



MALTA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL  
CONSERVATOR-RESTORERS

## Introduction

MAPCo-Re was set up in 2007 with the intent of being the lead voice for the profession in Malta, bringing together academically qualified and experienced professional conservator-restorers who abide by the code of ethics (set by international and local entities). MAPCo-Re was set up to promote the professional maintenance, preservation, conservation, and restoration in a scientific and ethical manner of our Cultural Heritage, within Malta and possibly internationally. It is committed to improve the understanding of and access to the safeguarding of cultural heritage. MAPCo-Re is the only voluntary organization developed locally to fulfil this role and build the collaboration and community of such professionals.

In 2008, MAPCo-Re sought the need to be affiliated with all the other professions locally and joined the Malta Federation of Professional Associations (MFPA), as an associate member. After achieving this local recognition, MAPCo-Re went a further step and in September 2010 applied to be an associate member of European Confederation of Conservator-Restorer Organizations (E.C.C.O.). In May 2011 MAPCo-Re was not only accepted officially as an associate member but was also requested to contribute more extensively toward the European framework and other activities within the profession. In 2013, MAPCo-Re was also officially accepted as a fully federated member of the MFPA. MAPCo-Re is also a registered voluntary organization since 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

In 2019, the MAPCo-Re Committee of Management signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Archives in Rabat. In February 2023, MAPCo-Re signed a second Memorandum of Understanding with the International Institute of Conservation.

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## Requested data from the Cultural Heritage NGO

In accordance with Article 14 (3) of the Cultural Heritage Act (CAP 445), the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage is compiling a State of Heritage Report for a period of five years (2018 - 2022). For this purpose, MAPCo-Re has been requested to present this report to the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage. The report will cover the following topics:

- A) Achievements
- B) Events
- C) Annual budgets

### A. Achievements



MAPCo-Re has a representative within the Council of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [MFPA], who actively participates within the Federation Council proceedings and discussions. Since 2023, Mr James Licari (President of MAPCo-Re), has been elected as the President of the MFPA, for a term of two years. The MFPA, represents a growing community of professionals, presently 17 organisations from different professional sectors including health care, mental health, built environment, engineering, and culture.

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In 2019, the MAPCo-Re Committee of Management signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Archives in Rabat. This MoU provided its members with the use of space, as well as assistance (where possible) with research. MAPCo-Re was also informed of any vacancies and CPD events that its members could attend, and informed the Archives of any such events/ calls related to their collections.



In 2023, The MAPCo-Re Committee of management, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Institute of Conservation (IIC), through which the MAPCo-Re Members will profit from IIC membership benefits, as well as Continuous professional Development session/ publications. MAPCo-Re is seen as one of the prime contributors to the Regional Group of the Mediterranean and Europe. The MoU sets out the common understanding and intention of IIC and MAPCo-Re in relation to their future co-operation in areas such advocacy as well as education and training for those working in conservation or aspiring to become conservators.

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Figure 1: Meeting with Ex-President, Hon. George Abela (5<sup>th</sup> June 2009); Meeting with the President of the Republic, Hon. George Vella (2021); Meeting with Minister for, Hon. Owen Bonnici (22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2022)

Since its formation, MAPCo-Re, has had several official and unofficial discussions with other stakeholders, such as but not limited to: International entities and experts, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Chairpersons, Boards, Government entities, Committees of NGOs, Private Collectors, Educational Entities (University of Malta [UM] and the Malta College of [MCAST] and many more.

## B. Events

Following the formation of the Voluntary organization, MAPCo-Re, the team always tried to increase outreach programs and social activities, to bring the Conservation Family together, many were fund raising activities, such as BBQs, drinks after work and social parties.



Information gathered by James Licari - Oct 2020

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The MAPCo-Re Committee also published or encouraged its members to publish articles in the local newspapers, academic journals (Treasures of Malta and Tessarae) and magazines, as well as presenting their work publicly, as much as is possible.



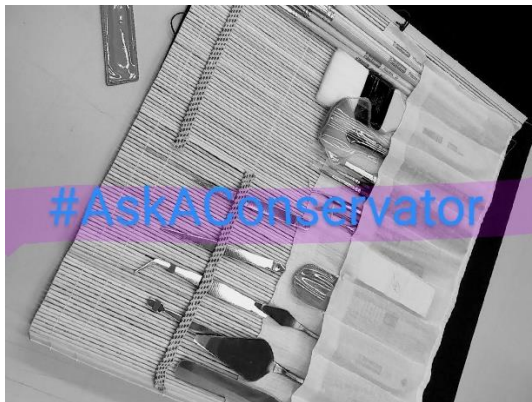
In 2018, MAPCo-Re hosted the European Confederation of Conservation-restoration Organisations (E.C.C.O.), General Assembly and Presidents' Meeting, at Forte St Elmo, Valletta. The events took place over a weekend, commencing on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April and ending on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018. Arrangements with Heritage Malta were established to book the relevant sites (mainly to be held within Forte St Elmo). Hotel prices were collected, and a Pre-event document was sent to ECCO to be used for delegates to be encouraged them to attend this great event in the European Cultural Heritage Year within the Cultural Capital, Valletta 2018. A 'networking reception' was held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April at Forte St Elmo, with all expenses paid by MAPCo-Re, assisted with discounts from Delicate Wines and Spirits. Those who attended were greatly entertained through the pyrotechnical display of the Fireworks Festival. This event was an extremely committing event which required a lot of preparation and effort from the MAPCo-Re team and volunteers. It proved to be a success with several comments of praise from the ECCO committee and presidents of other associations.

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MAPCo-Re also participate within annual events such as the International Day/ Week of Conservation-Restoration, which happens around the 14<sup>th</sup> November. MAPCo-Re also acknowledges the Women, who work within our profession on International Women's Day.

JUNE - JULY

UPCOMING WEBINAR SERIES

### Conservation Think Tanks | Series I

THURSDAY 17TH JUNE	TUESDAY 22ND JUNE	THURSDAY 24TH JUNE	THURSDAY 1ST JULY
7:30pm (GMT +2)	7:30pm (GMT +2)	7:30pm (GMT +2)	7:30pm (GMT +2)
<b>The Three C's - Curators, Conservators, Collaboration</b>	<b>Conserving an Antique Cuckoo Clock</b>	<b>Storage and Display Solutions / The Book Shelter</b>	<b>Practising Laboratory Safety</b> <small>(members only)</small>
Ms Audrey Rose Mizzi	Mr Sam Matthews	Ms Bridget Mitchell	Ms Stephanie Sammut

In July 2021, following the awards of the first warrants in Conservation-Restoration, MAPCo-Re provided its members with the opportunity to participate in a four-lecture webinar series titled 'The Conservation Think tank – Series 1', covering a variety of topics. Certificates of participation were provided. Three of the sessions were offered freely to the community at large but the final talk was restricted to only members. The topics covered were:

1. The Three C's: Curators, Conservators and Collaboration (17th June 2021; 1 hour) by Ms Audrey Mizzi;
2. The Restoration of a 19th Century Beha Cuckoo Clock (22nd June 2021; 1 hour) by Mr Sam Matthews;
3. Storage and Display Solutions/ The Book Shelter (24th June 2021; 1 hour) by Ms Bridget Mitchell;

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4. Practising Laboratory Safety (1st July 2021; 2 hours) by Ms Stephanie Sammut.

In April 2022, MAPCo-Re collaborated with the Malta Red Cross and provided its members with a Basic First Aid Course which covered a variety of topics related to illness and traumatic incidents that can happen in a conservation laboratory or on-site work environment.



On the 05<sup>th</sup>-09<sup>th</sup> September 2022, MAPCo-Re also participated and chaired online one of the regional sessions, for the 29<sup>th</sup> Bennial Congress, of the IIC, entitled: “Conservation & Change: Response, Adaptation and Leadership”. This was a very enriching experiences to hear from different conservator-restorers from around the world, about their specific situations, and how they tackled specific problems.

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**Lectures with Andor Vince**  
*A collections care advisor and consultant with an expertise in creating collections care plans, policies and procedures, emergency planning, risk management for collections and developing cost-effective projects and strategies in care for collections.*

**Session 1:** 'Project Time and Cost Estimations for Conservators'  
Date: 12.07.23 Time: 19:00 (CET)

**Session 2:** 'Risk Assessment in Emergency Planning and Collections Care'  
Date: 19.07.23 Time: 19:00 (CET)

In July 2023, MAPCo-Re were in contact with Andor Vince, who provided two lectures, entitled: 'Project Time and Cost Estimations for Conservators' (12.07.2023) and 'Risk Assessment in Emergency Planning and Collections Care' (19.07.23).

More Continuous Professional Development (CPD) sessions are being planned for the rest of 2023 and 2024.

### C. Annual budgets

MAPCo-Re obtains its main income from memberships and other fundraising activities. Due to COVID-19 restrictions between 2020 and 2022, social fundraising activities were halted, and since then most of the activities organised are done online. Annual memberships of our members is that of €35 per person.

Additionally, MAPCo-Re successfully obtained the Civil Society Funds for 2020 and 2021. MAPCo-Re continues to investigate further funding, despite limitation in the latter for historic or cultural heritage related events and professions. A research, publication, presentation, outreach and Public Relations funds should be more available to such registered Voluntary organizations. MAPCo-Re would encourage tax rebates provided to entities which sponsor such initiatives, as well as reduction of tax for conservator-restorers, as is currently being offered to artists, curators, etc.

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