This was a special year for our association because we celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary.

We organized a study tour to Florence and visited several monuments and the 2015 enlarged Museo dell'opera del Duomo; a guided visit with interesting and fruitful discussions to the conservation/restoration laboratories of the Opificio delle Pietre Dure at the Fortezza da Basso crowned the visit.

At the 20th of October we organized a Conference together with the South Tyrolean Castles Association, FAI Fondo Ambiente Italiano (comparable with the British National Trust) and the Heimatpflegeverband (Homeland care association). Special guests where the former South Tyrolean conservation curator Helmut Stampfer and the recently settled conservation curator at the Provincial Administration Karin Della Torre Pichler. We presented our 25 year activity as association and several conservation/restoration projects of our members on South Tyrolean Cultural Property. This meeting was an important opportunity to strengthen the collaboration with above mentioned Associations who work intensively for the care and promotion of the local and Cultural Heritage and Landscape. The meeting set also a new and active involvement of VRCS ARCA with the Provincial Administration concerning planning of preservation projects.

At the end of December the Ministry for Cultural Affairs and Tourism published the national list of the qualified conservators / restorers of cultural heritage the number of professional is 6990. This set an end to the certification process for the professional qualification who
started 2009 and seemed to become a never ending story. So finally we have a qualification to act as professional conservator / restorers but we do not have a title like the 828 people of the list who got a cons/rest Masterscourse title. It means that there is some more work to do at national level in order to realize this question. In order to achieve this a collaboration with ARI and a support by ECCO is need.

Martin Pittertschatscher