

Swiss Association for Conservation-Restoration SCR

Annual report 2013 on behalf of ECCO

The Swiss Conservation-Restoration represents 307 full members per 31.12.2013.

The aim of SCR are by its bylaws:

- to foster professional protection of cultural heritage
- to improve professional qualification and to support conservation-restoration training and continued professional development
- to collaborate with other bodies working in the field of protection of cultural heritage both on national and international level
- to maintain, defend and foster ethical and social-economic interests of the profession.

In these areas, the following actions were taken during 2013:

Promotion of professional protection of cultural heritage

Raising awareness within the field

With the goal to raise awareness for and sensitivity to conservation topics of professionals working within the field of cultural property, the SCR

- has started using and disseminating the E.C.C.O. competences brochure to relevant bodies
- together with the association of preservation of historic monuments (AKD) has organized a block of presentations during the triennial meeting of Swiss Art Historians in Lausanne
- has participated in the annual meeting of most partners in the field in order to show presence and to give conservation more visibility and understanding.

Raising awareness with the general public

With the goal to raise awareness for and sensitivity to conservation topics of the general public, the SCR

- was a partner of the “cultural heritage day” during which, through some of his members, the SCR has been able to reach out to the general public with guided tours on conservation
- has given advice to different partners regarding various topics
- is re-designing its website

Raising awareness in politics

The SCR has taken part in the public hearing on the revision of the law of “Protection of cultural heritage in case of war and emergency” (the Swiss implementation of the Hague Protocol) in collaboration with the association of cultural protection and their lawyers.

And the SCR has started using and disseminating the E.C.C.O. competences brochure to relevant political bodies.

Improve professional qualification

Continued professional development

The SCR as a body organizes courses of *strategic* interest for continued professional development of its members (like introduction to authors rights and other legal topics, insurance, tendering, management, etc.), whereas the specialty groups organize practical courses on conservation topics. All in all, in 2013 19 courses organized by SCR have been attended by over 370 persons. The continued professional development of its members is seen as highly important to SCR in order to “guarantee” for the high professional quality of its members (see further below). The challenge for the near future will be to reach *all* of the members with continued professional development.

Training in conservation-restoration

The SCR is on regular basis in contact with the Swiss Conservation Restoration Campus (Conservation Schools) to discuss arising problems. One of the actual topics is the entrance of conservation graduates into the professional market.

Mentoring

Therefore the SCR is about to explore various possibilities of mentoring as well for professional beginners as peer-mentoring amongst experienced members. In 2013 the SCR has taken up discussion with its membership on this topic on the occasion of a presentation by a mentoring professional and has been asked to pursue on this topic and clarify possible methodologies for implementation.

Collaboration on national and international level

On a national level, the SCR is in regular contact with all relevant associations in the broader field of preservation, with professional and political bodies and with administrations in order to exchange information and – in increasingly – to collaborate on problem solving and strategies.

On an international level, besides its active membership in E.C.C.O., the SCR is in regular strategic exchange with the German Conservation-Restoration association VDR and beginning a similar exchange with the Austrian Association ÖRV. A meeting of the committees of these three German-speaking associations is planned for mid January 2014.

Defend interests of the profession

All the above-mentioned actions lead into this topic.

In addition, the SCR has increased its effort to place the “label” Conservator-Restorer SCR as a brand of quality, with increasing success. Using this brand means that the SCR has to be able to stand up for the qualification levels of its members through transparent membership regulation, and through high quality continued professional development of its members.

Bern, Switzerland, January 2014,

The Committee of the SCR:

Karin von Lerber (president), Andreas Franz, Susanna Pesko and Karolina Soppa