

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

Croatian Conservation-Restoration Association (Hrvatsko restauratorsko društvo, HRD) was extremely active in 2017.

1. Membership

At the beginning of the year, all members were asked to renew their membership. The membership has increased to 62 members, 36 of which are full members.

An electronic membership directory has been introduced. The national law on associations required this.

2. Benefits for members

Since November 2017 HRD has been included in the list of professional associations (societies) whose members have a 25 % tax-exempt for projects relating to arts and culture (this includes conservation-restoration projects).

3. Website, social networks and other communication tools

Younger members were encouraged to apply for the website administrator position. Several members put forward their candidatures. They will also be tasked with managing the official email addresses and the forum.

Stela Cunjak and Marko Buljan administer HRD Facebook page and Instagram profile.

Maja Sučević Miklin is in charge of HRD mailing list. The list is used to share and disseminate information on topics related to conservation-restoration (announcements of conferences, workshops etc.).

4. Participation at E.C.C.O.'s events

Maja Sučević Miklin and Sagita Mirjam Sunara continue to serve as E.C.C.O.'s delegates.

Marija Reberski, President of HRD, took part in the E.C.C.O. General Assembly in Stockholm in May 2017. She presented a brief report on the situation in Croatia, and followed discussions on strategic planning activities related to mutual acknowledgement of competences between E.C.C.O. member-countries based on the guidelines provided in *Competences for Access to the Conservation-Restoration Profession and Clarification of Conservation-Restoration Education at University Level or Recognized Equivalent*. Participation in this event enabled Reberski to network and exchange experiences with colleagues from other member-countries.

At the GA, Reberski was informed about the plans to mark the European year of Cultural Heritage. Numerous activities have been planned in collaboration with ICCROM, ICOMOS and other relevant stakeholders in the field of cultural heritage protection and preservation.

5. Participation at national events

Several HRD members participated in the round-table discussion entitled "Does Croatia Lack Educated Conservators-Restorers?" It should be noted that they were invited to represent their institutions. The event was jointly organized by the Arts Academy in Osijek and the Museum of Slavonia. The issue of specializations not covered by the three existing university study programs (Zagreb, Split and Dubrovnik) was discussed. The question arose if the existing programs should introduce the missing specializations, or if a new study program should be started (in Osijek). Members of the museum community stated that Croatian museums lack conservation-restoration staff. The need for protection of sacral heritage has also been recognized. It was concluded the owners (the Church) should be more actively involved. The following proposal was put forward for dealing with these issues: (1) strategic planning (involving the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Science and Education, Croatian Conservation Institute and other businesses), (2) technical planning (involving conservation-restoration study programs), (3) operational execution (involving those that practice conservation-restoration).

HRD participated at the 14th International Conference of Conservation-Restoration Study Programs that was organized by the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb (April 20–22, 2017). At a round table discussion, students were informed about HRD's activities and how they could contribute to the Association's mission.

6. Collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia

In April 2017 Marija Reberski, Andrej Aranicki and Zvezdana Jembrih (HRD) had a meeting at with Krešimir Partl, State Secretary, Davor Trupković, Assistant Minister of Culture, and Ranka Saračević Würth, Head of the Sector for Cultural Heritage Protection. Legislative framework was discussed that concerns the conservation-restoration profession. Just as an example, a one-year internship is required before a candidate could become eligible to take the national examination to become an accredited museum conservator-restorer. A two-year internship is required before a candidate could become eligible to take the national examination to become an accredited conservator-restorer. A person holding the professional title "museum conservator-restorer" cannot obtain a licence to perform conservation-restoration treatments on objects inscribed in the National Register of Cultural Heritage. However, all museum collections are inscribed in the National Register of Cultural Heritage.(!) At the same time, a person holding the professional title "conservator-restorer" cannot get a job in a museum because those positions are reserved for "museum conservators-restorers". No concrete steps or suggestions were put forward by the Ministry of Culture, but the need was recognized to harmonize three national laws: the Law on the Protection and Conservation of Cultural Property, the Law on Museums, and the Law on Archival Materials and Archives.

A working group comprised of Marija Reberski, Marko Buljan, Sagita Mirjam Sunara, Andrej Aranicki, Tina Bertović, Radivoje Jovičić and Nives Maksimović prepared a set of proposals for the improvement of the bylaws that regulate the accreditation and licencing of conservators-restorers. Maja Velicogna Novoselac, Antonina Srša and Jasmina Podgorski collaborated with the Museum Documentation Centre (Muzejski dokumentacijski centar) on the proposal on the improvement of legislation that concerns museum conservators-restorers. HRD sent a Letter of Support to the Museum Documentation Centre regarding the proposed changes to the Law on Museums. The aim was to stress that all conservators-restorers, regardless of where they, share the same views and wish to advance the profession. The Arts Academy in Split team (Sagita Mirjam Sunara, Lana Kekez, Krešimir Bosnić and Jurica Matijević) actively contributed to the public discussion on the Law on the Protection and Conservation of Cultural Property. HRD supported their set of proposals.

A Letter of Support was requested from E.C.C.O. for the above-listed activities. HRD is grateful that E.C.C.O. provided support.