

**ACRE's main aim, from its formation, has been the regulation of our profession.** This aim not only will benefit the Conservation-Restoration professional sector, but also, and moreover, will lead to quality improvements concerning Cultural Heritage interventions, being our Heritage fragile, indispensable and deserving of the highest quality standards. **Our activity provides enough characteristics in order to demand for Professional Exercise Regulation, since, among other things, it enhances Heritage resources and its activity is of undoubted public interest.**

We find thus urgent and feasible the elaboration of a specific normative regulating the linked activity to interventions on Cultural Heritage, which turns out to be easy and could resolve many of the current issues within the sector.

There are several ways by which regulation is achievable, some of them complex and requiring some time for its accomplishment. We understand, for instance, that modifying the Spanish Historical Heritage Law of 1985 for the integration of the Conservation-Restorer figure is no easy request. Same happens concerning a new regulatory law's elaboration, it is not simple, but possible, as already happened in Italy, country this where they took long years for the Conservation-Restoration activity regulation.

Since later regulations are developed for completing framework laws, regarding certain issues, we think in ACRE that the easiest way will be the **drafting and publishing of a subordinate regulation to the Spanish Historical Heritage Law 16/85 defining the Conservator-Restorer professional attributions and acknowledging its own powers and competences** already collected by the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations (E.C.C.O.) within the 'Competences for Access to the Conservation-Restoration Profession'.

The professional attributions comprise the legal capacity for accessing a regulated profession exercise, meaning, authorisation in order to perform a particular profession. These professional attributions are conferred by an academic degree which meets essential requirements; therefore, it is the Government by means of a Ministerial Decree who sets the necessary minimum competencies in order to engage in a profession. These decrees set the enabling certificates and thus the qualification requirements.

In our case, within the already mentioned Spanish Historical Heritage Law 16/85 as well as in any of the other 17 Heritage Autonomic Laws, the 'Skilled Operator' figure is included in order to establish who could intervene Cultural Heritage. But who is this skilled operator? Neither it, nor its qualifications or skills, is clear. As a result, even in the most advanced legislation, there is an interpretative gap which allows unqualified people for intervening on Cultural Heritage, which cannot be accepted, but only has significance until, what we define as, an attack against Cultural Heritage happens.

Would regulation be achieved, every other Conservation-Restoration intervention, that is, every other action towards the tangible Cultural Heritage protection, could only legally be performed by

professionals holding a Superior Degree. **Every single day that goes by with this unresolved issue threatens our Cultural Heritage.** It is astonishing that, although Heritage enjoys a high legal protection in our country, whatever unskilled volunteer could intervene, causing damages or even its destruction and so far these actions are only condemned by means of administrative penalties.

Unfortunately, this situation is not exclusive from Spain, there are currently few countries within the EU relying on a professional regulation regarding this area, which results in attacks against Heritage, as the one occurred in our country a few days ago, also caused in the rest of Europe.

We are still working from ACRE alongside institutions, waiting for the dialogue with competent administrations to be restarted, so the Conservation-Restoration regulation will be a reality once and for all.