

Seminar on PREventive Conservation and Monitoring of Architectural Heritage

Val de Loire 26-31 May 2008

SPRECOMAH

Within the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Commission two seminars two seminars are planned. One already took place in Leuven, Belgium, in June 2007. The second one is due to take place in May 2008 in Fontevraud, Val de Loire, France.

What is preventive conservation?

Similarly to medicine, prevention in conservation works on two main levels. On a general level, a truly preventive approach to conservation would imply an appropriate heritage management.

Since risks occur at different scales, on a second level, the purpose of preventive conservation consists in an **early identification of possible damage, in avoiding the progression of a damage or in reducing of negative effects caused by damage.** In these actions time and frequency is crucial.

In order to make such approach operational, it needs to be guided by the assessed importance of the risk. It thus implies:

- analysis and diagnosis of damages and degradation,
- documentation, which develops into monitoring over time,
- maintenance,
- minor compatible and durable interventions.

Objectives of the project

1. **Increasing the interest** for maintenance management and preventive conservation strategies;
2. **Directing researchers** to address needs expressed by the field of preventive conservation;
3. **Sharing and analysing good practices** based on years of professional experience with preventive conservation developed by MONUMENTENWACHT in Flanders and The Netherlands, in collaboration with other European professionals from Europe including local stakeholders in Val de Loire;
4. **Sharing past EC research results** (eg. Damage Atlas, Masonry Damage Diagnostic System) that address issues of which preventive conservation strategies can benefit to understand their actual importance and the need for further development of them;
5. **Identifying research strategies promoting preventive conservation** and strengthening preventive conservation oriented organisations to improve their effectiveness;
6. **Generating and publishing reference materials** on preventive conservation based on the outcome of the seminars.

Foreseen output of the project

publication (on internet, hardcopies and in journals) of conference materials for researchers, for professionals and authorities on preventive architectural conservation based on the outcome of the seminars;

guidelines to promote preventive conservation and monitoring oriented research for the architectural heritage;

identification of fields and scope of interest where stakeholders and researchers can collaborate to stimulate and develop good practices of preventive conservation and monitoring;

the use by restoration professionals of new tools like Masonry Decay Diagnostic System (MDDS), developed in 6th FP projects.

The first seminar took place at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), 11-16 June 2007. The **second seminar** will take place in **Val de Loire** (France), at the **Fontevraud Abbey**, 26-31 May 2008.



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Programme of the second SPRECOMAH seminar in Fontevraud - Val de Loire (26 - 31 May 2008):

1. **Building upon the first seminar** in Leuven in 2007 regarding the non-destructive testing methods, diagnoses as well as legislation and transferability of existing practices;

2. **Lectures** on policies, practices, methodologies and research in EU countries. Focus will be put on the interaction between water and architectural heritage. The seminar organizers also encourage the submission of papers focusing on the preventive conservation specificities of structures or groups of structures situated in river corridors. Papers will address technical or managerial aspects. The presentation of the EC COMPASS project will tackle technical issues relating to materials pathologies diagnosis;

3. **On-site demonstrations** and practical workshops will deal with analysis of structural damages and preventive steps for mitigating further damage.

4. **Site visits** to Val de Loire monuments in collaboration with Monumentenwacht Nederland and the local French specialists involved in the management of the sites at their various levels of competence;

4. **Discussion** on policies and practices in the EU;

5. **Drafting of research guidelines** to European Commission aiming at contributing to preventive conservation, maintenance and monitoring.

(For updating see www.sprecomah.eu)

Themes and aims

The leading **themes** of the second seminar will be:

PREVENTIVE ACTION AS TO INTERACTION BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE,

FLOODS AND HERITAGE AND THE RELATED PREVENTIVE APPROACHES,

PREVENTING DETERIORATION OF MATERIALS IN HERITAGE STRUCTURES,

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PREVENTIVE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION SYSTEMS.

Aims:

Speakers, senior and junior, are invited to share their experience in **highlighting the lacunae and shortcomings** related to knowledge, methods, management systems in their own domain. The contributions should focus either on **technical or relevant management or economic aspects** of the preventive attitude to built heritage.

Since one of the aims of the seminar is the widespreading of the knowledge on preventive conservation practice to the largest public possible, **representatives of local or regional organisations or authorities** "with strong working relations with to other organisations and/or owners of heritage are welcome to apply.

Selection of participants and grants

A maximum number of **40 participants** will be accepted to the seminar if suiting the profile of:

young researcher with specialization in conservation (with at least a master's degree),

experienced researchers who have carried out research on innovative preventive conservation tools or methodologies or **professionals with at least 7 years of experience** in the field of preventive conservation of architecture.

The project offers also **20 grants** of 700 euro (in form of reimbursement), which will be assigned based on the **expression of interest** and motivation, on previous (research) **experience**, on **description of research** recently started or to start soon. Applicant should join **two letters of support**.

In order to achieve the most diverse exchange of know-how possible, the selection criteria will consider also the geographical criteria. Grants can only be made available to citizens of EU countries, candidate countries and associate countries.

For the participation application a **full curriculum vitae, expression of interest and motivation, justification of grant request and two letters of support** have to be included in attachment to the application e-mail to be sent to the address on the front. Applicants must provide a contact address (email, postal address, telephone) where they can be easily reached, if necessary.

Deadline
for submission of applications for
participation and for grant:
15 March 2008

