Monument Service Agency of the Federal state Brandenburg in Germany. In the E.C.C.O. Committee 1999–2001 and again from 2009.

Secretary General



Susan Corr (ICHAWI, Ireland)

Susan studied History of Art and Spanish (University College Dublin) and trained as a Paper Conservator (National Gallery of Ireland, ICCROM Rome, and Japan in the studio of Handa San.). She is the author of 'Caring for Collections, a Manual of Preventive Conservation'. Susan works as an accredited paper Conservator-Restorer in private practice and joined the E.C.C.O. Committee in 2005.

Deputy Secretary General



Jeremy Hutchings (NKF-N, Norway)

Entered the Conservation-Restoration profession in 1985. Originally trained as an engineer, holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Archaeological Conservation, a Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Conservation and PhD in Conservation. Has extensive experience in public sector museums including a period as an environmental adviser for the UK Museums and Galleries Commission. Moved to Norway in 1999 to take up a conservation management position and has held the full-time position as Associate Professor of Objects Conservation at the University of Oslo since 2001. In the E.C.C.O. Committee since 2008.

Treasurer



Jaap van der Burg (RN, The Netherlands)

Born in 1958, graduated from School for Conservators (now Institute for Cultural Heritage) in Amsterdam in 1985 specialising in organic polymers (preventive conservation). Has worked as Head of the Keepers Department at the Royal Dutch Army and Arms Museum (1984–1993), Project Manager at the National Museum of Ethnology (1993–1996), Tutor in Preventive Conservation at the Institute for Cultural Heritage (1994–2003) and as Project Manager for Collection, Care & Consult for the Gerlach Art Packers and Shippers (1996–1999). Since 2000 co-founder and Director of Helicon Conservation Support. 1994–1998 Board Member and President of IIC Netherlands, currently Vice President of Restauratoren Nederland (since 2006). In the E.C.C.O. Committee since 2007.

Deputy Treasurer



Michael Van Gompen (APROA-BRK, Belgium)

Born in 1967, after graduation in electronics, studied horology at the Institut des Arts et Métiers (Brussels, diploma in 1989). Graduated in Conservation-Restoration from the Edward James Foundation – West Dean College (Chichester, UK) in 1992.

Established as freelance Conservator-Restorer of scientific and mechanical instruments and time keepers (clocks, watches, chronometers) since 1994 in Brussels.

Currently President of APROA-BRK. In the E.C.C.O. Committee since the year 2000. Member of the Executive Board of the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS) as Delegate of E.C.C.O.

Committee Member



David Aguilera Cueco (FFCR, France)

Born in 1959. After studying (1981–1985) at Maîtrise de sciences et techniques conservation-restauration des biens culturels de l'université de Paris 1 panthéon Sorbonne, worked as a freelance Conservator-Restorer of paintings, specialised in structural problems and conservation of contemporary art. Since 1986 works essentially for museums collections. Graduated from Master course in Preventive Conservation Paris 1 in 2005. Delegate of FFCR and Committee Member of E.C.C.O. since 2006, since 2004 Vice-President of FFCR, after being its President (1998–2003).

Committee Member



Stefan Belishki (ACB, Bulgaria)

Stefan Belishki has been teaching in the Conservation Department of the National Academy of Arts in Sofia for the last 15 years. He also has private practice in the Conservation-Restoration of paintings, icons and wall paintings. He is one of the founders of the Association of Conservator-Restorers in Bulgaria and currently its Chairman. Elected to the E.C.C.O. Committee in 2009.

Committee Member



Barbara Davidson (KR, Slovak Republic)

Born in 1970. After graduation from High School for Arts and Crafts in Bratislava, worked 1988–1992 as technical support and assistant restorer in the City Gallery of Bratislava. 1992–1998 studies at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, department of Restoration of Art Works where she obtained the title Magister artis (Mgr.art.) in Fine Art-Restoration of Easel Paintings. 2000–2006 studies at AFAD (Art.D.) From 1998 employed in the City Gallery of Bratislava as an independent specialised restorer. From 1997 member of the Chamber of Restorers (KR) in Slovakia. From 2005 member of the Board of KR and Delegate for E.C.C.O. In 2006 elected to the E.C.C.O. committee.

Committee Member



Elis Marçal (ARP, Portugal)

Born in 1973 in Angola. Bachelor degree in polychromed and gilded wood from the High School of Conservation and Restoration in Lisbon in 1996 and Post-graduated in Management in Cultural Heritage in 2003 from Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa. Since 1996 is freelance Conservator-Restorer for national public institutions and private companies, working as Conservator-Restorer of Sculpture in Museum Grão Vasco (2004/5) National Museum of Ancient Art (2006/7) National Museum of Ethnology (2007/8) and National Museum of FolkArt (2010/11). In 2001 started first occasional collaborations in courses and professional stages with public institutions and universities, teaching at the moment in Foundation Ricardo Espírito Santo, since 2010. In February of 2012 becomes co-director of “ArteRestauro” a 30 year old private company working mainly in conservation and restoration of sculpture and paintings for public institutions and museums. Elected to ARP and to the E.C.C.O. Committee in 2012.



Jana Šubic Prisljan (DRS, Slovenia)

Born in 1955, holds a Master degree in Conservation from University of Ljubljana, with additional training in Cardiff (UK). She is a practicing conservator in Goriški muzej Nova Gorica, Slovenia, specializing in ceramics and preventive conservation. She is head of Conservation Section of Slovene Museums Association, examiner at state exams for curators (collection care) and conservators and consultant for Ministry of Culture on conservation issues. She organizes many events on national level to promote conservation. She was elected to the E.C.C.O. Committee in 2012.

Letter from the Vice-Presidents

Dear Colleagues,

this report is coming with great delay to you, but we hope you will find it helpful to look into the activities of our E.C.C.O. community. In 2012 the E.C.C.O. Committee had to temporarily tackle all administrative tasks without an Office Administrator and together with other changes, this caused a jam processing the editing of the report and writing this letter of introduction.

In October 2012 we had to accept with deep regret the resignation of Monica Martelli-Castaldi as President of E.C.C.O. The Committee decided unanimously to let the Vice-Presidents step in to fulfil the presidential duties until the next General Assembly.

We thank Monica for all her time, energy and the immense work she provided for E.C.C.O. Monica worked as an excellent networker with high diplomatic skills for the benefit of our profession! Her visions and her creative way of thinking impressed the work of the committee during her presidency. There are remarkable projects that have been realised during 18 years of her commitment to E.C.C.O. first as consultant and then as Committee member since GA 2003 and President since GA 2006.

E.C.C.O. activities of the year 2012 were informed by an intensive discussion about the future strategy of E.C.C.O. with a search for better communication and stable cooperation with partners in Europe and beyond: We are looking back at a period of producing substantial documents like the “European Recommendation for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage” together with ICCROM and ENCoRE and subsequently the “Competences for access to the conservation-restoration profession”. However we did not manage to get the first document accepted by the relevant European Commission (CDPATEP).

We realised that there are still a lot of efforts necessary for E.C.C.O. to be seen as a relevant political player in the field of Cultural Heritage of Europe. The discussions about the future pathway of E.C.C.O. brought us “back to the roots” to revisit our goals, values and resources as a base for a structured strategy for the next ten years.

By the end of the year 2012 a vision and mission statement had been formulated. The E.C.C.O. Committee proposed that the emphasis is on cultural heritage as it is ‘safeguarded for society through high standards of professional Conservation-Restoration practice’. Conservation-Restoration as a facilitator in the engagement of society with its cultural heritage has to be underlined in order for the profession to be accepted as an emancipated partner in the development of Cultural Heritage policy. This change of perspective is the result of a number of European projects E.C.C.O. has been leading or has been involved with and arising from communication with other stakeholders in the field.

The mission statement of E.C.C.O. focuses on the professional Conservator-Restorer:

To organize, develop and promote, on a practical, scientific and cultural level, the profession of Conservator-Restorer, to set standards and regulate practice at European level and enhance communication between and mobility of professionals and to strengthen the role and responsibilities of the conservator-restorers in relation to others in safeguarding cultural heritage.

The exchange of thoughts and opinions about essential documents for our profession with ENCoRE board members created a base of confidence and stability. In the year 2012 we discussed especially the relevance of practice in education in preparation for professional practice with Wolfgang Baatz and Rene Hoppenbrouwer at the occasion of our committee meeting in Bratislava.

Since 2012 E.C.C.O. is a member of Europa Nostra. We began to develop Memoranda of Understanding with international organisations such as ICOMOS and ICCROM. We want to reach a strategic and visible framework, which helps to direct the enormous personal commitment and professional networking that is given by each professional active within E.C.C.O. member organisations. The Committee discussed the possibilities and effects of official NGO status of E.C.C.O. in order to be able to attend the meetings of relevant commissions and groups of experts linked or part of the Council of Europe and to act politically there.

To continue progressing, we need real commitment and active participation of the member organizations, both for political reasons and for simple task force and energy.

Yours sincerely,

Mechthild Noll-Minor
Vice-President of E.C.C.O.

Sebastian Dobruskin
Vice-President of E.C.C.O.

General Assembly 2012

May 14th 2012

“Sala Accoglienza”

Palazzo Reale, Napoli – Royal Palace Naples.

Present:

E.C.C.O. Committee

Monica Martelli Castaldi (MMC, President, ARI), Jaap van der Burg (JvdB, Vice President, NR), Mechthild Noll-Minor (MNM, Vice President, VDR), Susan Corr (SC, Gen. Secretary, ICHAWI), Jeremy Hutchings (JH, Deputy Secretary, NKF-N), Michael Van Gampen (MVG, Treasurer, APROA-BRK), Sebastian Dobruskin (SD, Vice Treasurer, SKR/SCR), Barbara Davidson (BD, KR), Stefan Belishki (SB, ACB), David Aguilera Cueco (DAC, FFCR).

E.C.C.O. Delegates

Sigrid Eyb-Green (SEG, ÖRV), Johanne Velling (JV, NKF-dk), Sami Supply (SS, NKF-FI), István Bona (IB, MRE), Martin Pittertschatscher (MP, VRKS/ARCA), Elis Marçal (EM, ARP), Alena Selucká (AS, AMG-KKR), Agnès Gall-Ortlik, (AGO, GT).

Observers

Gheorghina Olariu, (A.C.C.R.O, Romania), Olimpia Muresan (A.C.C.R.O., Romania), Maria Masaguer Otero (ACRE, Spain), Fabók Balázs (MRE, Hungary), Ivo Štěpánek (AMG-KKR, Czech Rep.), Roberto Borgogno (ARI, Italy)

Apologies

Roland Damm (IADA), Carin Pettersson (NKF-S), Jana Šubic Prislán (JŠP, DRS), James Licari (MAPCo-Re), Wolfgang Baatz and René Hoppenbrouwers, ENCoRE

The President welcomed all delegates to the 21st General Assembly of E.C.C.O. She commented on the work that had been achieved during the year and thanked Agnes Gall Ortlik from Grup Tècnic, Catalonia, and Rui Bordalo from ARP, Portugal, who departed the Committee over the course of the year acknowledging their contribution to E.C.C.O.

EQF

Since the publication of the Competences for access to the Conservation-Restoration profession much discussion and several papers have been delivered on the work particularly as they help to develop learning outcomes for the delivery of education. Their use as a tool for evaluation needs to be further developed and will be the focus of future work. In the meantime, Sebastian Dobruskin has been working on the translated versions of the Competences 500 copies of which will be available shortly in French, Spanish, German and Italian. Sebastian confirmed that 1000 editions of the English version are still available, they are not distributed free of charge as suggested earlier. Rather, they will be given to libraries and universities free of charge.

CEN

E.C.C.O established a formal liaison with CEN over two years ago with Jaap van der Burg acting as liaison officer. There has been a restructuring of CEN in order to develop a new Business Plan which was ratified in Venice in March of this year by the Technical Committee. It will be sent out to national standardisation bodies

who are the official members of CEN and are the bodies who agree or not to these standards.

As a result of the restructuring there are now 11 Working Groups in CEN making it difficult for E.C.C.O. to have representation in all Groups. E.C.C.O. will have to rely on members who are part of their mirror groups to work on our behalf. A list of the Working Groups is attached. In Venice it was agreed that the list is now closed until such time as the work is completed over the next 3 years.

Jaap van der Burg has urged Delegates to get involved and to transmit this information on CEN back to their committee.

David Aguilera Cueco who has been involved in CEN as a representative of FFCR in the French mirror group, advised the GA of a new topic which deals specifically with the “Conservation Process” Although tabled for some time, the topic has only recently been addressed subsequent to the distribution of a copy of the Competences booklet to Working Group 1. The publication was greatly welcomed and is likely to be consulted in the development of CEN standards on the Conservation-Restoration process. The scope of the proposed work will consider the identification of the different steps in the Conservation-Restoration process where standards might apply. David is of the opinion that the profession should remain alert as to where power and authority may come to reside as a function of decision-making within the CEN work given E.C.C.O. presents Conservation-Restoration as a decision-making narrative from start to finish. The convening of this new Work Group on the Conservation-Restoration process is to be given to the German Secretariat, chaired by Kornelius Götz (former President of VDR), under the administrative supervision of DIN (German national standardisation body).

On General Terminology, CEN 15898 is now published as an official European Standard. Two general standards on Condition Reports for Movable Heritage and Condition Surveys of Immovable Heritage are in the formal voting phase and could be adopted imminently.

These will become ‘soft law’ and it was emphasised that E.C.C.O. will have no influence on the standards once they are accepted, some of which are reported to be causing conflict in the Czech Republic and Romania. Member organisations are invited to critique the impact of these Standards so that E.C.C.O. can determine the way in which it can work in conjunction with Ministries and support our members.

As said the situation obviously required them to establish a technical body within their national organisation in the Czech Republic. E.C.C.O. is to try and make a scheme on the website. AMG-KKR has offered to prepare a report on their experience and give feedback.

Council of Europe – Recommendations on Conservation-Restoration

Monica Martelli Castaldi reports that progress with the Recommendations has stopped due to internal changes within the Council of Europe. The two steering committees on Cultural heritage and Landscape CDPATEP have merged to form a single committee Comité Directeur du Patrimoine Culturel et du Paysage CDCPP. ICCROM has been working on this topic and the new Director Stefano de Caro is currently in Strasbourg where he is calling for the CDCPP Working Group to progress with its deliberations. In the meantime, the proposal written by E.C.C.O. can still be used by our members for legal work at national level.

Mr. Negri has been issued with a new contract to work on the application of the EU laws (Directive on Services and Directive on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification) which influence national law and is orienting the content of this document in such a way as to offer a rationale for arguing their adoption in favor of Conservation-Restoration and particularly as they relate to the EU recommendation on Professional Qualifications.

ECROP

Following the GA meeting in Sofia 2009, E.C.C.O. hoped to build a network between Conservation-Restoration organisations in Europe as an outreach initiative to create a platform for the sharing of activities and information. It is now 2012, and this platform has not been successfully launched and our own website needs to be improved and maintained. It was agreed to use some of the ideas and rules governing the exchange of information for the E.C.C.O. website. As a result the committee has decided to postpone this platform for the moment. The Platform had been prepared by Rui Bordalo but he has since retired and given the workload that is presently attendant on Committee Members there are no immediate plans to advance this work.

EU Projects: Horizon 2020

Notice of the new European Framework Programme for Research 'Horizon 2020' was announced in the Short News in January. This Framework Programme marks a shift in the direction of EU funding. Mechthild Noll Minor flagged the petition that was launched by E.C.C.O. and which can be found on our website. She says that we have to make noise and make ourselves heard, that the EU should not just be presented as an innovation society but should also stress the fact that we are a civil society with a cultural heritage agenda.

Ceplis

CEPLIS is the European Council for the liberal profession with 25 members. Michael Van Gompén has been on the executive board for the last five years, the last three of which have been spent focused on the new Directive on Health which is a reflection of the EU Commission's interest. The focus has once more shifted due to the reopening of the Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

This is of critical interest to CEPLIS who have presented a white paper on this issue and are concerned with two main topics:

- The Professional card
- Common Platforms

Michael Van Gompén points out that there are only nine regulated professions and all other professions fall under the automatic regulation for recognition of professions. There was a Public hearing three weeks ago and the new draft on the Directive is very unclear. CEPLIS is in the process of addressing this in a new white paper which will be published on the website.

Roberto Borgogno, ARI suggested that E.C.C.O. should lobby to have the World list of economical activity: NACE amended to obtain our own code for Conservator- Restorers instead of having our specialisms dispersed amongst other professions such as the construction industry for architectural conservators, or cabinetmakers for furniture Conservator-Restorers for instance. The NACE list is revised every five years and coordinated lobbying action is required to have the profession under its own code. Roberto reiterated how important he considered that action to be as it may determine where the professional is assessed in terms of tax brackets.

On the question of Directives the EU does not believe that there is any problem with mutual recognition for our profession. The professional card has demonstrated that it is feasible but the political will to carry this out is in question which gives rise to the issue of how to identify the Conservator Technician particularly where a distinction in countries between a level 6 Conservator-Restorer and Conservation Technician exist.

How professional bodies themselves deal with this issue is of great interest to E.C.C.O. and is to form part of new questionnaire on the status and composition of our membership organisations.

ENCoRE

ENCoRE have released a draft document on practice in education and have voted at their GA to work on it for another year. They have indicated that they want to work with E.C.C.O. on it although no formal agreement has yet been made. E.C.C.O. has indicated interest in working together.

ICCROM

Monica Martelli Castaldi commented on the very good relationship that E.C.C.O. has with ICCROM originating with the APEL project in 2008; both with the previous Director, Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki and now with the current incumbent Mr. Stefano De Caro. Monica presented the official invitation to a Research Consortium that is being organised by ICCROM. The general consensus of the GA was that the issue of science in conservation is recognised as very pertinent to our members. However, it was with regret that E.C.C.O. would not be able to participate in the consortium for strictly financial reasons. The President was anxious to emphasise the political influence accruing to E.C.C.O. in being used as a referent in the constitution of such a consortium from its inception and, while acknowledging the high cost of participation for E.C.C.O. in this instance, suggested that such cost may need in future to be reckoned against the political reputation E.C.C.O. is building. It is therefore necessary to consider carefully how the outcome of any such work may be of benefit to and impact on our profession. The research consortium has already fulfilled the necessary membership quota needed to make the consortium viable, but it was put to the floor that we should continue to actively support this project, perhaps in the role as observers.

Europa Nostra

Jaap van der Burg remain E.C.C.O. is now a member of Europa Nostra and Jaap van der Burg continues to attend EN meetings behalf of E.C.C.O. EUROPA NOSTRA has just initiated Alliance 3.

ICOM-CC

Monica Martelli Castaldi reflected on the effective action from E.C.C.O. in relation to its member organisations suggesting this action contributed to ICOM-CC dropping their proposal for a change in their bylaws where they had intended to discard the title Conservator-Restorer in favour of Conservator.

ICOMOS

E.C.C.O.'s liaison with ICOMOS began two years while working together on a contradiction that arose from the work of CEN and which was concluded successfully. E.C.C.O. is now going to approach ICOMOS again with reference to their new Draft document on Guidelines for the Education and Training of Conservators. This is a second draft as a previous draft contained several ideas which contradicted E.C.C.O. principles and was subsequently opposed. We offer to work in a supportive way in relaying comment. ENCoRE are also invited to comment and to date both bodies share the same viewpoint.

Net-Heritage

NET-Heritage was a European Program which concluded in 2011. It has resulted in a heritage portal which can be found at www.heritageportal.eu. Mechthild Noll Minor advises members to look at this portal which gives an overview of who might be involved in cultural heritage research activities in each delegates respective country.

Strategic Plan

The President acknowledged that there has been much discussion about the Strategic Plan amongst the Committee, but to date no actual strategy has been produced.

Nevertheless 3 strategic areas have been identified:

1. improve our ability to work as a political body at a European and international level
2. influence legal frameworks that impact on the Conservation-Restoration profession and where necessary, initiate the introduction of specific norms for the field
3. continue to ensure that our work is applicable, practical and visible.

These issues will inform the work of the Strategic Working Group which is to be set up.

Finally Monica Martelli Castaldi reported on the untimely death of Ulrich Schiessl and acknowledged his contribution to E.C.C.O. as founding member and past President. Monica attended a commemorative service for Ulrich which was held by the University of Dresden.

Susan Corr
E.C.C.O. Secretary General National Reports 2012

National Reports

Austria

ÖRV – Österreichischer Restauratorenverband

The yearly General Assembly of the ÖRV took place on May 2nd 2012. Some ÖRV board members have been replaced during the course of the last year, and the board is now comprised of:

Beate Murr (paper conservator at the Museum of Applied Arts): president

Anke Schäning (paintings conservator, senior artist at the Institute for Conservation-Restoration, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna): vice president and editor

Sigrid Eyb-Green (paper conservator, senior artist at the Institute for Conservation-Restoration, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna): E.C.C.O. delegate, delegate to the Austrian Normalisation Institute, editor

Sabine Formánek secretary, keeper of minutes

Edith Oberhumer (textile conservator, Museum of Applied Arts)

Andrea Friedl (metal conservator in private practice): website support

Markus Santner (mural conservator, Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments): contact between ÖRV and Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments

Susanne Beseler (stone conservator in private practice)

Beate Sipek (mural conservator in private practice)

Georg Prast (sculpture conservator in private practice): website support

Ilse Entlesberger (paper conservator at the Lower Austrian State Archives): maternity leave

Melanie Nief (paper conservator in private practice): maternity leave

The board is supported by ten subject specialists covering a wide range of fields within conservation. Subject Specialists initiate and/or organise Jour Fixe and Seminars, contribute to the Journal, recruit new members and thus help the board raise the visibility of the ÖRV.

This year's ÖRV Biannual Meeting titled "Kunst unterwegs" ("Art on the Go") was held on November 30th and December 1st at the Museum of Applied Arts (MAK) Vienna. As in past conferences, experts from a wide range of different fields within conservation as well as art historians, biologists and historians discussed different aspects of moving art. A number of presentations dealt with the opening of the new depot building of the Kunsthistorische Museum ("Zentraldepot") last year which now houses the collections of several associated museums. Very lively debates after lectures and the highest number of participants of all ÖRV conferences made the event a great success. It also showed that the theme "touched a nerve" within our field and demonstrated the great need for professional exchange in this area. The proceedings of the conference will for the first time be published by Boehlau, a well-respected Austrian Scientific Publisher, and will be available through the websites of ÖRV and Boehlau as well as through Siegl.

ÖRV publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter (Mitteilungen) and, as of 2008, a yearly magazine titled ÖRV Journal. The 2012 issue of the journal mainly contains papers based on Master Thesis of both Austrian Conservation Trainings (Academy of Fine Arts and University of Applied Arts). The Journal can also be ordered through the ÖRV website.

In 2012, the series of lectures ("Jour fixe"), introduced in 2008, has been successfully continued. One main focus this year was the 2012 Gustav Klimt Anniversary which was acknowledged by a short film ("Operating System Gustav Klimt" by Doris Hess and Sigrid Eyb-Green) and special conservator or curator guided tours through some of the main Klimt-exhibitions. Christa Hofmann, head of the Conservation Institute of the National Library (and former ÖRV president) led through the exhibition "Of Fish, Birds and Reptiles: Masterpieces of the imperial collection". Once again, the involvement of ÖRV board members in Conservation Training proved to be a fruitful "double function": a 3-day seminar on parchment manufacture (Jiri Vnoucek, Denmark) could be organised by the Conservation Institute of the Academy of Fine Arts in cooperation with the ÖRV, continuing the series of very successful activities of the last years which included lectures, seminars and excursions which offer a platform for inspiring exchange between conservation students and professionals.

In January, the ÖRV had a stand at the international trade fair "Monumento", held in Salzburg as a joint venture of Austria, Bavaria and South Tirol with more than 150 exhibitors. As cooperation partner, the ÖRV could offer its members free admission. There was lots of interest about the association, its events and our membership list.

Last but not least the ÖRV was engaged in creating a new website for the association which already proved to be of enormous help managing our members and our finances as well as helping us to contact our members more easily, to distribute information more efficiently and making information about individual members more accessible to the public. For processing membership applications, especially of conservators without an accredited training, the ÖRV found the EQF professional competences booklet a very useful tool which has already been implemented in two cases.

Sigrid Eyb-Green, Vienna, April 2013

Belgium

APROA / BRK – Association Professionnelle des Conservateurs / Restaurateurs d'Oeuvres d'Art – Beroepsvereniging voor Conservators–Restaurateurs van Kunstvoorwerpen vzw.

At last in 2012, our political situation got stabilised with the formation of a new Government that allowed us to reactivate our request to get the professional title of Conservator-Restorer protected by law and its use regulated accordingly. The main criteria for its attribution being the high level of education required at Master Level (EQF 7). In Belgium, three schools of higher education deliver this diploma, one in Antwerp, one in Brussels and one in Liege, so in order to get them closely involved with us to obtain the protection of title, we organised a round table in June that was an excellent opportunity to discuss the present and future of education in our field. This kind of meeting between the schools and the professional body has proven being more than needed and useful, so we are determined to set up such round table on a regular basis in future.

Unfortunately and despite the support of these three schools, it seems that our new government had more important matters to treat than our request in 2012, but we still hope that we could be successful next year as our dossier remains open and that we'll keep pushing it.

We were lucky to be able to organise two very interesting and special visits for our Members, one before the summer of the Museum of Africa that will close for refurbishment in 2013, and one in September of an industrial firm specialised in 3D printing which technique opens incredible possibilities that will surely soon become useful in conservation-restoration too.

One of our big aims this year is to try to set up a really well designed Professional Insurance at reasonable cost for our Members.

Indeed, it should be possible to use the good reputation of our professional organisation to negotiate not only a more suitable type of contract that would efficiently cover all types of problems that may occur in our activities but also, arguing of the high level of competence of our Members, to obtain better financial conditions than for ordinary practitioners. This is a fundamental matter since we want to make absolutely sure that all our Members are properly insured as it is ethically compulsory for any Liberal Profession.

We are pleased to notice that our Bulletins that are still published every three months are more appreciated than ever, especially since they are now thematic for each issue and available on our website with the photographs in colour.

The Post Prints of our last year Symposium on “Restoring the Invisible” has also been published this year and can be ordered via our website : www.aproa-brk.org

Our Association collaborates currently with the Flemish governmental institutions to elaborate a better definition and profile of the Conservator-Restorer as well as to establish the competence criteria that are going to be used in Flanders in the future.

Finally, I would like to announce already our next International Symposium that will take place in November 2013; the theme this time will be “Gloss and Brilliance in Conservation-Restoration”.

Michael Van Gompen, President of APROA-BRK

Bulgaria

ACB – Association of Conservator-Restorers in Bulgaria

The seventh annual meeting of ACB took place in May 2012. For the first time it was held outside Sofia – in the town of Plovdiv. The aim of the meeting was to help the colleagues in Plovdiv on their visibility, to show their work to the public and to give them support in their contacts with local authorities and other professions at local level. It also aimed in extending the membership in ACB of the colleagues in this second largest Bulgarian town. As usual, the meeting presented a poster session to the specialist and the general public.

In 2012 ACB was involved in two projects on conservation, both of them in partnership with the National Gallery in Sofia. ACB's role was to provide with expertise and to manage the projects. The first one was on transfer and conservation of mid 20th century wall paintings from a private building to the newly opened museum of Totalitarian Art. The second project was on the restoration of the gilded decorative elements in the reception hall of the former Knyaz Palace in Sofia.

Other direction of activities was focused on the legal issues. In 2012 the Ministry of Culture proposed amendments in the Cultural Heritage Act. If accepted by the Parliament they would have had a negative impact on the regulation of the profession of conservator-restorer in Bulgaria. ACB sent two letters to Minister, expressing concern of the proposed amendments and proposed to the Ministry new texts instead. Regrettably, our proposals were not taken into account when the draft was submitted to the parliament. Fortunately for the case, the government stepped down before the final voting on the law. ACB will approach the new Minister of Culture in reaction to the drafted amendments of the Cultural Heritage Act.

ACB reacted on several cases of unprofessionally carried out conservation projects.

Some of them were in contradiction with the legal regulations. One especially major case was the conservation of the Monument to the Tsar Alexander II, staying just opposite the building of Bulgarian Parliament. The conservation of the monumental metal sculpture group was entrusted to a craftsman, a caster, who had no education or specialization in conservation-restoration. This case had unfortunate development. It would have been comical if the monument wasn't one of the iconic sculptures in Sofia. The craftsman, responsible for the conservation, decided to cut the legs of the horse of the sculpture, so that it can be easily dismantled and moved in other premises for conservation. Then new legs were casted instead of the original ones. ACB sent letters to the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality (the owner of the monument), alarming of the consequences, but in spite of this the entire project continued and finished as an example of the grotesque and harmful work to a listed cultural heritage with no penalty to the people responsible.

In 2012 the book on the Competences for Access to the Conservation-Restoration Profession was presented to some officers in the Ministry of Culture. It was also presented to meetings of other professional organizations such as ICOMOS-Bulgaria, as well as mentioned in interviews in the media.

ACB also participated actively to CEN TC 346 in the work on the standards on cultural heritage.

Stefan Belishki, E.C.C.O. Delegate

Denmark

NKF-dk – Nordisk Konservatorforbund – Danmark

Nordic Association of Conservators – Denmark

This report covers the period from January – December 2012

Political agenda

The purpose of NKF-dk is not only political but also to facilitate a professional and social platform for the members. As written in the regulations the political agenda of our organisation is to promote the professional and political interests of the conservator-restorer's profession. The knowledge about our profession is being improved via collaboration with relevant organisations, partnerships in decisionmaking, and more visibility in the public arena and by promoting professional conferences, lifelong learning programmes and such.

General assembly and constitutions

The general assembly was held at the Danish Art Workshops on May 12. After the GA the board was constituted as below: Karen Borchersen was re-elected as chairman. Eva Therkildsen was re-elected as vice-chair. So was Maj Ringgaard as treasurer. Torben Ernst entered the board as ordinary member. Signe Hedegaard was elected as alternate. Carsten Korthauer continues as alternate. The editorial team of Bulletin consist of Torben Ernst, Maiken Ploug Riisom, Anne Marie Eriksen, Karen Borchersen and Rikke Melin. Katja Storkholm continues as arrangements officer. Susan Ritterband continues as accountant. Pernille Højmark and Sille Enke are elected as new accountants. Johanne Velling succeeds Helle Strehle as E.C.C.O. delegate.

Activities and publications

The School of Conservation – Communications-campaign and others

The School of Conservation has started a campaign to communicate the profession of preservation, and thereby enhance attention of the education, hoping to increase the numbers and qualifications of applicants. The campaign is distributed to the members of NKF via the website.

As of 1st of April, The School of Conservation has merged with the School of Design and Architecture under the name KADK, with Lene Dammand Lund as joint headmaster. NKF-dk participated in a meeting at the department of education the 20th February about a new concerted accreditation system for the higher educations.

On 23th of February 2012 a reception was held for René Larsen who vacated the post as vice-chancellor of the School of Conservation. Chairwoman Karen Borchersen made a speech for René and pointed out the work he had done for the education and for the profession in general.

New subject-groups

A new subject-group has been established under NKF.dk: the taskgroup Wet organic materials (vanddrukne materialer).

The second group: communicating the profession of conservation. Contact: Anne Trollehave.

Federation council meeting

This year's federation council meeting was held at Oslo on 18th of October 2012. It was agreed to revise the federation's web page.

The joint Nordic paper “Meddelelser om Konservering”

Maj Stief resign as chief editor of Meddelelser om Konservering, and is succeeded by Loa Ludvigsen. Two issues have been released during the year; one of them was a

special edition on contingency plans. It has been discussed whether an electronic version of the magazine should be available.

Museum report

At the GA in May 2011, after the publication of the museum report, the board was asked to act on behalf of the centres of conservation. Apart from specifying that the museums should be obligated to preserve their collection, NKF-dk thinks that a law should be stipulated to determine who should legally be able to do conservation/restoration on public property. NKF-dk has carried out a survey of the workshops to get an image of their position on the handling of the preservation field.

The result has shown that it is difficult to find a common ground but NKF will continue to search for a proper place for preservation in a new museum law.

40th anniversary for the Danish regional departments of conservation

The 1st of June 2012, 40 years ago, the museums conservation centre in Skive started working under the name of Viborg Amts Konserveringsanstalt. It was the first regional and joint museum conservation institution. Thereby the day also marks the 40th anniversary of the regional departments of conservation in Denmark.

Bulletin – Conservation and research in Denmark

NKF-dk has come out with two issues of Bulletin.

A special thanks to Karen Borchersen who speaks about the interesting subject of conservation and research in one of the issues of Bulletin and for the diverse professional skills represented in Bulletin. It has been interesting to read about the natural preservation of stranded whales on Danish coasts. This text on conservation and research refers to the president’s editorial in Bulletin No. 87, 2012. The Danish department in the Nordic federation of conservation has, as the only one doing so, decided to create a special membership category for conservators with a five-year education. The decision was made, not only because a lot of our colleagues today get the master’s degree, but also, to the same extent, to make visible the five-year master’s degree and the distinctive competences linked with it.

Optimisation of the research funds is reflected in the fact that the School of Conservation at present has enrolled seven PhD students from all over the Nordic countries.

The National Gallery of Denmark has succeeded in partnership with the National Museum of Denmark and the School of Conservation, to found Centre for Art Technological Studies and Conservation (CATS), by re-thinking the project’s structure of research, and by working across traditional disciplines and unite scientific and humanistic studies. The project is entirely financed with Danish research funds awarded by Veluxfonden and Villumfonden.

Out side of the major institutions in this conceivable collaboration there is an uncultivated potential – unseen by the museums. The conservators are often regarded as a part of the technical staff, even though they could just as easily be thought of as part of the scientific staff normally including historians and archaeologists. It is not obvious that conservators too are educated for and capable of doing research.

Blue Shield

Work has been commenced to establish a Danish department of the culture-historical emergency alert “Blue Shield”.

NKF-dk and ODM

After NKF-dk has voted a new amendment and added ICOM’s ethical museum rules, NKF has applied for associate membership of ODM (Association of Danish Museums. We are hoping that this entails the members being able to participate in future Fulgsø-meetings at member price. The application has not been processed yet.

Finally, the NKF-dk had a successful visit at a saddler workshop in Taastrup owned by Brian Rützou who told about his craftsmanship.

For further information please visit the addresses: www.nkf-dk and www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org

Johanne Velling, NKF-dk delegate to E.C.C.O.

Finland

*NKF-FI – Pohjoismaisen konservaattoriiliiton Suomen osasto ry
– Nordiska konservatorförbundets finländska sektion rf – Nordic Association of Conservators – Finnish Section ra*

The Nordic Association of Conservators Finnish Section was founded in 1963. The main goal of the Association is to follow the teaching of conservation, promote the development of the conservation profession and further the professional competence of the conservators.

The Association also tries to monitor the social benefits of the profession and the usage of the title ‘Conservator’. The degree title on Conservator (Konservaattori AMK) has been protected by the Ministry of Education. However, the working or professional title of ‘Conservator’ has not been protected by any means and there is no system to prevent an unqualified person from working on significant cultural property.

At the end of 2012, the Finnish section of the Nordic Association had 263 members. This was comprised of 145 full members, 3 honorary members, 65 student members, 24 subsidiary members and 8 community support members

The Board of the Association assembled 11 times in 2012, including one e-mail meeting. The Chairman of the Board was Riitta Koskivirta, and the Vice Chairman of the Board was Liisa Valkeapää. The members of the board were: Liisa Helle-Wlodarczyk, Kaisa Lindewall, Tina Lindgren, Katja Luoma, Sami Supply and Kaisu Voutilainen. The Secretary for the Association was Laura Sallas, the Membership Secretary was Anna Aaltonen and the Treasurer was Henna Koskinen. Nina Jolkkonen-Porander, who begins as the Chairman of the Board in 2013, took part in the last meeting of the year.

General meetings and training days

Two general meetings were held in 2012: the spring meeting in Tallinn on the 13th of April and the autumn meeting in Helsinki on the 5th of October 2012. Two training days for the members were also held at the same dates.

During the spring training day, our members visited the premises of the Art Museum of Estonia KUMU and our Estonian colleagues told us about conservation in Estonia today.

At the autumn training day, we were introduced to the conservation functions and facilities of the Seurasaari Open-Air Museum and the history of building conservation in Finland. Lectures were presented by Jani Puhakka, Elisa Heikkilä and Outi Orhanen. The topic of the day was also the cessation of the building conservation training programme at the Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences.

Information / Publicity

The main channel of information for the Association is the magazine *Konservaattoriliiton lehti* which was published four times in 2012 (Issues 108-111). The magazine has a print run of 300 copies and the editors were Piritta Ernvall, Kaisa Lindewall and Tuija Toivanen. To ease the editing of the paper a design programme was purchased (InDesign). The paper is sent free of charge to: E.C.C.O., ICCROM, the Finnish Museums Association, the Union of Academic Museum Employees in Finland, Tartu University Library and IIC Library in London and other associations of the Nordic Association of Conservators.

The Association co-publishes a bi-annual magazine, *Meddelelser om konservering*, with other Nordic Associations. This is a scholarly magazine focusing on the field of conservation and some articles are peer-reviewed. The first edition of 2012 was a general issue and the second was a themed issue focusing on disaster preparedness. The Finnish delegate for the paper is Liisa Valkeapää.

The Association has a web page (www.konservaattoriliitto.fi) which contains information about conservation and the Nordic Association of Conservators. The page has also contact information for the conservators who provide conservation services. The web page is managed by Liisa Helle-Wlodarczyk and Pia Klaavu. The appearance and technical features of the page have recently been revamped. The contents of the page were also renewed by a group of members: Tina Lindgren, Pia Klaavu, Henni Reijonen, Hanna Rotonen and Liisa Helle-Wlodarczyk. The Association also has its own page on Facebook which is being kept up to date by Liisa Helle-Wlodarczyk and Liisa Valkeapää.

The Association also shares the web page (www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org) with other Nordic Associations. A working group to remodel the page was founded 2011. The group meeting was held in Oslo 2012 and was attended by Heidi Gustafsson and Tina Lindgren.

Another important means of communication is the conservators' e-mail list (konservaattorit@lists.oulu.fi), which is maintained by Jari Heinonen. The list enables conservators to contact a large group of colleagues through one e-mail address.

International activity

The European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations A.I.S.B.L (E.C.C.O.) delegate for 2012 was Sami Supply. The general meeting was held in Napoli on the 14th of May 2012.

The Federal Council of the Nordic Association for Conservators annual meeting was held on the 18th of October 2012 in Oslo. The Finnish participants were Heidi Gustafsson and the Chairman of the Meeting Tina Lindgren.

The Association is a regional group of The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC). The IIC delegate is Tiina Sonninen.

The IIC wished to increase collaboration with the Nordic associations and initially suggested the exchange of publications. The Association decided to send to the IIC library our congress publications and our paper free of charge. Due to the fact that our association does not have its own library, and because the publications of the IIC are already to be found in many public libraries in Finland, we asked for our copies of their publications to be made available to other more needy countries.

The Association joined the Europa Nostra (EuNo) in 2011. The delegate for Europa Nostra is Katja Luoma and she participated in the annual meeting of the Europa Nostra Finland (EuNoFin) held in Helsinki on the 19th of March 2012. On October 17th the Association asked the Europa Nostra Finland to take a stand on the discussion about discontinuation of the building conservation studies in Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences. Within the same week EuNoFin wrote its press release and published a petition to maintain the study programme in Seinäjoki.

The Facilities

The Association has no permanent office facilities, but locations are rented when necessary. The postal address for the Association is the address of the Finnish Museums Association, but there are no personnel present at this office. Consequently, post and other correspondence are forwarded to the correct person. The archives of the Association are kept at the Toimihenkilöarkisto.

Other activities

The Board of the Association made an online petition for the continuation of the building conservation training programme in Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences. The petition gathered 640 names worldwide. The petition was also sent to the Ministry of Education and the Head of the Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences. The Board was contacted due to this petition by media.

Unfortunately, despite the Associations best efforts, the training programme was abolished.

In October 2012 Nina Jolkkonen-Porander met with the Head of the Conservation training programme Tuula Auer and the lecturer of Conservation of Cultural Historic Interiors Jorma Lehtinen from the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences to discuss the continuation of the building conservation programme. Tuula Auer said that the Metropolia would be willing to continue the training of building conservators after 2016 when the Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences discontinues the training. Metropolia is planning to apply for the necessary permission from the Ministry of Education and the Association will back this application.

The Association was asked for statements regarding the European Committee for Standardization's (CEN) proposed standards. Finnish Standards Association SFS ry held a meeting on the 5th of September 2012. In this meeting a national CEN TC 346 - Conservation of Cultural Heritage follow-up group was formed.

The Association has several working groups from different fields of conservation, for example textile, paper and archeological materials. In 2012 the working group for the building conservators (Konsti) started its official meetings again after several years' pause. Konsti has own e-mail address (pkl.konsti@gmail.com) from where subscription to their information mail-outs can be received. The paper conservators' working group met at Sinebrychoff Art Museum. The topic was pastel paintings and the meeting was organised by Liisa Valkeapää.

A working group for the 50th anniversary of the Association continued preparing the many activities planned for the year 2013. Arja Koskinen and Tina Lindgren were active in this group.

In order to celebrate the 50th anniversary a touring exhibition about conservation was decided to be assembled. The exhibition is planned to tour numerous libraries around Finland during the year 2013. A working group of conservators from different conservation fields was also founded. The working group planned and began to realise this exhibition which focused on conservation and conservation studies. It will consist of informative posters and several showcases featuring tools and materials used during the conservation process.

A new brochure for the Association and postcards featuring pictures of a variety of types of damage that had occurred to objects were designed. The brochure was published on the Association's web page in 2012. The brochure and these so called "damage cards" are to be printed in 2013 and can be handed out at events or meetings to increase the public knowledge about conservation. Also for the anniversary year, canvas bags for the members with Association's logo were purchased and an Association shirt, sweatshirt and waistcoat were designed.

Seven 100 € stipends were given to the student members of the Association who graduated in 2012 from the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences.

Economy

The Ministry of Education gave the Association a 10 000 € operating grant for the member information and purchasing non-governmental organisation (NGO) services.

The financial statements reported that the Association was operating at a deficit of 529 €. The membership fees remained unchanged during the year 2012: 48 € for standard and subsidiary membership and 42 € for the student membership.

The fee for the community supporter membership was 120 €. Applications from pensioners are given 50% discount on the membership fee.

The Association paid 200 € for the membership of EuNo, 231 € for the membership of the Nordic Association of Conservators and 1020 € for the membership of E.C:C.O. The costs for the production of Meddelelser om konservering were 3561 €.

Even though the accounts of the Association are balanced the Association is fully dependent financially on the grant given by the Ministry of Education.

The Board of the Association 7th of February 2013

France

FFCR – Fédération Française des professionnels de la Conservation-Restauration

During the year 2012, the FFCR faced the necessity to reorganize in the same timing, the internal structure of the association and its activities. The internal reorganization consisted in a complete change of the board of committee members while limiting their future number of consecutive mandates.

The change continued with the rearrangement of the tasks appointed to the administrators, so as to make these and their goals clearer.

The first assignment to put together was to insure the presence of representatives of FFCR within associations such as ICOM France, le bouclier bleu (blue shield), l'Observatoire du Marché de l'Art (Observatory on the Art market, le CIPAC (Inter-professional Congress on contemporary art)... Some representatives from the committee are very efficient due to their personalities, but in other cases, no one is present in certain of those associations which leaves the conservator-restorers point of view undefended. It is essential to improve the visibility of our profession by participating to events organized by these associations and to collaborate with their representatives by sharing information of mutual interest.

The second task to attend to is external communication. This concerns primarily our website and paper documents (such as our promotional leaflet or alphabetical glossary of terms (with pedagogic intend on our activity...), as to dispose of essential tools for maximum visibility at events such as the Salon du Patrimoine, (the Salon international on Cultural Heritage) and the Salon des Maires de France (Mayors 'association congress and Their Annual salon). These events concern mostly professionals living outside of Paris. These meetings enable local, political and / or state representatives to better understand our professional activities.

In 2012, we were actively present at the “Journées du Patrimoine” (Cultural heritage day) in places such as Auvergne, Aquitaine and Rhône Alpes, where our regional groups are very active.

For financial reasons, the association regrettably had to give up publishing the paper version of our professional directory. This was a difficult decision since its distribution enabled us to widely spread essential notions such as our professional code of ethics, the text of the Law on “Musées de France” a precise definition of our profession. By this means was also disseminated a list of our members, and a list of all the diplomas in conservation-restoration from recognized higher education degrees.

The legal procedures brought forth at the general meeting of presidents of ECCO (i.e. extract, request to the “council of State”) continue. We have developed our line of defense by adding written proof on the Master degrees level of our 4 trainings as well as the inscription at level 1 for 3 of them, in the National register of certified professions. (equivalent to a National Qualification framework).

The FFCR has also met with the representatives of the Service des “Musées de France” to find out how and when our Cultural Affairs Department had planned to ensure the implementation of the Directive on recognition of professional qualification (directive 2005/36). During this meeting, they provided us with a letter backing up our position in the appeal concerning the attribution of a public contract through public tendering, to professionals qualified at a lesser degree than the one required by the “Museum law “ and than the one issued by higher education controlled by State schools. Our association hired a lawyer to defend our professional status, because of its general interest dimension.

Three working groups have recently been put together. The first one works on the Conservation of Historical Monuments.

These constructions are not protected by any law against the intervention of unqualified or inappropriately qualified professionals. Traditionally, the treatment of such buildings was entrusted to large public service companies employing very few or no conservators. One of the difficulties lies in Building with decorative features or applied works of art, considered for their conservation as if they were “only” immovable part of a building. The aim of this group is to associate with the DRAC (Regional Direction of Cultural affairs) services and bring forth conservators at every stage of intervention on such buildings, insisting on the necessity of preliminary studies.

The second group deals with the complicated and poisoning Procurement Contracts and public tendering. The procedures to respond to such contracts are becoming increasingly rigid, demanding more and formal documents and justifications, thus time consuming, and not allowing any dialog phase before any intervention proposal. The direct consequence is a brutal decrease in prices. The group has decided to collect evidence regarding such contracts. It also provides legal advice and has helped to write letters pointing out malfunctioning regarding delays, lack of prior visits before bidding and late payments.

Another work group on labour, health and safety issues has set up training sessions on chemical risks. Another one is already planned in Brittany.

Finally, our association is working on a publication project, so far named “the white paper”, explaining our profession and work conditions (daily practice). Several papers have been written by our members. The summary and contents are being put together to get an overview of our profession in France. Many other partner professions have also been contacted and they are contributing to the work, through meetings and discussions.

A symposium announcing the publication and allowing expression of our expectations is in preparation and could be named les “états généraux” de la profession.

Amélie Methivier President
translation Jennifer Vatelot
revision David Aguilera Cueco

Germany

VDR – Verband der Restauratoren e. V. – Federation of Conservators-Restorers

Discussion with the Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs of the German Bundestag and the VDR took place. The topics included the protection of the national artistic and cultural heritage through the implementation of protection of profession for conservator-restorers in the federal states, the possibility of a federal chamber formation and thus the desired self-regulation of the profession by the Association of Restorers (VDR).

The increasing academisation of the profession since 1968 in Germany and the achievement of a continuous diploma education in almost all fields and therefore the highest quality of training in Europe was outlined. The request to politics to honour this high education within the meaning of cultural heritage by embedding a protection Act of the professional title was approached. In this context, the VDR-representative pointed on the gradual loss of quality in the German education since the so-called Bologna Process (Bachelor without internship and master as a professional qualification, DQF, since January 2012), as opposed to the EQF directive where the VDR through E.C.C.O. has cooperated.

44 years after the first diploma qualifications for restorers at a German university, the High School of Fine Arts in Dresden, and in view of the existing possibility today to achieve a professional degree at eight universities in 16 fields of conservation-restoration, decided those present of the Culture Committee in the Bundestag to support our concern of the legal regulation of the title Restaurator through a demanding letter to the Standing Conference of Culture Ministers and the Minister of Culture of the countries. (The cultural sovereignty is situated at the 16 federal states). Also the assessment in the Education Committee for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications was decided as well as the examination of possibilities to change the public procurement directives, and obtain thereby the protection of cultural heritage.

This activity underlines and supports the legislative initiative in the federal states of the VDR. The spokespersons of the federal state groups came together with representatives of the state associations of the Liberal Professions as well as three presidiums members and the Managing Director to discuss and exchange about the legal draft (for the protection of the professional title Restaurator) and the political procedure to go forward.

At the invitation of the VDR the newly appointed members of the Expert Commission for the Restorers Act of the state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern met for constituting.

The nine members of the commission have been appointed on VDR's proposal from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of the state. Its composition will ensure that the majority of the nationwide offered specialist fields in education of conservation-restoration are covered by the Commission itself.

Themes like legal position statement of allocations for restorers and authorised expert and expert accreditation for conservator-restorers were processed.

For the 75 years of the Doerner Institute in Munich, the conference Climate and Cultural Property: knowledge and ignorance was organized with the support of the VDR and supported by the European Commission in the 7th Framework Programme project Climate for Culture.

A stronger intention in the work of public relation was succeeded with the web presence, press releases and statements to actual events like the loan request of the self-portrait of Dürer Masterpieces are no trophies, the move of the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin or the grotesque „restoration“ of the Ecce Homo in Spain.

A new cooperation has emerged with the European Heritage Fair (EUHEF) in Wiesbaden and negotiations are in progress with the new, inter-regional fair Monumento in Salzburg.

The presentations of the 10th anniversary of the VDR in 2011 (10 years of fusion of seven associations) with the view from the outside and the discourse to the outside of conservation-restoration are available as free download: *Quo Vadis, Restaurierung?*

Board members in 2012 were:

Christian Leonhardt	President
Alexandra Schieweck	Vice President and Treasurer
Helma Groll	Vice President
Renate Pogendorf	Committee Member
Markus Küffner	Committee Member

For any further information please consult the website of VDR: www.restauratoren.de.

Anja Romanowski, E.C.C.O.- Delegate

Ireland

ICHAWI – The Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland

The Directors for 2012 were as follows:

Grellan D. Rourke	Chair
Niamh McGuinne	Hon. Secretary
Noureen Qureshi	Hon. Treasurer
Rachel Phelan	Membership Secretary
Fergus Purdy	CPD Officer
Jessica Baldwin	Training Sub-Committee
Maighread McParland	Training Sub-Committee
Sven Habermann	
Zoë Reid	
Paul Sullivan	

The Irish Professional Conservator-Restorers Association IPCRA representatives are Jessica Baldwin and Rachel Phelan.

Meetings

The ICHAWI 20th AGM was held on 18th October 2012 in the National Gallery of Ireland. There were no changes to the directorship, as Zoë Reid, Sven Habermann and Jessica Baldwin were re-elected being the only three members nominated. A document outlining the status of the restructuring of the Irish conservation organisations had been circulated in advance and Zoë Reid presented a brief report on the subject (see under IPCRA below), which was followed by discussion.

Office premises

ICHAWI was obliged to move from its office in 16 Parnell Square during 2012 due to the very high service costs but the OPW generously located alternative accommodation for ICHAWI (through Samir Eldin) at The Greenhouse, 17 St Andrew Street, Dublin 2.

Membership & Accreditation

There were two new members accredited by ICHAWI in 2012, both oil paintings conservator-restorers. There were three applications for accreditation processed in 2012. These members will be included in the next annual report. The Membership currently stands at 31.

Accreditation Appeal and Complaints Procedure

The Board finalised both these documents, which had been approved by the ICHAWI solicitor.

Bursaries

ICHAWI continues to support a 3-year programme of funded bursaries. A report is kept by the Institute detailing exactly how the funding is dispersed, what the students study and what they do on completion. There were 5 bursaries awarded in 2012 to students undertaking the following courses

M.A. in Conservation Studies at the University of Lincoln.

Fine Art-Easel Paintings Conservation at the Courtauld Institute, London.

M.A. Conservation of Easel Paintings at the University of Northumbria.

PhD in High Performance Liquid Chromatography of archaeological textile fragments from Dublin city in TCD.

The Institute has continued to try to source funding to support those who must travel abroad to study conservation-restoration and to support internships but has been unsuccessful to date. The current economic situation is making this very difficult.

Continual Professional Development

CPD of members is monitored on a cyclical basis by a dedicated review panel chaired by Fergus Purdy with the assistance of Jessica Baldwin and Simone Mancini. A standardised CPD form had been circulated in advance to six members randomly selected for review.

The Institute also concerns itself with the provision of CPD courses for all conservators, particularly those considering accreditation. There has been support from the Heritage Council to cover these costs. CPD awards made to 11 applicants during 2012 in the following areas:

ICON Textile Group Spring Forum on the 16th April at the V&A.

Academic Projects course 'Identifying and Making Historical European Papers' in Berlin from the 7th to 10th May 2012.

Workshop on Photographic Preservation at Trinity College Dublin in July.

24th biennial IIC Congress in Vienna 10 to 14 September 2012.

'Pigments and the Polarising Microscope' tutored by Peter MacTaggart in Somerset and organised by International Academic Projects from June 18th to 22nd 2012.

Thread by Thread course Petra Demuth

Photographic Preservation by Professor Debra Hess

Technical Analysis of the Watercolour Materials of JMW Turner presented by Dr. Joyce Townsend.

Ebenist 11th International Symposium in furniture conservation in Amsterdam.

All recipients of CPD are subsequently asked for an acknowledgement of funding and a brief report. The Institute is very grateful to the Heritage Council for reimbursing all these CPD grants.

Courses

The training committee, chaired by Jessica Baldwin organised 3 courses/workshops in 2012. ICHAWI met with Beatrice Kelly of the Heritage Council in April who confirmed the close association with the Museum Accreditation Scheme in the form of the provision of courses by the Institute.

Three courses were organised in 2012:

3-day Workshop on thread-by-thread tear mending for paintings took place at the National Gallery of Ireland from 3rd to 5th October. The key speaker was Petra Demuth and there were 10 participants.

1-day Course on Disaster Planning and Emergency Response took place at the Chester Beatty Library on 9th May. The key speaker was Emma Dadson and it was commissioned by the Heritage Council. There were 28 participants.

1-day Course on Caring for Collections took place at the Chester Beatty Library on 21st. June. The key speakers were Rachel Phelan and Zoë Reid and it was commissioned by the Heritage Council. There were 25 participants.

Conservation Award

A sub-committee was established with the task of setting up of a triennial Conservation Award for services to conservation in Ireland. A preliminary document was drawn up by Adrian Kennedy and the Chair of ICHAWI and the submitted proposal was discussed and amended by the Board.

Irish Professional Conservators' and Restorers' Association (IPCRA) & the Re-structuring of the Irish Conservation organisations

IPCRA is currently represented on the board of ICHAWI by two nominated members, Jessica Baldwin and Rachel Phelan.

There was much progress on joint discussions with IPCRA during 2012. The proposed new Articles of Association, Code of Conduct and Memorandum were circulated to the ICHAWI Board in advance of the AGM. Draft Bye Laws and Regulations were drawn up and these documents were submitted to the solicitor for comment. The agreed Articles of Association and Memorandum were submitted to the Revenue Commissioners on 17th. December for their comment in advance of an EGM for both organisations to be held on the same day early in 2013.

It was agreed that both IPCRA and ICHAWI would share the legal fees in setting up the restructured new organisation.

Heritage Council

The Heritage Council has agreed to continue the ongoing participation in targeted CPD for conservator-restorers through ICHAWI. The lack of conservation-based research proposals was highlighted and there was confirmation that ICHAWI would remain involved closely with the Museum Accreditation Scheme. A meeting was also set up to discuss the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan.

E.C.C.O.

The E.C.C.O. General Assembly took place in May. E.C.C.O. is trying to get the Council of Europe to recognise that conservation-restoration is necessary to the proper care of cultural heritage and that this recognition might be formally achieved through a convention. Susan Corr continues to represent ICHAWI and is E.C.C.O. Secretary General.

International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

ICHAWI was obliged to argue the case with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) for Ireland's continued membership of ICCROM, as the annual subscription had fallen into arrears. Ireland has been a member of this organisation since 1986 and it has been of great benefit to professionals in Irish institutions since. This serious issue was not resolved in 2012.

The Chairman is currently President of the Council of ICCROM. The DAHG has withdrawn support for annual attendance at meetings despite formally signing up to do so with Ministerial support. This reflects the lack of understanding in the Department of the role of ICCROM and Ireland's official government commitment to it and the sad lack of commitment to the preservation of Ireland's cultural heritage by the very Department which should be supporting it.

The Chairman wishes to thank the ICHAWI Board for agreeing to cover travel expenses to Rome to attend the ICCROM meetings in November, despite the difficult economic situation facing the Institute.

Institute for Conservation (ICON)/Conservation Register

As the accreditation body whose members are eligible to be listed on the UK Conservation Register, ICHAWI sends a representative to bi-annual meetings of the Conservation Register Advisory Board held in London. The current ICHAWI representative is Rachel Phelan.

International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art (INCCA)

The INCCA Education Network was formed to provide insight into relevant training, programs, workshops and courses. It also facilitates contact and collaboration between professional educators and students. It stimulates critical debate on training methodologies in relation to constant adaptation to current artistic practices and shifts in collection management.

INCCA Ireland was included on the INCCA website in 2009, Adrian Kennedy being the Irish representative. There has been little or no input for Ireland and it was agreed that the Irish branch be discontinued and Adrian Kennedy agreed that he would stay on as a representative of ICHAWI. It is possible to send national news via the INCCA website, www.incca.org. The email address is incca@cultureelerfgoed.nl.

The financial situation, particularly in relation to bursaries, is very difficult. ICHAWI is committed to seek fundraising to help those who want to follow a career in conservation-restoration. All monies received by the Institute are used for educational purposes and, as the Bursary Document shows, a lot has been achieved by the Institute in recent years.

The re-structuring of the Irish conservation organisations has made very good progress in 2012 and this work should come to fruition in 2013. I would like to thank the three delegates of both ICHAWI and IPCRA who have worked very hard to reach this goal.

Grellan D. Rourke, Chair, ICHAWI

Italy

ARI – Associazione Restauratori d'Italia – Italian Restorers Association

Registration and participation as a member in the activities of FINCO (Federation of Industries, Products, Equipment, Services and Works Specialist for Construction). The participation in this Federation makes possible a greater representation by the institutions, through the central structure of FINCO we receive help in the study of problems of regulation, we have access to a large amount of news and information, we can rely on the combined action of several associations on common issues.

- Participation in the ACCREDIA Control and Guarantee Committee
- Participation in the Exhibition of Restoration and Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Ferrara 28-31 March 2012
- Organization of digital photography courses for ARI members
- Revision of the items and the cost of the Price List of Restoration of Cultural Heritage - ed. 2012
- Publication of different articles on the conservation-restoration magazine "Kermes":

December 2011 Kermes N ° 84 "Financial Statements"

June 2012 Kermes N ° 86 "The safety and Young People"

December 2012 Kermes N ° 87 "The labor market, profession and skills"

- interviews for several magazines about the Italian law for the qualification of restorers:

After January 3, 2012 "L '(useless) excellence of the restoration in Italy"

Giornale dell'Arte, etc..

- Participation in radio and television broadcasting
- Participation in the development of Project about Safety and Young People
- Agreement with ACER (Association of Builders of Rome and province)
- Working group for the amendment of Article 182 of the Code of Cultural Heritage, hearings at the Culture Committee of the Senate, meeting with other associations and federations interested in the issue, meeting with Roberto Cecchi, undersecretary of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities;
- General Assembly of members;
- Requests for information and confirmation letter of recognition of restorer as a regulated profession
- Report to the XXVIII Congress of Bressanone Science and Cultural Heritage: "The conservation of the architectural heritage outdoor surfaces, structures, finishes and contexts"
- Report to the Conference "The detachment of the mural paintings between the ethical and practical needs" at the Restoration Exhibition in Florence: "Interventions in Emergency"

Italy

*VRS – Verband der Restauratoren – Konservatoren Südtirols /
Associazione dei Restauratori – Conservatori Dell’Alto Adige*

Last year we lost Brigitte, the year before another member of our association Adriano Salvoni, also died of cancer. They are not the only cases of conservator Restorers who suffer or suffered of this disease, there are a lot. Too many? We should be aware of this and may consider the health and safety issues in our work under a closer eye. My proposal is to put these issues into ECCO’s future “things to be done” list. For example by searching funds to start a research which is going to determinate the hazardous materials used in our profession and study their impact on the health of the operators.

Another question I would like to discuss are the legal issues in our profession.

Last year in Naples I tried to describe the rather complicated and stagnant situation in Italy. There is some news: In one of the last sessions of the Parliament before the recent elections, an important law for the Italian conservator restorers was changed. Article 182 of the “Code of the Cultural Heritage” defines the competences of conservator-restorers, their training and the criteria to identify the persons who are allowed to do the conservator-restorer profession. To reach the qualification of “Conservator/Restorer of Cultural Property” this article foresees a score system with a minimum of 300 points. A 5-year training degree at a governmental conservation school provides 300 points and allows the candidate to be registered in a list of specialists kept by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. Other regional schools provide 75 points for each study Year up to a maximum of 200 points. Universities which end with a conservation-restoration degree with no practical working experiences, provide 37,5 points for each year, while art academies with conservation-restoration specializations are worth 50 point.

The people who graduated before the new regulation or had no specific school education have to document their activity as conservator-restorer on safeguarded Cultural Property and get 37,5 points for each working year. This means that people with no education have to document 8 working years to get into the ministerial list. These working years have to be documented with written documents which have to be ratified by the single Superintendency of the area where these works have been done.

You can imagine how much paper work and digital work needs to be done considering that there are several thousand conservator-restorers in Italy! This big issue shall be finished by the 30th of June 2015.

The Italian Code of the Cultural Heritage foresees also the status of a Bachelor level conservator-restorer called “collaboratore restauratore” = associate conservaor-restorer. People with this level of education is able to become a full conservator-restorer by an examination but this persons can also stay in this status if they want and work as conservator-restorer of but without the responsibility of signing up projects, leading them or signing final certificates of good execution for conservation-restoration projects.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage will make a list for the associate conservator-restorer also, also this list will be accessible for all those who are interested.

This is the situation in Italy. How are things in the countries of the other ECCO members? Some of your countries have probably similar regulations and laws. Yesterday we saw that in some ECCO member nations there are weaknesses or lacks in this laws.

I would suggest setting up a working group in order to understand the state of things of all ECCO member countries. This could allow us to compare them and elaborate common accepted guidelines which should be submitted to the attention of the European Council and hopefully unify the regulations of the single countries.

I know this is a big issue but this could be a way to give common identity to the cons/rest of Europe.

The year 2012 was marked with some activities organised by our Association Restorers – conservators of South Tyrol where our members took part:

We held a workshop talk where some of our members presented peculiar cons/rest works like the structural reassessment of a big sized canvas painting and a new approach to deal with salts and damage caused by salts.

We invited Hans Hangleiter the discoverer of the volatile binding medium Cyclododecan to held a two day's workshop.

Martin Pittertschatscher, VRKS Representative for E.C.C.O.

Malta

MAPCo-re – The Malta Association of Professional Conservator-Restorers

MAPCo-Re was founded in 2006 and became a registered member of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations on the 31st October 2007.

MAPCo-Re's first General Meeting was held on the 31st January 2008.

Members of the MAPCo-Re Committee of Management, serving between 2012-2013 include:

James Licari	President
Lindsay Galea	Secretary
Michael Formosa	Treasurer
Valentina Lupo	Public Relations Officer
Simon Dimech	NGO Officer
Roberta De Angelis*	Educational Officer
Amy Sciberras	Events Organiser

* Roberta De Angelis resigned due to other commitments in December 2012.

This progress report is meant to give an overview on the work done by the MAPCo-Re Committee of Management, hereafter referred to as CM, since the last submitted report in August 2010 till the current month 2013. It covers the period from August 2010 to May 2013, during which the CM has held several meetings.

Statutes

The Statute has remained exactly as approved at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 15th April 2008.

Local Affairs

The Malta Federation of Professional Associations

As stated previously, MAPCo-Re forms part of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations (MFPA), in which we are obliged to attend the monthly round table council meetings. The Federation of Professional Associations is made up of 14 professional member organisations.

Federation members:

Malta Institute of Accountants (MIA); Medical Association of Malta (MAM); Malta Chamber of Pharmacists (MCOP); Dental Association of Malta (DAM); Chamber of Engineers (CoE); Kamra Tal-Periti (KTP); Association of Speech-Language Pathologists (ASLP); Maltese Psychological Association (MPA); Maltese Association of Youth workers (MAY); Malta Veterinary Association (MVA); Malta Association of Professional Conservators & Restorers (MAPCo-Re); Malta Association of Social Workers (MASW); Society of Medical Radiographers (SRM); Malta Association of Physiotherapists (MAP).

The Federation of Professional Associations (MFPA) was set up in 1970 with seven organisations. Today, the membership is 14 organisations and the Federation has its own premises which include five board rooms and a conference hall.

It is important to note that a number of organisations within the Federation have legal recognition within the Laws regulating the particular profession, whilst others have recognised representation on their respective competent authorities. Each organisation can nominate a representative to sit on the council of the Federation and the council officials are elected yearly.

A key objective of the Federation has always been to create the climate necessary for the development of an interdisciplinary approach to activities undertaken by the member associations whilst maintaining their professional independence, professional standards and code of ethics. Furthermore it encourages its member organisations to promote and organise continuous professional training for their members. Within this context the Federation aims to promote the professions as a group and to contribute towards the advancement of the interests of society in general.

The Federation is also actively involved at European level through its membership within CEPLIS, the Council of Liberal Professionals of Europe. In particular it has collaborated on a number of directives mostly related with professionals, education and health and has contributed to the drafting of a code of ethics for professionals later adopted by CEPLIS.

It is noteworthy that CEPLIS highly regards the contribution of the Federation so much so that it held its Annual General meetings for 2012 and 2008 in Malta.

On the 19th February 2013, as president, James Licari expressed the gratitude (in the name of all the members of MAPCo-Re) towards the Malta Federation of Professional Association (MFPA) for assisting MAPCo-Re for the past four years (since 24th July 2007), as an associate member. MAPCo-Re has also been represented for most of the council meetings during these years. As stated within the Federation's statute, MAPCo-Re was entitled to request that their membership be advanced to a full federated membership. This was approved unanimously by the council members.

[MAPCo-Re's application to register as a non-government organisation \(NGO\)](#)
As stated in previous annual reports, the CM decided that MAPCo-Re must apply as soon as possible to obtain an NGO certificate and a Voluntary Organisation (VO) number. The application was handled by Mr Simon Dimech, with the assistance of Ms Lindsay Galea. The MFPA supported this application with a covering letter.

MAPCo-Re is still awaiting further news on this application. Once this is achieved it is important that one of the committee members attends and participates regularly the Malta EU Steering and Action Committee (MUESAC) meetings.

Conservation Laboratory set up within the National Archives (Rabat)

Honourable minister Dolores Cristina (Minister for Education), in 2011 inaugurated the opening of the conservation laboratory within the National Archives, employing Mr Simon Dimech (a MAPCo-Re Committee Member) and Mario Gauci, who has been working within this field for around 30 years. Books and documents housed at the National Archives, dating as far back as the 1500s, are to be conserved at this new laboratory. Minister Dolores Cristina said setting up the laboratory was a natural step after the archives became an agency in 2005. The archives contain one of the largest collections in Malta, spanning from the 1530s to the present day.

International Affairs

MAPCo-Re has been an associate member of the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations – ECCO (<http://www.ecco-eu.org/>) since 2011. Due to financial reasons, MAPCo-Re could not join as a full member. During the informal talks with Dr Van Gompen, he mentioned that the membership fees for full membership were being revised and therefore it was possible that MAPCo-Re could benefit more (for approximately the same amount being currently paid), from being full members. The CM aims to look into this possibility.

Public relations

The General Assembly and Permanent Committee of the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS)

MAPCo-Re was invited to attend the General Assembly and Permanent Committee of the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS) held in Malta in collaboration with the Malta Federation of Professional Associations (MFPA). This was held on the 20th_21st of May in Valetta, capital of the beautiful island of Malta and a site of World Heritage (UNESCO).

On the evening of the 20th of May, a gala dinner was organised to support a Maltese charity. That evening CEPLIS honoured a number of colleagues who have played an important role for the development of the liberal professions within the EU.

May 21st was dedicated to the meetings of CEPLIS' Permanent Committee and General Assembly. Amongst other guests, a university Professor addressed the subject of “the relevance of liberal professions in a fast changing world”.

During the conference the Malta Federation of Professional Associations (MFPA) organised a seminar for its members, followed by a meeting with His Excellency the President of Malta, Dr George Abela on the 21st May 2012 at San Anton Palace in Attard.

Mr James Licari attended both the seminar and the meeting with the President. The President made a brief speech on the importance of the associations of professionals, the importance of collaborating together and on achieving a respectful approach to setting standards and keeping them.

In this meeting, Mr James Licari also met Dr Michael van Gompen (APROA/BRK, Belgium). Various issues were discussed informally, such as the educational developments in Malta, the legislation, the basic running of the profession locally.

Dr van Gompén also was given a tour of the National Conservation Division within the National Agency, Heritage Malta, Bighi. The tour proved to be very interesting and informative about the local situation/s.

Approach to Maltese Authorities

The introduction of MAPCo-Re to Maltese authorities that bear an impact in the conservation field in Malta was considered as an important step. Meetings with the following institutions have been considered and planned: the Prime Minister of Malta (2012), the Opposition Leader of Malta (2012) Heritage Malta (HM), Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA). Prior to any meetings the CM met, discussed and established the main points to be presented to the authorities. The official meetings were set up with the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader, through the assistance of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations. The meeting with the Opposition Leader, Dr Joseph Muscat, was held on 11th October 2012, at the Partit Labourista Headquarters, Hamrun. This meeting was established, in the light of a (then) possible National General Election.

The meeting with the Prime Minister of Malta 2012, Dr Lawrence Gonzi, and Member of the European parliament, Dr Simon Bussuttil was held on 10th November 2012, at the Professional Centre, Gzira. This meeting was established, in the light of a (then) possible National General Election.

A brief news item was mentioned in the local newspapers and in televised news programs, stating that this meeting was undertaken. Links may be found within the MAPCo-Re Facebook page.

The Heritage Malta Acting- Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Frank Mifsud, retired in November 2011 and was replaced by Mr Joseph Scerri, in January 2012.

The CM sent a letter congratulating the CEO and requested to have an official meeting with him on issues pertaining to our profession, with emphasis on the conservation division. Unfortunately, this meeting did not take place. In November 2012, Mr Scerri resigned due to another appointment within the European Parliament offices, assisting Dr Tonio Borg (European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy). Mr Kenneth Gambin (Chief Curator- Heritage Malta) was appointed Acting-CEO until further notice. Mr Gambin is aware of MAPCo-Re and its members. MAPCo-Re will await for the appointment of a subsequent CEO, to request another meeting.

The superintendent of Cultural Heritage in Malta, Mr Anthony Pace, is aware of the efforts MAPCo-Re are doing within the field, but unfortunately, could not meet the CM due to other commitments. He still requested to have the official list of MAPCo-Re members to be kept on record within the Malta Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. This list was provided to him (based on the paid members), stating the qualifications and areas of specialisation of each individual.

The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) were meant to be contacted but were undergoing a reform and so the meeting was not established.

Links with two local NGOs representing International conservation-related organisations in Malta, were kept: the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). One CM member of MAPCo-Re, in fact, sits in the committees of these organizations, namely Mr Licari – in the first as the Vice-president of ICOM-Malta and in the second, as Honorary Secretary of ICOMOS-Malta.

The participation of MAPCo-Re members in the committee of these associations ensures that due importance is given to the role of conservator-restorers within the remit of these NGOs. It also serves as a source of information in relation to the activities of these associations, including seminars, or any financial opportunities that these NGOs may offer, such as scholarships.

Another CM member was also employed within another local NGO, namely Din L-Art Helwa, as the in-house conservator-restorer overseeing the conservation projects within the Our Lady of Victories Church, Valletta.

Introductory meetings with other NGOs, such as Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti, and Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, are still aimed to take place in the future. All have been, formally or informally, informed about the existence of MAPCo-Re, and all seem willing to collaborate.

Promotion in the local media

All MAPCo-Re members are being encouraged to promote the profession of the conservator-restorer and the right code of practice. This can be done through mentioning the scientific approach to the various interventions undertaken as well as the reasons behind decisions taken to clearly be distinct from craft-like/unethical interventions. Emphasis on the ethical considerations of Preservation, Documentation, Conservation and restoration can be also mentioned. One may also provide information on how to select a qualified and experienced conservator-restorer. Public presentations as well as presentation of papers within conferences are encouraged.

Website

The MAPCo-Re website was discussed during several CM meetings. The content of the website has been discussed and drafted, but due to the current financial situation of MAPCo-Re the CM decided to postpone the setting up of the website.

The website will eventually include the following sections:

- Mission statement;
- Committee members;
- List of individual MAPCo-Re members with their specific area of expertise in conservation;
- Code of Ethics of the Association;

- ‘About us’ section;
- ‘News’ section;
- Notice board;
- ‘How to choose a conservator-restorer’;
- Links to: the Codes of Ethics of ECCO and of the Warrant Board (Malta); the website of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Heritage Malta, Ministry of Education and Cultural Heritage, Federation of Professional Associations.

In the meantime, since setting up the website has proven to be a demanding task, in terms of time, effort and money, the CM members have constantly strived to update the Facebook page, with articles and events on cultural issues, with emphasis on conservation-restoration. The social media service seems to provide a quick and efficient source of Public Relations for MAPCo-Re.

Education

Conservation degrees in Malta

More recently, substantial developments have taken place in relation to Conservation degree programmes in Malta. On 20th June 2010 a press release announced that an agreement was signed between Heritage Malta and the University of Malta for all tertiary education courses to be transferred to the University of Malta under the jurisdiction of the Department of Built Heritage (Faculty for the Built Environment).

The B.Cons. (Hons) will only continue for the next three years, as currently there are students still reading for this degree but no new intake of students will take place. The press release also announced that within the next two years the Faculty for the Built Environment will work on developing Masters courses in Conservation, planned to be launched in October 2012. Admission to such courses will be open to graduates in Archaeology, History of Art, Science, Architecture, Engineering and Conservation.

Following the informal discussions with Dr van Gampen, a letter was sent to the authorities from ECCO, on the advice of MAPCo-Re. The European Confederation of Professional Conservation-Restoration Organisations E.C.C.O. wished to express concern about the recent developments in Conservation-Restoration education in Malta as informed by MAPCo-Re. E.C.C.O. understood that the proposed changes in the educational format will result in either a stand-alone Master's in Science Degree in the Conservation of Decorative Architectural Surfaces (stone and wall paintings) (two years, with a foundation year prior) or a technical education focused on a narrow range of specialisations offered at an EQF level below that of the Bachelor educational level. The latter was of particular concern for E.C.C.O. on the following grounds:

According to E.C.C.O Guidelines, the level at which graduates are qualified to enter the Conservation-Restoration profession is at a Masters level, which must be achieved by a period of full-time study of no less than 5 years at a university (or at a recognised equivalent). This should include well-structured practical internships and education establishments should offer the possibility of studies leading to to PhD level. Neither of the proposed educational routes satisfies these requirements. The introduction of two routes will disrupt the profession by creating a two tier professional standard in Malta. This has caused difficulties within the employment market in other countries in Europe, as there is a tendency to employ the less qualified as a cost cutting measure. It is therefore not unreasonable to expect that it will have a significant negative impact on the professional situation in Malta.

Furthermore, lowering the educational standard, to a technical level, will both devalue the professional status of the Conservator-Restorer within the cultural heritage sector, both public and private, and critically, will be perceived as a reduction in the care offered to cultural heritage itself. It will affect the image of the Maltese Conservation-Restoration profession through the European market, and may reduce the possibilities of Maltese colleagues finding work or internships abroad.

The proposed reduction in educational standards resonates especially in the context of the exceptional cultural heritage the Maltese islands possess, as is evidenced by the number of world heritage sites.

Technical courses may be organised and undertaken but not with the designation or reference to 'conservation' or 'restoration'. These could be 'packing and transportation' courses for cultural heritage pieces; 'inventory compilation', 'Care taking in Museums and historical sites', etc. Such technical course to be offered within 'conservation-restoration' should only be provided as Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for the already qualified and 'warranted' conservator-restorers. If ever Bachelor courses re-open within other specialisations, as originally provided by the Institute for Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage (ICMCH), they should be taught at the same level provided in the past by the University of Malta, with strict international parameters (including the selection of lecturing and supervising staff). It may also be advised that a minimum number of applicable students should be stated (such as not less than 5 students), to make these courses sustainable.

Unfortunately, E.C.C.O. may view the current changes to the education and training of Conservator-Restorers in Malta as a retrograde step in the development of the profession throughout Europe. E.C.C.O. may respectfully urge the Maltese Government to reconsider the proposed changes and to ensure that any developments within the education are in line with the current European norms as expressed above.

E.C.C.O. may offer to provide further information on how best these can be met and will sustain the local representative MAPCo-Re within their aims and principles.

Despite the above, MAPCo-Re may report that the 'Master of Science in Conservation of Decorative Architectural Surfaces was opened in October 2012, under the auspices of the Faculty for the Built Environment².

Six students have started this course, which will have a three-year duration (full-time), with the first year set as a ‘foundation year’ in order for them to acquire an adequate level of knowledge in the various fields. One student is a conservator-restorer in the Inorganic Material sector; another three are coming from an art history background; and two from an architecture background. This first year will not be compulsory for B.Cons. (Hons) graduates, since most of the programme would already be covered during the bachelor’s degree. The following two years will be geared towards the actual conservation-restoration as well as the thesis. No part-time Masters course, in conservation, is being planned out till now. The recruitment of lecturing staff, on the other hand, is being undertaken in line with the University criteria and regulations, which usually require lecturers to be in possession of Masters or PhD degrees, although there could also be exceptions.

[Participation in the Conference on Industrial Heritage in Malta, entitled: “Approaches to Industrial Heritage in Malta: What works?”](#)

A one-day conference (March 2013), Entitled: “Approaches to Industrial Heritage in Malta: What works?”, was organised by The Farsons Foundation in collaboration with the Department of Built Heritage, Faculty for the Built Environment at the University of Malta. This conference highlighted the value of Malta’s industrial past, its general understanding and the need to preserve it for future generations.

A panel discussion on how to repair, restore and re-use Malta’s industrial past was held with the participation of a number of professionals and organisations that are pioneering industrial heritage in Malta.

The panel consisted of Prof Robert Ghirlando from the Faculty of Engineering; James Licari, president of the Malta Association of Professional Conservator-Restorers (MAPCo-Re); Joseph Magro Conti, heritage planning unit manager at MEPA’s Planning Directorate; Ray Polidano, director general of the Malta Aviation Museum Foundation and Godwin Vella, senior curator Ethnography

at Heritage Malta. The debate was chaired by Prof JoAnn Cassar, Head Department of Built Heritage, Faculty for the Built Environment. Following the conference the panel members were asked to submit an article each on their perspectives related to this cultural field. These articles may eventually be published. James Licari provided an article titled ‘Industrial Heritage- the conservator’s perspective’.

[MAPCo-Re listing on banner attached to Our Lady of Victories, Valletta](#)

Din L-Art Helwa (NGO) has listed MAPCo-Re as one of the ‘Principal Valued Partners’ in the holistic conservation Project of the Our Lady of Victories in Valletta. This list is permanently hung on the exterior of the church, for everyone to see.

Ethical issues

News on local newspapers has often initiated a debate on ethical issues that bear an impact on the conservation field in Malta. These debates were also stimulated by other MAPCo-Re members, who had sent comments and asked the Committee to work on these issues. News that was discussed during the Committee meetings is:

[The gold issue in St John’s Co-Cathedral](#)

An article entitled: ‘St John’s probes claims that gold leaf was swapped’ (written by Bertrand Borg on the Sunday Times of Malta, June 24, 2012), instigated deep and argumentative discussions with the CM as well as the members.

The CM, would have liked to have express their concern about the claims reported in the public media regarding allegations that conservator-restorers, working on one of the smaller domes within St John’s Co-Cathedral, swapped gold leaf with an artificial substitute (Sunday, June 24th).

MAPCo-Re, as the only professional association active locally, would like to first and formally point out that these allegations seem to date to be still unfounded and therefore the conservator-restorers within this particular company should not be condemned in this way

before proven with absolute certainty that they are in fact guilty. Despite these allegations, the professional association will support any academically qualified and experienced members that follow the code-of-ethics as stipulated by the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers Organisations (E.C.C.O.). The principles upheld by the association are there to protect the cultural heritage, on which conservators-restorers intervene, and also to promote and protect the integrity of all its members.

The CM may also state that the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation have one academically qualified conservator-restorer employed to oversee such projects and CM are aware that this particular employee was out on sick leave for around six months due to serious health issues, and therefore could have not seen any misconduct, if actually undertaken. The CM would have encouraged the scientific investigation of this case and requested that it is done by a conservation scientist within an accredited laboratory. The CM were willing to assist the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation, wherever they can and hope that the investigation is completed and published for all to be aware of. The CM may also state that the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation have one academically qualified conservator-restorer employed to oversee such projects and CM are aware that this particular employee was out on sick leave for around six months due to serious health issues, and therefore could have not seen any misconduct, if actually undertaken. The CM would have encouraged the scientific investigation of this case and requested that it is done by a conservation scientist within an accredited laboratory. The CM were willing to assist the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation, wherever they can and hope that the investigation is completed and published for all to be aware of.

Such allegations are not pleasant, and The CM did not want all the MAPCo-Re members (professionally qualified and experienced conservator-restorers) to be discredited over this situation, especially since these were referred to as 'local restorers'.

If however these allegations are proven to be true, MAPCo-Re will act to protect the integrity of its other members. Till the date of this annual report, no official results reached the CM.

The issue of unqualified personnel being given the job designation of 'Conservation-Restoration Co-ordinators'

The CM has been verbally informed that prominent papier-mâché artist/sculptor and a stone mason/contractor were employed within a government department with the job designation of conservation-restoration co-ordinators. These two people, have proven track records in their individual artistic capacities, but apparently have no formal training in conservation-restoration (by an accredited institution). The CM discussed the issues and will try to obtain clear facts on these cases but is bound to put more pressure on the acceptance of the legislation regulating such works. More of such works may develop, since informal training is reported to be happening often, locally.



Figure 1: The president with MFPA representatives

The Netherlands

RN – Restauratoren Nederland

In the year 2012 RN has been forced to focus on membership criteria.

Due to an official complaint made by a member of the public to the ‘Dutch Agency for protection of the market’ RN had to defend the criteria that were used in the application for CR membership. The complaint stated that these criteria were not objective.

After the agency looked into the market situation it concluded that in practical sense the RN title of ‘CR membership’ had a monopolising effect. Which means that in tenders and official requests for bids the CR membership of RN was one of the in/out criteria.

And these criteria were tested and found not objective enough. The following discussion turned out to be very juridical. The criteria were filleted and interpreted with the mindset of a lawyer.

In the meantime RN has been able to organise 4 meetings on several educational topics. At the end of 2012 RN had 422 Conservator-Restorer members.

Norway

NKF-N – Nordisk Konservatorforbund / den Norske Seksjon

Firstly I would like to thank Ingrid Louise Flatval, the previous leader of NKF-N, for the large amount of time and hard work that she and the committee have dedicated to running this organization. A lot has been achieved during her tenure, including the re-establishment of a good economy, which included a reduction in the membership fees, the launching of the new website, the establishment of regional groups, and equally important the establishment of a positive atmosphere in the committee. She will be a «hard act to follow»!



It has not been an easy task to find someone to replace her, or for that matter find people willing to join the committee, which is a surprise given the good working environment, enthusiasm and energy that has been built up. Having said that we are pleased to welcome Ingebjørg Mogstad as a full committee member and Karen Mengshoel as reserve member. I was elected as leader at the August 22nd committee meeting and will continue in this role until the next General Assembly. I will also continue as the NKF-N representative on the E.C.C.O. committee, which is not unusual as there are a number of other people on the E.C.C.O. committee who are also presidents of their own organizations. This is an important role and Norway has a long history of active involvement at a European level.

This brings me on to a constant theme in an organization that relies on volunteers, which is that for our professional organization to prosper it needs your support. Without your active participation we will be unable to work towards and achieve the goals of improving the professional conservation status in Norway and actively participating within Scandinavia and further afield.

Which leads me on to what we have achieved since the last General Assembly, obviously the focus of the committee has been to find a replacement for Ingrid Louise but this has not been the only task:

- The hosting of the Nordic conference – 15 to 17 October. The organization committee lead by Ida Bronken has done a fantastic job arranging what will be one of the largest conservation conferences held in Norway. At present we have 259 participants from 14 land will be arriving in Oslo for what we are sure will be an outstanding couple of days. The committee has also been impressed with the level of funding that has been raised for this event. As guarantors NKF-N has set aside a sum of money to support the conference which due to the level of donations received and excellent accounting may not be required. We hope, once the conference accounts are settled, that the conference breaks even.



The conference has not been the only ongoing activity; we have also been active in:

- Translation of the CEN technical words to Norwegian
- Continued work with the insurance industry regarding their use of professionally qualified conservators when evaluating insurance claims and working on damage. This work we hope to report more on in the near future

Looking to the future forthcoming activities – we are planning:

- NKF-FR meeting - one day after the conference – and one topic that will be open to discussion is the shared web site.
- We are working to make electronic version of past NKF-N congress publications that will be available on the web.
- We will be looking towards organizing smaller conference events in 2013.
- We are working to reorganize the NKF-N archive so that it can be deposited with the State Archive, thereby making it more accessible.

Jeremy Hutchings NKF-N Delegate and Committee Member

Portugal

ARP – Associação Profissional de Conservadores-Restauradores de Portugal

Due to the end of previous mandate, 2012 was year of elections for the board of Arp. Thus, by the end of March, was constituted a new board that compassed members from all academic backgrounds and therefore representing all universities with CR courses, as well with various professional experiences, becoming a very heterogeneous team that reflected the actual reality of the conservator-restorer in Portugal. The new board kept two members from previous boards and made a point of continuity from the work set before and also of acknowledge of preceding achievements, while setting actions of improvement for the next mandate.

Meanwhile, by the beginning of May, and as a measure of lowering national budgeting in public services, the national board of cultural heritage (Direcção Geral de Património Cultural - DGPC) was restructured, by the issuing of a new law that merged all public institutions and, in some cases, shifted the responsibility of guardianship, managing and conservation and restoration in cultural heritage to local government. This change has made more visible the difficulties felt by conservators-restorers to act in the market as a liberal profession, becoming impossible to answer public tendering, and those who had been working as free-lancers at national museums were dismissed of their positions. Meanwhile the lowering of public funding also disturbed the funding for investigation in conservation-restoration, diminishing the projects accepted nationally, which weakened one main resource that institutions in cultural heritage had for managing their activities.

Some tasks were undertaken in order to promote the recognition of the Conservator-restorer as a qualified professional and to uphold the Association mission in a broader sense of the society.

Such as, the reconstruction and updating of the website, along with the revision of contents and documents with the collaboration of the members, updating the design as well the adjustment of the previous back-office and archives into a more modern and friendly system, was started. A national questionnaire was elaborated with the goal of assessing the state of the profession of Conservator-restorer, as well as its relationship with the association. It was built as to be legally framed according to the National Commission for Data Protection, and of anonymous answering. It will be disseminated in 2013 through Arp's partners and mailing list.

With the aim of promoting the recognition of the Conservator-restorer amongst partners in society, and as a mean to facilitate communication and joint ventures, Arp began a series of consultations with the universities of Conservation-Restoration as well as other private associations. As a result of this effort, Arp organized its IV Seminars entitled "The cultural plurality: rethinking diversity of cultural heritage and its conservation", which took place at the Museu da Electricidade on November 30th and December 1st, giving visibility to the conservation of cultural heritage less common studied, and thus the focus were themes like scientific heritage, natural history, industrial and railways, public art, image and sound. As well, and in the context of the European Days of Cultural Heritage - The Future of Memory, Arp re-joining DGPC invitation, invited the speakers who attended ICOM-CC's conference in Glasgow, and the Luso-Spanish II Meeting - Conservation and Restoration of Decorative Arts in Portugal and Spain, Ciudad Rodrigo, to present again their communications at the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, on September 29th.

Finally the protocol with Lisbon City Council was concluded and Arp's office moved to a low rental venue in the spring. Meanwhile in order to enable all members an easier access to all the documentation, books and magazines, these assets were gathered and a protocol with the DGPC was carried out in order to establish a deposit protocol within the Laboratório José de Figueiredo Library for those documents.

The numbers 13 and 14 of the publication “Conservar Património”, still from the year 2011, despite the lack of sponsorship, that usually was assumed.

A new delegate for E.C.C.O. was nominated and attended the GA in Naples, having been invited to join the committee and voted in, at the GA.

Finally, at invitation of the representative of Europa Nostra in Portugal, Arp was represented by its president at the annual award ceremony held at the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, on the 1st of June.

The year ended with a positive note, through the contact with universities with the goal of writing protocols of mutual interests and with the perspective of future meetings with the DGPC to debate upon the profile and future of the Conservator-restorer.

Rui Borges, Ana Fryxell, Elis Marçal

Slovak Republic

KR – Komora Reštaurátorov

The 2012 was mainly a year of introspection. The Chamber had to deal with some internal matters connected with the discipline of its members. It is always unpleasant to admit problems on both sides – the administration and the members who “consume” the services. Well, we still have to learn how to run a professional body in the most suitable and effective way.

The Chamber published the new issue of the Basic documents with all recent amendments required by the changes based on the adoption of EU directives. The booklet includes also translation into English.

The Board of the Chamber realises the increasing importance of having the national laws concerning cultural heritage translated into English and having access to the European legislation produce translated into Slovak. The negotiations with the Ministry of Culture of the SR on providing the English translation of the Law on Cultural heritage in SR have already started. We feel the need to communicate the various regulations within Europe, but the language barrier still stands. It concerns the most practically and politically active generations of restorers. Maybe the next generation of students, who “travel the world” will take over and communicate more.

Until then, we can report the translation of the CEN norm Sta EN 15898: 2011 Conservation of cultural property. Main general terms and definitions. It was published and slowly finds its way into practical use. The translation was commented by both - the Chamber of Restorers and by the Heritage Office of the SR before its release. The involvement in the translation was possible only based on the early information from the valuable source – E.C.C.O.

It is still only a vision for the future – requiring university level of education for conservators in Slovakia, as well as it is for restorers. To change the difference in traditional understanding of these two as being not equally responsible is a task which needs a change in approach to professionalism.

On 8-9 September 2012 the Komora reštaurátorov offered its office room in Bratislava for the autumn E.C.C.O. committee meeting. Since Bratislava is located very close to Vienna, where an ENCoRE event took place in that week, we managed to organise also a meeting with ENCoRE representatives. The portion and understanding of practice required in C/R education was the theme of the discussion among Wolfgang Baatz, René Hoppenbrouwer, Laura Fuster López (ENCoRE) and the E.C.C.O. committee. Invited and present were also colleagues from the KR – Tomáš Lupták, its former president and Prof. Boris Kvasnica, the Head of the Department for Restoration Creation from the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava, which is a member of ENCoRE.



*Mechthild Noll-Minor, Jaap van der Burg and Juraj Puškár
(President of KR) chatting at an informal dinner in Bratislava*

In autumn the KR organised its annual International Seminar on Restoration. This time it took place in the beautiful surroundings of the Slovak region Gemer. Besides interesting lectures given by our members and a guest from Croatia, we visited restoration realisations in situ in various regional churches with medieval wall paintings.

Barbara Davidson, Vice president of KR

Slovenia

DRS – Društvo restavradorjev Slovenije

In the year 2012 a new board and president was elected: Jernej Hudolin; the seat was moved to Restoration Center, Ljubljana. The E.C.C.O. delegate remains Jana Šubic Prislan.

As every year in May 2012 DRS with the Museum Association of Slovenia jointly organized the 12th „Spring Meeting of Conservator-Restorers“ in the Ethnographic Museum in Ljubljana. There were 62 attendants presenting their work on a poster and some also with short oral presentations for the numerous public. The event was accompanied with the usual publication with the abstracts of presented posters and a paper. This was at the same time an event within the „May Transversal“, organized by Academy of Arts – Restoration Department.

DRS kept alive the international connections with colleagues from Italy, Austria, Germany, Bulgaria, Rumania, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia, invited them to the Spring Meeting and participated in poster exhibitions in Belgrade and Skopje.

As member of E.C.C.O. participated in their work through the delegate Jana Šubic Prislan.

For the fifth time the Mirko Šubic awards were awarded in City Museum of Ljubljana, the winner of the lifework award was Rado Zoubek, a specialist in mural paintings.

In 2012 four workshops were organized:

- Christoph Steidl Porenta, »Restoration of precious metals«, 17.–19. and 23.–25. April 2012
- Tamara Trček Pečak: „Ajkec’s new tales“, June 2012
- Martina Vuga: »Conservation technologies for wooden objects«, 18. December 2012

We were regularly asked for expert advice from Chamber of Culture of Slovenia, mostly in reference with the status of conservator-restorers working in private practice.

Together with the Museum Association of Slovenia we jointly organized a trip to Poland, visiting Warsaw, Krakow and Auschwitz, visiting the institutions that work on the field of conservation-restoration.

In December we also jointly organized the New Year Meeting which was held in the National Museum in Ljubljana, where we presented our work over the year.

DRS kept alive the website, which is the primal source of information for conservator-restorers in Slovenia and also accessible to the public.

Jernej Hudolin, President DRS

Spain

ACRE – Asociación de Conservadores-Restauradores de España

GT – Grup Tècnic – Associació professional dels Conservadors-Restauradors de Catalunya

The Grup Tècnic had two major activities during the year 2012: its merging with the other Catalan association and the organization of its biannual international meeting, the Reunió Tècnica.

The merging between Grup Tècnic de Conservadors Restauradors (GT) and the Associació de Restauradors-Conservadors de Catalunya (ARCC) achieved a no turning point during a GA in September 2012, when the name of the new association as well as its Statutes and its effective date of creation were approved by the Assembly of both associations together. The new association was effective from 1st of February 2013 on and was named Associació professional Conservadors-Restauradors Associats de Catalunya (CRAC). It will unite almost 300 professional conservators working in Catalunya and hopefully will make our group more visible and stronger to defend our profession.

Interdisciplinarity was the issue chosen by Grup Tècnic for its 13th Reunió Tècnica (Interdisciplinarity in Conservation: Reality or Fiction?). Even if the subject was interesting, we had a drastic decrease of assistancy, with only 89 compared to 154 in 2010 with the issue of sustainability... But we were still able to publish Preprints and the public was thrilled with the debates and the roundtable at the end of the meeting. For more information, contact the CRAC secretary's office at info@cracpatrimoni.com

An interesting subject in which the GT took part is the role of interlocutor of the conservator figure in the architectural renovation of the Hospital de Sant Pau in Barcelona. This huge Modernist architectural complex from Lluís Domènech i Muntaner was built between 1902-1930.

It covers 13,5 hectares and represents 19 buildings. It is on the UNESCO World Heritage list since 1997 and its use as hospital has been changed to welcome several international institutions in 12 of the pavillons. Since 2009 and until 2016 a project for its « restoration » with a budget up to 178 million euros is in process. In 2011 the GT had been contacted by conservation firms working on some of these pavillons, observing acts going against the conservators' code of ethics. The GT was then asked to act as a neutral interlocuteur to represent our profession to advise the stakeholders about certain incorrect interventions according to our code of ethics.

Agnes Gall Ortlik, CRAC

Sweden

NKF-S – Nordiska Konservatorförbundet / Svenska Sektionen

Board members

Pia Christensson	President
Anna Celander	Vice President
Kicki Eldh	Secretary
Christian Stadius	Treasurer
Ulf Brunne	E.C.C.O. delegate

Additional board members

Alissa Anderson	Web Editor
Jessica Lindewall Bothén	Trust Secretary
Jan Blåberg	Members Secretary

Accountants:	Yvonne Florman, Carola Bohm
Nordic council:	Pia Christensson, Alissa Anderson
Election Committee:	Carin Petersson, Erika Hedhammar

Meetings and gatherings

Last year NKF-S had no opportunity to send a delegate to E.C.C.O General Assembly, due to the resignation of the previous delegate. A new delegate will be assigned to the post at the annual meeting 2013.

NKF-S has had twelve board meetings during 2012. For the members there have been two official meetings. The annual meeting was held at the craftsmanship laboratory in Mariestad. Craftsmanship is a new research area within the conservations department at the University of Gothenburg. Craftsmanship research deals with issues of how practical experience can deepen the understanding of history and traditional expertise. The laboratory is collaboration between the cultural heritage sector, artisans and the academic research community.

The autumn meeting was held in Lund at the Lunds Universitys Historical Museum. The theme for the meeting was “The conservator as exhibitions producer”, where three conservators from different museums in Lund told about their experiences producing exhibitions. The competence of conservators has proved to be useful also when they perform other than strictly conservation tasks.

In October the board of NKF-S participated in the nineteenth NKF international conference on moving collections in Oslo, Norway, which also many of the NKF-S members attended.

During 2012, NKF-S has held regular pub evenings for conservators at four locations in Sweden. This has given conservators opportunity to meet other fellow professionals in their area.

Publication

NKF-S publication – *Realia* – publishes three numbers a year. The paper is available exclusively on-line, and covers conservation and preservation news in Sweden.

Progress and development

During 2012 the focus of the board assignment has been the statues of the organization. The previous statues had been written in 2006, and lacked many of the essential statements for NKF-S. The final voting for adaptation of these changes will be committed at the annual meeting in 2013.

Media and Cultural Policy – the Conservator as Creator of Public Opinion

17-18 October 2013, NKF-S is arranging a post educational course for members of NKF “Media and Cultural Policy – the Conservator as Creator of Public Opinion”.

The aim with the course is to inspire and encourage conservators from all the Nordic countries to help themselves being seen and heard, to dare take a debate and rouse public opinion. Participants will learn how to be representatives for conservation and also how to market the profession. During the two-day course there will be lectures, discussions and workshops focusing on media training, lobbying, how to write a polemical article, rhetoric and presentations. In 2012 NKF-S has assigned a project group for the planning of the course. The planning group has initiated several parallel projects where NKF-S is being more visible in the public debate.

Members

The 31 december 2012 NKF-S had 214 regular members, 132 associated members, 13 retired members and 7 supporting institution members.

Switzerland

SKR / SCR – Schweizerischer Verband für Konservierung und Restaurierung / Association Suisse de Conservation et Restauration

The Swiss Conservation-Restoration represents 292 full members per 31.12.2012.

The aim of SCR are by its bylaws:

- to foster professional protection of cultural heritage
- to improve professional qualification and to support conservation-restoration training and continued professional development
- to collaborate with other bodies working in the field of protection of cultural heritage both on national and international level
- to maintain, defend and foster ethical and social-economic interests of the profession.

In these areas, the following actions were taken during 2012:

Internal reorganization

Internal reorganization has been finished in 2011 with revised bylaws (agreed upon by E.C.C.O.), and a transparent procedure of application for conservators with a training not listed by Encore. In 2012, no further reorganization was necessary.

Promotion of professional protection of cultural heritage

Raising awareness within the field

With the goal to raise awareness for and sensitivity to conservation topics of professionals working within the field of cultural property, the SCR has participated in the annual meeting of an increasing number of partners in the field in order to show presence and to give conservation more visibility and understanding.

Raising awareness with the general public

With the goal to raise awareness for and sensitivity to conservation topics of the general public, the SCR was a partner of the “cultural heritage day” during which, through some of his members, the SCR has been able to reach out to the general public with guided tours on conservation.

Raising awareness in politics

The SCR has taken part in the public hearing on the National Qualification Framework.

In addition the SCR has commented in several cases on ethics in conservation projects and on job postings not adequate to the conservation-restoration field.

Improve professional qualification

Continued professional development

The SCR as a body organizes courses of strategic interest for continued professional development of its members (like introduction to authors rights and other legal topics, insurance, tendering, management, etc.), whereas the specialty groups organize practical courses on conservation topics. All in all, in 2012 the 13 courses organized by the SCR were attended by over 250 participants. The continued professional development of its members is seen as highly important to SCR in order to “guarantee” for the high professional quality of its members (see further below). The challenge for the near future will be to reach all of the members with continued professional development.

Training in conservation-restoration

The SCR is on regular basis in contact with the Swiss Conservation Restoration Campus (Conservation Schools) to discuss arising problems.

Collaboration on national and international level

On a national level, the SCR started to get in regular contact with all relevant associations in the broader field of preservation, with professional and political bodies and with administrations in order to exchange information and – in increasingly – to collaborate on problem solving and strategies.

Defend interests of the profession

All the above-mentioned actions lead into this topic.

In addition, the SCR has increased its effort to place the “label” Conservator-Restorer SCR as a brand of quality, with increasing success. Using this brand means that the SCR has to be able to stand up for the qualification levels of its members through transparent membership regulation, and through high quality continued professional development of its members.

*Karin von Lerber (President)
Kristina Blaschke and Susanna Pesko*

Associated Members

Czech Republic

AMG-KKR – Asociace muzeí a galerií ČR-Komise konzervátoru-restaurátoru

The Commission of conservators-restorers (CCR) of the Association of museums and galleries (AMG) in the Czech Republic is the professional association of 228 members (institutional- conservators-restorers of museums and galleries and individual-specialists in the area of protection of objects of cultural heritage), whose main objective is the promotion and development of conservation-restoration of the museums objects and the improvement of the general level of protection of the cultural heritage in the Czech Republic. Their members are organized in the form of the regional sections and working groups, with the aim to apply of scientific research in the context of the material investigation and technology treatment, to assess of conservation-restoration interventions, to disseminate of knowledge on the basis of presentation and educational activities, including increasing the credit profession among the professional and lay public.

The Board:

Ivo Štěpánek

head

Technical Museum in Brno
stepanek@technicalmuseum.cz

Dušan Perlík

deputy head

Central Bohemia Museum in
Roztoky u Prahy

Dana Modráčková

I. member

Regional Museum in Chrudim
modrackova@muzeumcr.cz

Petr Kuthan

II. member

National Gallery in Prague
secretary

Alena Selucká

Technical museum in Brno
selucka@technicalmuseum.cz

Website:

<http://www.cz-museums.cz/web/amg/organy-amg/komise/komise-konzervatoru-restauratoru>

Romania

A.C.C.R.O. – Asociația Conservatorilor și Restauratorilor din România – The Conservators and Restorers Association of Romania

The Romanian Conservators and Restorers Association (RCRA) was founded in 2010. It is still in full process of development and evolution. Most of its members are conservators and restorers of movable heritage pieces and work in museums.

The major achievement of 2012 was the Association acceptance as member of E.C.C.O., in the General Assembly in Napoli, held on the 12-14th of May 2012.

Although in the previous years the General Assembly of RCRA had taken place in the spring, in 2012 it was held in autumn, on the 30th October – 1st November. The president and the members of the board for 2012 – 2014 were elected at this moment.

Another constant challenge in 2012 was the update and development of the official page of the Association, www.accro.ro. The webpage mirrors the works of the association as it also includes an image gallery of its activities. In the same year, the Association also started an online library in order to help our colleagues gain access to foreign specific works, papers and reference materials.

RCRA's activity in 2012 meant a growth in visibility, a greater transparency of its work by means of the webpage and continuity. However, a problem was the constant change of its members.

The global economic status is not the best and we are still at the beginning, with little experience regarding widespread activities, so we have chosen to start with small, yet meaningful steps. We strive to be realistic and become reliable partners for our colleagues at E.C.C.O.

President A.C.R.R.O. 2010-1.11.2012: Gheorghina Olariu (president), Mirel Bucur (vice-president, until the end of 2010), Dan Fărtăiș, Violeta Gheorghe, Olimpia Mureșan (members).

Board A.C.R.R.O. 1.11.2012-2014: Olimpia Muresan (president), Dan Fărtăiș (vice-president), Petronela Fota, Leonard Fulău, Gheorghina Olariu (members).

Olimpia Mureșan, President A.C.C.R.O.