



Short News November 2015

Dear Members,

The year 2015 is well into its second half and the committee has met for the second time this year – in October. The meeting was planned well ahead, since we were invited to Warsaw in Poland. The occasion was the IIC 3rd 2015 Student and Emerging Conservator Conference, where the president Susan Corr was invited to take part in a podium discussion, which was simultaneously broadcast on line. Committee members also took part in establishing contacts with conservation restoration students and colleagues representing the profession in a country of 38 million citizens. Poland is still not represented in E.C.C.O. but the future could bring changes, especially when the emerging professional conservator- restorers realise the importance of the common ground we share is the basis for cooperation towards best practice within Europe and gradually also in the global extent. We would like to express our thankfulness to the hosts Marzenna Ciechanska and Krzysztof Chmielewski and praise their hospitality!

The committee meeting was not just the second meeting this year. E.C.C.O. committee have met virtually 10 times until now. Some of the working groups required individual meetings, which are now led via Skype. The results of the working groups were presented at the physical meeting 17th -18th of October at the premises of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. These included the report of the WG on the re-design of the E.C.C.O. webpage, the report on the status of the submitted replies to the on line questionnaire. Results from the individual member organisations were expected by the end of September, but not all have arrived yet. We also spoke about the NACE Code, which is the Index Number of Economic Activity in Europe. The objective is to register the profession Conservator-Restorer in the section M which is for Scientific and technical specialised professions.

ACRE had a two day seminar centred on the E.C.C.O. Strategic Plan. This fruitful activity was held in Najera, Spain in July, with President Susan Corr attending.

Our Croatian organisation requested us to accept the change of their English name Croatian Conservation – Restoration Organisation acronym HRD to CCRO.

The Romanian ACRO asked E.C.C.O. for the presence of our official representative Jana Subic to their event Heritage without Borders, which will take place 19 – 20th October 2015, in Alba Iulia.

E.C.C.O. committee is contemplating to offer an E.C.C.O. themed Presentation Portfolio template to our members. Our Vice Secretary General Anja Romanowski prepared a short presentation for the VDR GA which explains within 10 minutes what E.C.C.O. is, what E.C.C.O. does and where E.C.C.O. wants to go. The feedback showed how useful it can be to spread a better understanding of our work as a confederation. We're doing some improvements, translating it into English so that it might be used also by our member organisations for their concerns. The proposal is to produce a collection of materials which could be stored and offered to our members for presentations on respective occasions. Arising from the fact that E.C.C.O. now has observer status to CDCPP, the committee submitted answers to the questionnaire HEREIN for European heritage policies "Crowdfunding" within the Strategy for the cultural heritage in Europe in XXIth century. Consultation of the member States on the methodology for drawing up the European



Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century. This was acknowledged in the working method material of the CDCPP Steering Committee.

A MoU between E.C.C.O. and ICOMOS has been proposed – the first draft was prepared and submitted to the ICOMOS GA in Fukuoka in Japan by our Vice President Stefan Belishki who is also the President of ICOMOS Bulgaria to Grellan Rourke, the Vice President of ICOMOS. The signing of the finalised version is expected in 2016. Grellan Rourke also delivered a paper on the professional competences to ICOMOS Ireland on behalf of the president as the ICOMOS meeting coincided with the E.C.C.O. meeting in Poland. The paper is now up on the ICOMOS Ireland webpage.

Last but not least the committee spent time planning the next GA. In 2016 E.C.C.O. will be already 25 years young and it is considered a very good opportunity to call a Presidents Meeting to celebrate the occasion! We are glad to inform you that the next GA is going to take place in Berlin on Sunday, the 5th June 2016. The GA will be followed by a special Presidents Meeting to celebrate E.C.C.O.'s 25th anniversary on the 6th of June 2016 with the leading theme "Conservation Matters! - The profession of the conservator-restorer as a strategic resource for cultural heritage." We hope to have several speakers involved in European cultural heritage politics and E.C.C.O.'s partner organisations to discuss issues around this theme. The preparation of the event is under the auspices of our Vice Secretary General Anja Romanowski and the VDR. In 2016 VDR celebrates its 15th anniversary of the fusion of the 7 German associations of conservation-restoration, so its representatives kindly offered to prepare the event together to increase their visibility with E.C.C.O. as a guest.

Finally, to round up the activities for the year, the President will attend the ICCROM GA in Rome 18th -19th November. E.C.C.O. has observer status to the GA. The Statutes working group will meet this coming weekend in Paris as planned.

Dear Members, we hope, your season 2015 is a successful one and you will finish the year without too much stress!

With best regards,

Barbara Davidson
General Secretary
Bratislava