



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Preamble:

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.

The MAPCo-Re Committee would like to wish everyone a prosperous new year 2018- The European Cultural Heritage Year (ECHY2018).

2017 was a rather smooth running one, yet an active year for most of us. We must all be thankful for the local and foreign conservator-restorers working in Malta who have reached great achievements, which contribute extensively to our professional community. We thank you all for promoting the profession and keeping the standards of ethical undertakings. Kindly never lose sight of these ethics which distinguish us from craftsmen or skilled personnel, a status we are constantly striving to not be associated with.

We hope that this year will bring us satisfaction and professional fulfillment in our profession as well as in our community. As was done in previous years, MAPCo-Re aims to fulfill its duties towards the conservation-restoration profession and towards nurturing the community of conservator-restorers in Malta. We encourage our members to participate in our activities, as well as communicate with us their achievements or events, so as to reach the community at large.

We thank the European Confederation of Conservation-restoration Organisations [E.C.C.O.] and the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [M.F.P.A.] for their support. We must especially thank all the participating members and helpers for supporting our activities, as well as their families in the background who support them.

We appreciate all the backing MAPCo-Re received towards the proposed amendments and hopefully the implementation of the Cultural Heritage Act, which is still in its final stages. This is a great concern for the professional status of conservator-restorers in Malta. This concern was supported by the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [M.F.P.A.], the European Confederation of Conservation-restoration Organisations [E.C.C.O.] and other academic professionals, who all

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contributed towards a common goal. We encourage you to continue to support this cause and promote the law that will establish the protection and responsibly of our profession.

Achievements of 2017:

Meeting with the Prime Minister, Dr Joseph Muscat:- On Wednesday 1st November 2017, The Malta Federation of Professional Associations [MFPA] invited MAPCo-Re to be represented within a meeting with the honorable Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat. I attended as President and was the youngest member of a delegation of ten representatives. Various topics were discussed, which included:

- Introduction about the Federation and what the Federation is involved in.
- Proposal on the setting up of a 'Professional EU desk' in Malta for all professions.
- Proposal to set up a unit to see that all professions in Malta are treated equally and in the same manner, through a legal framework. A study may be undertaken to create a standard framework to bring all laws concerning professionals in line with each other, serving all professionals based on the functional policies already in use (proven the test of time) within various professions.
- Presenting the project proposal on establishing the Centre of Excellence in Professional Ethics in Malta.
- Presenting the concerns of the Chamber of Engineers and Malta Association of Professional Conservator-Restorers, regarding their warrants.

MAPCo-Re informed the Prime Minister that our members are still concerned about the amendments being undertaken to the Cultural Heritage Act and the Warrants for Conservator-Restorers. Dr Muscat responded by saying the case will be looked into. MAPCo-Re will continue to follow these issues up.

Meeting with the Archbishop, Mons Charles J. Scicluna:- Following the various articles released within the media over the summer months, concerning mainly cultural property belonging to the Church, the MAPCo-Re committee had requested an audience with the most reverend Mons Charles J. Scicluna, to discuss our members concerns and suggestions. Committee members attended this meeting on Wednesday 22nd November 2017. The main topics discussed were: the acknowledgement of the professional conservator-restorer; the accessibility of archives to conservator-restorers and representation on Church Cultural Heritage Commission.

The archbishop was sincerely interested in our concerns. The President of the Commission responsible for the Catholic Cultural Heritage was also present and emphasized her concern that the warrants have still not been issued. Due to the latter fact, they have requested

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MAPCo-Re to remain in direct communication with them, but to also issue an annual members' list, so as to clearly indicate who the professional conservator-restorers are. MAPCo-Re emphasized that their role is to help promote the profession and to try to unite the community of professionals working locally. The MAPCo-Re representatives stressed extensively the recommendation to appoint two members (nominated by the association) on the Commission (as will hopefully also be done with the warrant board as stipulated in the Cultural Heritage Act). The archbishop said that he will look into this possibility. Regarding the accessibility of archives to the conservator-restorer community, the archbishop stated that this is a little more complex and a request must be done to the specific archives on case by case bases. If any problem is encountered by our members we are to contact his office straight away. The meeting ended on a positive note, were by he expressed his interest in involving out community more within their cultural heritage activities and projects. A prayer was said for God and Our Lady to guide the conservator-restorers with their professional lives as well as with their abilities.

Meeting with the Principal Permanent Secretary (PPS), Mr Mario Cutajar (at the beginning of 2017): - This meeting went well and discussions were very amicable. MAPCo-Re's president and secretary introduced the association; discussed various amendments proposed in the Cultural Heritage Act; a concern regarding the call and requirements for two positioned, for 'Principal Conservators' (one for Timber and the other for Metals) within the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure; mentioning the ECCO- general Assembly and Presidents' Meeting to be held in Malta 2018; and the request for a career path for conservator-restorers within Heritage Malta. This will need to be followed up in the future.

- Meeting at Superintendence of Cultural Heritage: regarding the conservator-restorers represented on the Warrants Board: - MAPCo-Re kindly asked Dr Jeanine Rizzo (Art lawyer) and Mr Ben Rizzi (President of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations) to join the secretary and President of MAPCo-Re for this meeting (Friday 21st April 2017). Unfortunately, Mr Ben Rizzi could not attend. The latter mentioned persons, Mr Tony pace (the superintendent), Mr Nathaniel Cutajar and Mr Russell Muscat were present. The discussion was a lengthy one but MAPCo-Re representatives insisted that the two practicing representative on the Warranting Board had to be nominated by a recognized professional body and not any representatives from a private firm. A letter was sent to the persons present, explaining in depth the points discussed as well as legal justification for MAPCo-Re stands.

- ECCO General Assembly and Presidents' meeting Malta 2018: - The dates proposed for these events has been established as commencing on Friday 27th April and ending on

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Tuesday 1st may 2018. Arrangements with Heritage Malta were established to book the relevant sites (mainly to be held within Forte St Elmo). Hotel prices were collected and a Pre-event document was sent to ECCO to be used for delegates to be encouraged to attend this great event in the European Cultural Heritage Year within the Cultural Capital, Valletta 2018. We are currently working on establishing the costs and sponsorship for a 'networking reception' to be on the 30th April at Forte St Elmo. Weather permitting we will be entertained through the pyrotechnical display of the Fireworks Festival. Ms Chiara Galea and Ms Claire Scerri (conservators- Area B) have offered to assist in organizing the event. All such help and assistance will be greatly appreciated.

- **MFFA Membership** is due and the invoice received is of Euro470 (minimum rate), we were paying much less in the past. Last year I had arranged with the President of the Federation to remain paying the same as previous years. This year the same arrangement was established.

- **MCAST Memorandum of Understanding**:- MCAST has asked for MAPCo-Re to sign an MOU, which seems favourable to MAPCo-Re but the committee felt it best to send for ECCO approval. Unfortunately, there might have been some misunderstanding and ECCO has advised against the signing of this MOU. Clarifications are being requested and further discussions will be undertaken.

- **Heritage Malta Memorandum of Understanding**:- MAPCo-Re has had informal talks with the Chairman and new acting CEO of Heritage Malta to possibly sign a MOU, which will benefit both entities.

- **MAPCo-Re applied for local Civil Society Fund (CSF) funding provided by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector**:- Unfortunately, these were not awarded to us, but we will try again next year.

- **Outreach and Publications**

The MAPCo-Re committee would like to thank all our members who constantly contribute articles and public presentation on projects undertaken, as this serves as outreach for our professional within the local communities. MAPCo-Re is also drafting various informative articles to be published, to help promote the scientific approach undertaken by our members. One such article will appear within 'Tesserae November 2017 issue' (this is the biannual Heritage Malta Journal). Others will be published in due course.

The MAPCo-Re committee is constantly appealing to the members to also contribute, as each individual has a right to do so within this association. If any of the individual

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members have any suggestions they are encouraged to express them with the committee to hopefully improve our association public relations strategy. Any members who would like to provide an article or articles for publication, may feel free to do so and MAPCo-Re may assist by finding a source where to publish it/them. In the last few months of 2017, the committee approved the uploading of pictures and articles related to the work of our members. MAPCo-Re's Facebook page is available for the promotion of our profession and local achievements

MAPCo-Re was also approached by a media house which produces Kulturanews (a regular 1.5 minute features broadcasted before the evening news on TVM. Members were asked to express their interest in featuring their projects within this program. MAPCo-Re compiled a list and provided this list to the producers to follow up.

The MAPCo-Re committee also expressed interest and welcomes its members to kindly provide them with photographs which may be used for the promotion of our profession, these may include but are not limited to details of cleaning tests, deterioration developments, and the actions taken within the intervention such as cleaning, retouching etc. Such pictures will be used to show concepts and professional steps without referring to particular individuals or projects. In cases where particular projects need to be referred to, MAPCo-Re will duly acknowledge the conservator-restorer (member) involved.

- Fund raising Activities (BBQ and Drinks) -

The MAPCo-Re Committee managed to organize the annual BBQ and Christmas drinks as generally is expected to gather funds and build networking between our members. Both events were successful but it is worth mentioning that the attendance of the BBQ reached the largest number we have ever had to date.

- Attending the monthly council meetings of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [MFPA]

The President of MAPCo-Re (James Licari) actively participates within the Federation Council proceedings and discussions. The MFPA is still working greatly towards establishing a European Centre of excellence in Professional Ethics, in Malta.

- Advising various NGOs on conservation-restoration projects.

- Attending other public consultation meetings and fora on cultural heritage.

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Proposed achievements for 2018:

- Establishing membership cards for member in 2019. These will hopefully provide added benefits to our memberships.
- Assisting in the discussions on the content of the MCAST Higher Diploma in Cultural Heritage Skills.
- Organizing and hosting the ECCO General Assembly and Presidents' meeting in Malta in April 2018. This is being proposed as Valletta will be hosting the European capital of Culture and 2018 will be the European Year of Cultural Heritage (ECHY).
- Consolidating the agreements and discussions with the various local authorities, and NGOs
- Attending the monthly council meetings of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [MFPA]
- Keeping an open communication with the ECCO committee and possibly collaborating with them on various projects
- Undertaking an academic conference on conservation-restoration
- Organizing various social activities for our members and friends, to build the community spirit.
- Acknowledging the achievements of our members and colleagues
- Keeping update our public relations via our Facebook page and other outreach programs.

The Committee would like to thank all and we hope to contribute towards the conservation of our collective past for the present and future generations.

The MAPCo-Re Committee 2016-2017

James Licari (President)

Lindsay Galea (Secretary)

Michael Formosa (Treasurer)

Valentina Lupo (Public Relations Officer)

Simon Dimech (NGO Officer)

Amy Sciberras (Events Organiser)

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