

## Annual Report A.R.I. 2014

In May the general assembly elected a new counsel of nine members with Antonella Docci (CR with a specialization in stone and wall paintings in private praxis) as new president. As a result of the new counsel a complete haul over of the communication with the members was decided: a greater efficiency in the email communications, substitution of attached documents with downloadable content and major social media activity. In October the new website was launched, rebuild from the ground on a modern, more flexible and easy to handle platform, with social media integration and an adaptive layout for mobile devices.

In 2013 the Italian Parliament published a law (D.Lgs 7/2013), which defined the principles for the recognition of the conservator-restorer as a recognized and regulated profession, setting the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 as the end of the accreditation period for the existing professionals. Hence 2014 has seen the association in a continuous dialogue with the Ministry of Culture working towards the definition of the documental standards to apply during the accreditation protocol to be condensed in official guidelines of the Ministry regarding the procedure. Our focus was the application of high standards for the accesses to the profession, in accordance to the professional profile released in 2004 in the Italian Cultural Heritage Codex (D.Lgs 42/2004, Codice dei Beni Culturali).

As there were fears that the impending accreditation procedure would not respect our demands for professional standards, we saw a discussion inside the association about our future identity: should we limit the accesses to our body to conservator-restorers graduated from the 3 state institutions (IsCR, OPD, ICRICPAL – which formed about 60% of our current members) or remain open to all C-Rs. After ample and sometimes harsh discussions, inside and outside of the counsel, we decided to stick to our policy of accepting conservators-restorers from Italy and abroad as recognized by the national law, in the consideration that our statutes and policies defined the ethical and professional standards of the profession to which our members are bound.

We saw the first applications of the specific National Labor Agreement for conservator-restorers, which had been signed in 2013 by ARI with one of the smaller trade unions and several other labor organizations. While it was a huge success to achieve a specific agreement for our sector, it as well demanded a constant effort to defend it as the agreement was attacked by several major trade unions, which demanded our sector to be re-included in the general labor agreement for the building sector!