



Dear Colleagues and friends,

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007. In 2013, MAPCo-Re became a fully federated member of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations.*

The MAPCo-Re Committee would like to wish everyone a prosperous new year 2017. Hopefully this year will bring us more achievements in our Profession. We are very thankful to the local and foreign conservator-restorers, working in Malta, who have reached great achievements. These contribute extensively to our professional community. We thank all our members for helping in the promotion of our profession and abiding by our professional ethics. It is important to never lose sight of these ethics since these are what distinguish us from unqualified craftsmen, a status which we are constantly striving not to be associated with

As has been done in previous years, MAPCo-Re aims once again to fulfill 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 any future activities.

We appreciate all the support MAPCo-Re received towards the proposed amendments and hopefully the implementation of the Cultural Heritage Act, which is now 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 responsibility of our profession.

#### **Achievements of 2016:**

- Participating in a subcommittee discussing the amendments to the Cultural Heritage Act related to the Warrant and professional status of the conservator-restorers. The subcommittee 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. These have been presented to the Attorney General's office to fine tune the legal compliance with other acts, to eventually be presented in Parliament. A consultative meeting was held in December and the next meeting will be held in January. All things seem to be moving smoothly.
- The president of MAPCo-Re attending the General Assembly of the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorer organisations [ECCO], as well as the President's meeting in Berlin (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016). This year ECCO celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in the Tapestry Hall of the Bode Museum in Berlin. The attendees gathered to listen to the various presentations and then discuss the theme of "Conservation Matters! The profession of the Conservator-Restorer as a Strategic Resource for Cultural Heritage". An important document was created during this assembly, 'The Declaration of Berlin'. This experience benefited MAPCo-Re greatly with international networking and establishing a presence within the European community.
- 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. Throughout these meetings, MAPCo-Re also served as a link between the Federation and the University of Malta. This helped the Federation to progress in its discussions with the University of Malta and today is working together on various fronts for the benefit of professionals in general. One such project is the drafting of a European project to obtain funding to establish a European Centre of excellence in Professional Ethics in Malta. The results of this submission will hopefully be received in April 2017. An initial initiative was the publication of a small booklet, entitled: 'Common Values for Professionals within Europe', endorsed by CEPLIS (European Council of Liberal Professions) and locally by the Minister for Education and Employment (Evarist Bartolo).
- Meeting the President of Malta, H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, within a courtesy visit by the various presidents sitting on the council of the Malta Federation of Professional

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Associations. This meeting was focused on a number of issues related to various associations. MAPCo-Re discussed 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 the president is aware that the process is at an advanced stage.

- Meeting the Minister for Social Dialogue Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (Dr Helena Dalli) and discussing once again the professional requirements/ ethics as well as discussing the possibility of financial assistance through the voluntary organisational funding scheme. This meeting sought to build bridges between MAPCo-Re and the Ministry, following our strong objection to the removal of the Diagnostic Scientific Laboratories from the Conservation Division at Bighi and resulted in a positive meeting.
- MCAST and MAPCo-Re Collaboration: MCAST has set up an Advanced Diploma (EQF Level 4) in Cultural Heritage Skills, which commenced in October. A Memorandum of Understanding has been presented to MAPCo-Re to sign with MCAST. MAPCo-Re will provide guidance on the course content. This MoU has been submitted to the MFPA and ECCO for approval. In the meantime the MAPCo-Re committee has already been directly consulted on the set up of the overall course outline, as well as the contents of the individual credits. To clarify any speculation, this course is not producing conservation-restoration technicians, but persons who will have knowledge and experience in the manufacturing techniques of Cultural Heritage items. No treatments or interventions will be taught throughout this course. Care of collections, exhibition set up, maintenance, basic scientific knowledge with an emphasis on when it is important to contact a professional conservator-restorer. MAPCo-Re hopes that the outcome may support the professional field in the future.
- MAPCo-Re applied for local funding within Civil Society Fund (CSF). Unfortunately, no funds have been awarded to us as yet.
- Organising social activities for our members and friends, to building on the communities relationships towards each other. MAPCo-Re unfortunately did not manage to organise its yearly barbeque this year. However a social gathering for drinks in a cozy bar was organised and resulted in being a great success. Thank you once again to those who made it.
- Advising various NGOs on conservation-restoration projects.
- Attending other public consultation meetings and fora on cultural heritage.

**Proposed achievements for 2017:**

- Establishing membership cards for member in 2017. These will hopefully provide added benefits to our memberships.

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- Possibly signing the MoU and further contributing to the content of the MCAST Higher Diploma in Cultural Heritage Skills (EQF Level 4).
- Proposing and setting the groundwork to holding the ECCO General Assembly and Presidents' meeting in Malta in 2018. This is being proposed as Valletta, which will be hosting the European Capital of Culture. Also, 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.
- 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 other outreach programs.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make 2016 a successful year with regards to our profession and we hope to contribute towards the conservation of our collective past for the present and future generations.

*The MAPCo-Re Committee 2016*

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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