

BEYOND RESTORATION



The role of Restorers and Conservators in supporting Law Enforcement in the combatting illicit trafficking of cultural goods

An event on future policies and best practices, organised by RITHMS Project GA 101073932 [HORIZON-CL3-2021-FCI-01-08]

4th December 2024

Sparks Meeting | Rue Ravenstein, 60 1000
Room The Balcony | Brussels, Belgium

Restorers and conservators are uniquely positioned to support efforts against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, yet their essential role in this mission is often overlooked.

The *Beyond Restoration* event, organised by the **EU-funded RITHMS project**, aims to spotlight the critical role of conservator-restorers in this field.

The event will bring this critical issue to the forefront, exploring how restorers can sometimes unintentionally become entangled in illegal activities but, more importantly, how they can actively contribute to **combatting these crimes**. The event will feature expert **panel discussions**, an **hands-on workshop**, and **engaging dialogues** to address the

complex challenges these professionals face in their work.

The RITHMS project seeks to foster **collaborative networks** among conservator-restorers, law enforcement agencies, and cultural institutions, equipping heritage professionals to adopt a proactive approach in identifying and preventing illegal activities related to cultural property.

The event will culminate in formulating recommendations for **EU policies**, providing a pathway for enhanced support and guidance on this issue at the European level.

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This event is part of the dissemination activities conducted in the framework of RITHMS project (G.A. 101073932), funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



9.30
Welcome

OPENING REMARKS

Dr Arianna Traviglia - *Italian Institute of Technology, RITHMS Coordinator*
Dr Lajos Rajczy - *Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU*

9.45
**Institutional
keynote
speakers**

EU ACTION PLAN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN CULTURAL GOODS

Dr Céline Chazelas-Baur - *Policy Officer DG HOME*

THE COMMISSION EXPERT SUBGROUP ON ART MARKET

Mr Oscar Seguro Apostolo - *Policy Officer DG EAC*

**THE CONCEPT ON CULTURAL HERITAGE IN CONFLICTS AND
CRISES. A COMPONENT FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN
EUROPEAN UNION'S EXTERNAL ACTION**

Mr Alfio Gullotta - *Policy Officer DG EEAS*

10.30 Coffee break

11.00
**Experts
panel**

THE CONSERVATOR-RESTORER'S PERSPECTIVE

Ms Monica Redondo - *Council of Europe*
Ms Elis Marcal and Mr Kristian Schneider - *E.C.C.O.*
Dr Evelyne Godfrey - *Uffington Heritage Watch, England; European
Association of Archaeologists, EAA Community*
Ms Michela Contessi - *Professional Restorer recognised by Italian Ministry
of Culture*

12.30 Lunch break

13.30
**Investigative
panel**

**THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSPECTIVE & PRACTICAL CASE-
STUDIES**

Mr Tiziano Coiro - *INTERPOL*
Ms Silvia Valencia - *Spanish National Police*
Mr Richard Bronswijk - *Dutch National Police*
Lt. Col. Diego Polio - *Italian Carabinieri TPC*
Ms Nicole Pogantke - *German Federal Police*

15.00 Coffee break

15.30
**Operational
workshop**

**CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS, TOWARDS EU POLICIES
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Restorers and conservators are invited to share their experience:
engagement with potentially looted or stolen artworks, approach to
existing best practices in the sector, and interaction with police authorities.
Participants: Conservator-Restorers and Heritage Professionals
(*challenges*), LEAs/Border Authorities (*challenges & solutions*), Institutions
(*solutions*)
Moderator: RITHMS Coordinator team

16.45 **Closing remarks**