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. MAPCo-Re’s first General Meeting was held on the 31st January 2008.

2013 was a year which unfortunately caused our small conservator-restorer community great sorrow, the loss of our dear colleague and friend Angela Bugeja in a tragic accident.

We were however pleased for our five new and, unfortunately, final graduates in conservation-restoration whom we know will strive to build the profession locally, as well as contribute to our professional community. Ironically, 2013 also marked the 10th year anniversary since the first conservator-restorers graduated with a Bachelor degree (Honours) in Conservation and Restoration Studies undertaken at the University of Malta. We are proud of the local and foreign conservator-restorers working in Malta who have reached great achievements. MAPCo-Re is thankful to all those members who keep promoting the profession and respect our code of ethics. All members have been advised to never lose sight of these ethics which distinguish us from unqualified craftsmen, a status we are constantly striving to not be associated with.

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 for supporting and help us with our activities.
Achievements of 2013

- Meeting the Prime Minister (Dr Joseph Muscat) and discussing various issues related to our profession, including the professional warrants, the requirement for government to abide by the international frameworks/standards and the need to appoint academically qualified conservator-restorers within government entities related to the conservation-restoration of our cultural heritage.
- Meeting the Parliamentary Secretary on Culture and Local Government (Dr Jose Herrera). This meeting was very focused on the warranting issues and the possible amendments to the Cultural Heritage Act. MAPCo-Re made several suggestions and showed strong concern on the grandfathers’ clause. Most suggestions are being considered and MAPCo-Re is in direct contact with this office with any such concerns.
- Meeting the Minister of Education and Employment (Mr Evarist Bartolo) and discussing once again the professional requirements as well as discussing the possibility of assistance with continuous professional development (CPD).
- Meeting the Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Administrative Simplification (Dr Michael Farrugia) to discuss the possible contribution of MAPCo-Re members to the planning reform as well as improving the professional status within this remit.
- Attending the monthly council meetings of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [MFPA], as well as the monthly public Lectures.
- Formally corresponding with various government authorities as well as creating a petition to stop the Diagnostic Science Laboratories (DSL) at Heritage Malta from being removed from the Bighi Conservation Division at Heritage Malta.
- In direct communication with the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorer organisations [ECCO] who are also supporting the latter mentioned undertaking.
- Applied to be certified as a voluntary organisation. The application was vetted and accepted. MAPCo-Re is now officially a local voluntary organisation.
- Organising social activities for our members and friends. MAPCo-Re held two barbeques and a pre-graduation party for the graduates in 2013, which were all successful.
- Advising various NGOs on conservation-restoration projects.
- Participated in a local conference on the concept of ‘Industrial Heritage’ and published an article in the proceedings of this conference.
- Attending other public consultation meetings and fora on cultural heritage.

The MAPCo-Re Committee 2013

President- Mr James Licari
Secretary- Ms Lindsay Galea
Treasurer- Mr Michael Formosa
Public Relations Officer- Ms Valentina Lupo
Voluntary Organisations Officer- Mr Simon Dimech
Events Organiser- Ms Amy Sciberras

Affiliated with:

ECCO
European Confederation of Conservator-Restorer Organisations

Malta Federation of Professional Associations