



ARP, Associação Profissional de
Conservadores-Restauradores de Portugal

The Conservator-Restorer:
A Cultural Heritage Emerging Profession
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Conservator-Restorer in Italy: Progress, Problems and Opportunities in the Transition to a Regulated Profession

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Historical Review

- The first law on the protection of Cultural Heritage dates back to the 1930's;
- 1948: the protection of Cultural Heritage is inscribed in the Italian constitution (Art. 9) as one of the core duties of the state;

Training and Education (1944 - 2009)

- Universities of Applied Sciences - ICR, OPD, ICPAL;
- Public & private Academies of Art;
- Regional training courses (1-3 years);
- Universities (Bachelor and Master related to CH but not specific to CR);
- Arts and Crafts;
- Hands on work on listed heritage buildings;

Legal Regulations

- Ministerial Decree: DM 294/2000;
- State law: D.Lgs 42/2004 (*codice dei beni culturali/Codex on Cultural Heritage*);
- Ministerial decrees: DM 86/2009 & DM 87/2009;
- State law: Legge 7/2013;
- Announcement of qualification procedure;
- Guidelines for the qualification procedure: August 2014;
- Public list of qualified Conservator-Restorers May 2016 – effectively published at 28th December 2018;

First Transition Rule: DM 294/2000

- Definition of the formal characteristics to qualify as Conservator-Restorer (principle of direct responsibility in the decision making process of conservation-restoration);
- Definition of the formal characteristics to qualify as Restoration Technician;
- Setting a transition period (until 31.12.2001) – which is completely disregarded;

D.Lgs 42/2004: Codex of Cultural Heritage

- Treats all aspects of Cultural Heritage and its protection;
- Operational reserve: Only Conservators-Restorers are entitled to carry out conservation-restoration treatments on listed cultural heritage;
- Study course in Conservation-Restoration (art.29);
- Definition of the formal characteristics to qualify as Conservator-Restorer during the transition period (art.182);
- Definition of 12 sectors/specialisations;

DM 86/2009 - Competences of the Conservator-Restorer

- A – condition assessment;
- B – conservation concept;
- C – conservation-restoration treatments;
- D - documentation;
- E - research;

DM 87/2009 – Criteria for the Education and Teaching in the CR

- 5 year (single cycle) University study on master level (introducing 6 study courses);
- definition of the syllabus;
- minimum competences & experience for professors in CR education;
- criteria for the accreditation of university courses in CR;
- definition of the academic title;

Study Courses / Specialisations

6 study courses – DM 87/2009

12 specialisations- Legge 7/2013

- 1) Stone and derivatives;
- decorated architectural surfaces;
- 2) Paintings on wood and canvas;
- Wooden objects: sculptures, furniture and structures;
- Composed, worked and/or coloured objects in synthetic materials;
- 3) Materials and objects in textil and leather;
- 4) Materials and objects in ceramic, glass and organic excavation finds;
- Materials and objects in metals and metal compounds;
- 5) Books and archive material;
- Materials in paper and parchment;
- Photographic and cinematographic materials and digital media;
- 6) Music instruments;
- Scientific and technical equipment and instrumentation;

- 1) Stone, mosaic, derivatives ;
- 2 Decorated architectural surfaces;
- 3) Paintings on wood and canvas;
- 4) Wooden objects: sculpture, furniture and structures;
- 5) Composed, worked and/or coloured objects in synthetic materials;
- 6) Materials and objects in textil and leather;
- 7) Materials and objects in ceramic, glass and organic materials from excavations;
- 8) Materials and objects in metal and metal compounds;
- 9) Books and archive materials;
- 10) Photographic and cinematographic materials and digital media;
- 11) Music instruments;
- 12) Scientific and technical equipment and instrumentations;



Law 7/2013: Conservator-Restorer as a Regulated Profession

- Definition and period of the transition for the qualification as Conservator-Restorer (10/2015) or as restoration technician (06/2015);
- Definition of qualified work experience eligible for integrating education with reference to the competences of the CR (DM 86/2009);
- Introduction of 12 specialisations (12 specialisations = 12 distinct qualifications);

Qualification (CR): requirements necessary to obtain the qualification

- University of Applied Sciences (ICR / OPD / ICPAL);
- University / Academy of fine arts / Regional training courses combined with practical experience (2,5 - 6 years, depending on education) ;
- Practical experience (at least 8 years);
- Special cases (positions held in public / civil service or educational institutions);

General criteria of evaluation

education / work experience	Evaluation (points)
Diploma IsCR/OPD/ICRICPAL (University of Applied Sciences)	300
Regional training course*	75 per year (max 200)
Diploma of the academy of fine arts**	50 per year (max 200)
University (Bachelor or Master) **	37,5 per year (max 200)
Qualified practical experience***	37,5 pro Jahr
Minimum for the qualification	300

* minimum 2 consecutive years;
 ** courses related to, but not specific for CR;
 *** for works on listed CH under supervision of the superintendence;

Evaluation - specific

- 300 points needed to obtain the qualification;
- Qualification is obtained in the specialisations which are „sufficiently“ covered in your education;
- 2 years of certified work experience needed to obtain additional specialisations;

Qualification Procedure: Outcome

- Applications which met the formal criteria: 6351 of which 6162 (97%) approved and 189 (3%) rejected;
- CRs graduated from the new master courses: 828;
- Single list of CRs qualified to operate in the specific specialisation managed by the Ministry of Culture;
- Work as Conservator-Restorer is possible only in your specialisation;

Emerging Problems

- Restoration technicians versus Conservator-Restorers;
- Qualification versus Title (Master);
- Old versus new education systems;
- Differently build up Syllabus (academies, universities and universities of applied sciences);
- Number and quality of courses;

What Next

- Code of ethics
- Continuous Professional Development
- Planning in the Cultural Heritage Sector
- Verification of Learning Outcomes

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