

## ARI National Report 2015

After the adoption in 2013 of the new law on the figure of the conservator-restorer, which defined the borders of the profession (accreditation system for existing CRs and 5 years university study for new professionals), in June finally the public notice setting down the rules for accreditation were published: a mixed system based on education and documented professional practice. ARI was in a constant constructive dialogue with the ministry of culture to define and fine-tune the guidelines regarding the application for the accreditation of the existing professionals. Our objective was to guarantee the compliance of the competences of the profession as defined by the national legislation (DM 86, 2009) by the applicants and the actual feasibility of confronting declarations and documentation. Not all our proposals were met as there were other lobbies – arts and crafts, restoration technicians and architectural restoration enterprises –, which pushed in the opposite direction.

The accreditation phase was concluded at the end of October with roughly 6500 applicants. The verification process should be concluded at the end of May 2016.

As a result of this process there has been a discussion inside our organisation, if we should continue to accept all legally recognised CRs or if we should be more stringent allowing only CRs, which have been trained in the 3 institutions under the direct control of the Ministry of Culture. After an often harsh confrontation the position to accept all legally recognised CRs prevailed.

In spring an in-house company of the ministry of culture published a job opening for CRs for the site of Pompeii, asking as a precondition to have been trained at the institutions of ministry itself. ARI in accordance with the Council for CR education at the ministry of universities decided to oppose the announcement and obtained that university trained CRs were considered as well for the job.

Considering the reorganisation of the sector through the new law ARI during the accreditation period organised a day of study on the professional figure of the conservator-restorer. The focus was on competences, education, professional development and the professionals in three round table discussions: representatives from the ministry of culture, education institutions and nine associations representing professionals working in conservation-restoration in various ways in Italy. The major part of the associations agreed to prepare a common declaration of the outcomes of the day of study. But unfortunately only ARI and two other minor associations finally signed the document.