



# Short News – March 2017

Dear colleagues,

The E.C.C.O. committee met this March 4th–5th in Paris. The main occasion was the long awaited possibility to organise a meeting of the presidents of E.C.C.O. and ICOMOS to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2017. Susan Corr attended the meeting in the headquarters of ICOMOS with a small delegation of committee members to meet Gustavo Araoz, President of ICOMOS International. This accomplishment was well prepared by E.C.C.O.'s Vice-president Stefan Belishki as part of the E.C.C.O. policy to build strong partnerships to increase its visibility and power to negotiate on larger international scale.



*The presidents Gustavo F. Araoz and Susan Corr (l.t.r.) after signing the MoU at the ICOMOS Headquarters*

E.C.C.O. continues to focus on two strands of its work. On one hand, there is the long battle for the legal regulation and so recognition of the Conservation-Restoration profession through the whole EU. We are still looking at the Common Training Framework CTF, Mutual recognition Directive, Directive on Services and amendments and via the activities of CEPLIS (European Council of the Liberal Professions); our former president (in 2005) Michael Van Gompel is currently a board member of this organisation.

E.C.C.O. however recognises that on the other hand there is the even more important way of self-regulation through mutual recognition. The idea is to get to know what we have in common and where are our differences, since the insight into our member organisations always shows how varied is the understanding of the access to the profession and its provision via the national training systems, the individual specialisations or their groupings, which are based on the national traditions

and developments. It is recognised that the profession of the conservator-restorer has advanced in the last 25 years, particularly as educational delivery is more universally available and many courses have become established. This also has the effect of changing the membership base and E.C.C.O. is very interested to know how well membership fulfils or conforms to the E.C.C.O. Guidelines, which were quite aspirational back in 1991. To this effect we are inviting established members to carry out a self-assessment of their membership base using the current application form now issued to all prospective members. We hope this will provide a good indication of the level of professionalism across Europe and will contribute towards the development of the European Conservation-Restoration Portfolio, which E.C.C.O. is hoping to develop in the next year and further promote mutual recognition.

If you follow the development on the Transparency and mutual evaluation of regulated professions ([http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/free-movement-professionals/transparency-mutual-recognition\\_fr](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/free-movement-professionals/transparency-mutual-recognition_fr)), you might be interested to find that the results should be already accessible in regulated professions assessment report on national levels.

We will also be looking for feedback on the Competences, their impact and use by the individual member organisations and as they might be further developed. We feel that there is a lot of development in the European countries concerning the delivery of education, while this new young generation of conservation-restoration professionals also communicate at a higher speed than the older generations. As a result the E.C.C.O. committee set up a Twitter account to be more present and visible in the social networks of institutions and amongst younger colleagues and communities using this tool. You can find E.C.C.O. [@ecco\\_eu](https://twitter.com/ecco_eu)

Since cultural heritage is observed as a social and economic driver, a lot of recent interest and activities on European level turn towards its maintenance and use. The traditional and emerging professions (e.g. including digitisation and digitalisation) are under the spotlight in the Voices of Culture; Skills, Training and Knowledge Transfer: Traditional and Emerging Heritage – Structured Dialogue., organised by the European Commission. E.C.C.O. successfully applied to take part in this activity and will be represented by Elis Marçal.

E.C.C.O. is also in contact with an expert to the DG Education and Culture and Expert Network in Cultural and Audiovisual Policies (EENCA) who is to provide a literature review and preliminary mapping of relevant practices. He has already received E.C.C.O. documents.

E.C.C.O. will inform its members about possibilities for taking part in the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and this will be discussed at the GA in Stockholm. E.C.C.O. will work as coordinator in search for partners among our organisations for any proposed initiatives.

In 2017, the General Assembly of E.C.C.O. will be hosted by NKF-S in Stockholm, Sweden on the 15<sup>th</sup> May. Our member organisation not only celebrates its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but also organises the ConserVision Seminar – Challenges or Possibilities of Conservation-Restoration in Sweden. It will take place in the Army Museum, next day after the E.C.C.O. GA on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2017. You are invited to take part.

Please, don't forget to check our website! The videos of the speakers recorded during the Presidents' Meeting in Berlin 2016 are already uploaded!

The E.C.C.O. Committee is looking forward to see you in May!



Barbara Davidson  
E.C.C.O. Secretary General