

Association of Conservator-Restorers in Bulgaria (ACB)

E.C.C.O. National report 2013

The eight annual meeting of ACB took place in October 2013. It celebrated the tenth anniversary of ACB and traditionally included a poster session. The host of the meeting was National Military Museum. For the first time conservator-restorers from the museum presented their work to the public. Their projects attracted special attention from the public and the visitors in general. The event was in combination with a one day conference, held in partnership with the Department of Conservation at the National Academy of Arts in Sofia. The conference celebrated fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Department.

In 2013 ACB was successfully completed the project in partnership with the National Gallery in Sofia. The project was on the restoration of the gilded decorative elements in the reception hall of the former Knyaz Palace in Sofia.

Traditionally, a major part of activities was focused on the legal issues. In 2013 the Ministry of Culture started again work on a draft for amendments in the Cultural Heritage Act. Four members of ACB took part in a large working group and actively discussed number of texts in the law. Regrettably, the work on the draft was seized before the end of the year without being finished. No information on eventual restart of the work is given by the Ministry.

ACB took an active stance on two unprofessionally carried out conservation projects. They were not only in contradiction with the legal regulations, but in practice endanger seriously significant heritage monuments. One especially drastic case was the conservation of mosaics in the town of Stara Zagora. ACB sent letters to the Ministry of Culture and the alarming of the tragic results, and as result two members of ACB were invited in disciplinary commission by the Ministry to evaluate the results and to propose sanctions.

The website of our Association (www.arbbg.org) was redesigned and now provides much easier with information. It also includes direct links to E.C.C.O. and some of its core documents. ACB Facebook page is more active with more than 250 "Likes" by December 2013, coming from different countries in spite of the fact that most of the postings are in Bulgarian.

ACB also continued to contribute to CEN TC 346 in the work on the standards on cultural heritage.

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