

Swiss Association for Conservation-Restoration SCR

Annual report 2014 on behalf of ECCO

The Swiss Conservation-Restoration represents 306 full members per 31.12.2014.

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 2014:

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 participated in the annual meeting of most partners in the field in order to show presence and to give conservation more visibility and understanding.
- has given advice to different partners regarding various topics
- has been able to co-publish (together with the association of preservation of historic monuments AKD) the full size articles of all presentations given during the conservation session at the triennial meeting of Swiss Art Historians in Lausanne 2013 as a special issue of "Zeitschrift für Schweizerische Archäologie und Kunstgeschichte ZAK" (Band 71, Heft 1).

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. For the first time, the SCR in addition has hosted an event in collaboration with archaeology and monument preservation service which turned out extremely successful: the SCR organized guided tours, hands-on workshops from documentation techniques to reassembling broken pots" and provided coffee and cakes to keep visitors on site for a longer time.
- has published a flyer explaining the profession of conservation-restoration. This flyer has been distributed through various journals, is laid out by museums and distributed through conservators.
- is re-designing its website

Raising awareness in politics

The SCR has taken part in the public hearing on the second message regarding culture ("Kulturbotschaft 2016-2019"), determining the areas of government support in the area of culture (including protection of cultural heritage).

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 legal topics, insurance, tendering, management, etc.), whereas the specialty groups organize practical courses on conservation topics. All in all, in 2014 13 courses organized by SCR have been attended by over 380 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).

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 providing the students with a sound practical basis.

The plans for establishing a mentoring program within the SCR were dropped for lack of interest. Effort will be invested into a new internship program / internship initiative.

Specialized Planner / Specialized Juror SCR

A working group explores the possibility of compiling a training course for conservation-based specialized planners and jurors in the field of monument preservation. The aim is to have conservation building site managers and conservation specialists in juries judging tenders for conservation projects. The idea of this working group was much welcomed as well by the monument preservation service as by many professionals from adjoining fields of expertise.

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 has taken place in January 2014 in Salzburg.

Defend interests of the profession

All the above-mentioned actions lead into this topic.

In addition, the SCR has protected the label “conservator-Restorer SCR” as a Trademark in all three national languages. Similar brands exist in Switzerland in other fields like Medical doctors and architects. Such a protected professional label can be used by full members of the corresponding professional association only. The public is still free to chose any professional (so there is no problem with cartel authorities), but the associations providing such a protected label 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, March 2015,

The Committee of the SCR:

Karin von Lerber (outgoing president as of 27.2.2015), Andreas Franz (incoming president), Susanna Pesko and Karolina Soppa