



Dear Colleagues and friends,

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

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 became a full federated member of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations in 2013.

The MAPCo-Re Committee would like to wish everyone a prosperous new year 2016. The conservation-restoration profession has achieved a lot in the last years and we hope that more will be achieved in years to come. We thank you all for helping in the promotion of our profession and abiding by our professional ethics. It is important to never lose sight of these ethics which distinguish us from unqualified craftsmen, a status we are constantly striving not to be associated with.

As was done in previous years, MAPCo-Re aims to fulfil its duties towards the conservation-restoration profession and towards nurturing the community of conservator-restorers in Malta.

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 hope to see more of our members during this year's activities.

We appreciate all the support MAPCo-Re received to present a concrete discussion on the retention of the Heritage Malta Conservation Division, Diagnostic Laboratories and their equipment. This was a great concern for the professional status of conservator-restorers in Malta. The online petition created and the support from 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, all contributed towards a common goal, which seems to have been achieved, as most of the equipment was retained by Heritage Malta and is currently developing various conservation scientific projects. We encourage our members to use these facilities.

Affiliated with:



Malta Federation of
Professional Associations

Achievements of 2014-2015:

- Meeting the Parliamentary Secretary on Justice, Culture and Local Government (Dr Owen Bonnici). 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 currently in direct contact with the ministry.
- Participating in a subcommittee discussing the amendments to the Cultural Heritage Act related to the Warrant and professional status of the conservator-restorers, following the Cultural Heritage Forum 2014. The sub-committee was composed of a legal representative, a university representative, a ministry representative and a Conservator-restorer representative. The original Cultural Heritage Act 2002 was compared to the recommended amendments proposed in parliament prior to the last general election, keeping in mind the Cultural Heritage Forum 2014 discussions, as well as recommendations presented in the past to the Ministry. All perspectives were looked into and scrutinised so as to obtain the most holistic proposals for the future.
- Meeting the Minister of Education and Employment (Dr Evarist Bartolo) and discussing once again the professional requirements as well as discussing the possibility of assistance with continuous professional development (CPD).
- Attending the monthly council meetings of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [MFPA], as well as the monthly public Lectures. MAPCo-Re actively participates within the Federation Council proceedings and discussions. It had a major contributing role in helping the Federation approach the University of Malta on a professional line. This was useful for the Federation in order for it to progress in its discussions with the University of Malta and today the MFPA and UoM are actively working together on various fronts for the benefit of professionals in general.
- In 2013, MAPCo-Re was accepted as a full federated member of the MFPA. This is a step forward towards our professional status which is now considered at par with other professions such as architects, medical professionals etc. MAPCo-Re has come a long way in its battle to make the conservator-restorer career recognised as a professional one. Back in 2007 it was a struggle to be accepted into the federation as an associate member and this was achieved at the time after months of work and dedication. Now we are happy to be at last considered as full professionals.
- In 2014, the President of MAPCo-Re was one of the first three persons of the Federation to be awarded the honour for his dedication and contribution to improve and promote professionalism in Malta (an award dedicated to MAPCo-Re's committee, members and secretary).
- 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. This was successful and the department is providing services for public and private conservation projects.

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- Direct communication with the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorer organisations [ECCO] who also supported the latter mentioned undertaking.
- Applied to be certified as a voluntary organisation. The application was vetted and accepted. MAPCo-Re is officially a local voluntary organisation.
- Organising social activities for our members and friends, to build on the community relationships. MAPCo-Re held a barbeque in 2014, another BBQ and social drinks in 2015, 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.

Proposed achievements for 2016:

- 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]
- Continue contributing to the Cultural Heritage Law currently being revised and pushing for this law to come into effect soon.
- Keeping an open communication with the ECCO committee and possibly collaborating with them on various projects
- Undertaking an academic conference on conservation-restoration
- Organising various social activities for our members and friends, to build the community spirit.
- Acknowledging the achievements of our members and colleagues
- Keeping our public relations updated via our Facebook page and through email.

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 2014-15

James Licari (President)
 Lindsay Galea (Secretary)
 Michael Formosa (Treasurer)
 Valentina Lupo (Public Relations Officer)
 Simon Dimech (NGO Officer)
 Amy Sciberras (Events Organiser)

Affiliated with:

