

MODI-FY - Maintaining Historic Buildings and Objects through Developing and Up-grading Individual Skills of Project Managers: Fostering European Heritage and Culture for Years to come

Erasmus+ Vocational Education, Project number 2014-1-AT-01-KA200-001034

The aim of MODI-FY was to develop innovative Training for public organisations, NGOs and companies, dealing with maintenance of historic sites/buildings; this included the recognition of previous learning (already available skills) and the establishment of a European certificate issued by ECQA – <http://www.ecqa.org/>. Management of historic sites and buildings put great demands on the responsible organisations; on the one hand they are responsible for keeping them in shape – without changing the appearance more than absolutely necessary – and on the other hand they are required to utilise those historic buildings to the best degree possible.

Staff members and volunteers of organisations looking after historic buildings do need specific skills in order to ensure that the historic assets of Europe are still available for future generations – and at the same time can be utilised for several purposes. In order to do that, the buildings need to fulfil the requirements of modern life and commercial needs.

According to Prof. Wiegand, Vienna University of Technology, added value can only be achieved with well managed mixed use real estates and there are three key factors to this: the right actors need to come together, they need to master the required processes and they need to know their business. Only the successful operational management of historic buildings creates positive economic effects, which are needed for sustainability of those (“1st European Congress 2012”).

A study of the IWI Institute (Industriewissenschaftliches Institut) Vienna shows that 95% of tourists consider a historical ambience a major factor of their decision to visit a town or city. Investments into historic objects in Austria secure directly 1960 full-time employments and indirectly approx. 27.000 full-time employments. The anticipated added value is estimated at around 1.65 billion EUR just for Austria.

Therefore, the education and professionalisation of assistant and project/maintenance managers (PMs) as well as volunteers (VOL) looking after these historic buildings are an essential step towards the European economic future. Another important factor is the integration of the European Skills Passport as a tool to enable people to better present their skills and qualifications online, while also linking the acquired skills into the European ECVET system.

The training developed in MODI-FY has been integrated into The European Heritage Academy training offer, <https://www.european-heritage-academy.eu/>.

There is a number of European initiatives to sustain historic buildings in all EU countries e.g. Cultural Capitals of Europe, EHL sites. However, maintenance of historic buildings is still a big challenge and the lack of appropriate and tailor-made (VET) offers has triggered the idea for MODI-FY. Regarding sustainability historic buildings play a vital role anyway, as they are sustainable by definition: what is more sustainable than a building with a life span of 200 or even 700 years?

Additionally, such buildings usually have natural insulation through thick walls and sash windows, while modern insulation would destroy the historic appearance and does not bring any added value. Therefore, historic buildings are fully contributing to the [New European Bauhaus](#) (NEB) movement as long as they are well maintained and refurbished with the necessary care and competences.

[Partners involved](#)

[Project website](#)

PRO-Heritage - Protect traditional built Heritage Skills

Horizon 2020, 2019-2022, Project number 785211

According to the climate change and energy policy of the EU, each member state needed to identify and develop a series of energy efficient goals and regulations, of which buildings are a key element, in order to reach the set goals. However, Europe has numerous historic buildings, which need permanent maintenance and refurbishment in order to fulfil the requirements of sustainability and use.

When responsible bodies do spend money anyway, it seems logical and ecologically worthwhile to apply “soft” maintenance procedures, which save costs and also reduce energy consumption of historic buildings. Integrating these buildings into national climate change and energy policies seems therefore quite necessary and a challenge, as far as appropriate techniques and procedures are concerned, which can only be met through excellently trained craftsmen and apprentices of the crafts concerned.

PRO-Heritage partners aim to offer further education for professionals and craftsmen providing traditional competences and skills for built heritage, based on Best Practice of partner organisations. Additionally, PRO-Heritage is going to establish a structure and environment for regular journeyman's travel in Europe, in order to further support the exchange of competences and skills across Europe.

Major needs addressed in PRO-Heritage are

- to protect traditional competences and skills for built Cultural Heritage relevant for energy efficiency and renewable energy
- the need to involve adequately educated and trained professionals and craftsmen in “soft” conservation, maintenance and ongoing care
- the need to certify those professionals and craftsmen in order to give them recognition of their competences and skills
- to adopt principles of the newly invented [Pact of Skills](#) Initiative
- to integrate the training developed in PRO-Heritage into The European Heritage Academy training offer, <https://www.european-heritage-academy.eu/>

Achieving better energy performance in historic buildings is a WIN-WIN situation for all – owners facing less energy costs, residents enjoying modern comfort at reasonable prices and society reducing energy consumption and CO2 emission.

According to that, PRO-Heritage is fully contributing to the [New European Bauhaus](#) (NEB) movement, which is looking for already existing sustainable, inclusive and life-quality enriching projects.

[Partners involved](#)

[Project website](#)

INCREAS – Innovation and Creative Solutions for Cultural Heritage

FLIP2 European Commission DG Pilot Project, 2020-2022, Project number EAC-2020-0304

In the last decade Cultural Heritage moved more and more into the centre of attention of the European Commission. The Creative Europe Programme stimulated and invested in European initiatives like Capitals of Culture, the European Year of Cultural Heritage, the European Heritage Label and other. A series of reports like OMC and strategies like European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century have been developed and issued. By now those give a rather clear picture, where Cultural Europe plans to be heading in the years to come. This is also mirrored in the recently launched [New European Bauhaus](#) (NEB), the [Conference of the Future of Europe](#) and the [Pact of Skills Initiative](#), where INCREAS apparently has quite strong synergies with.

The actual challenge at this point is to take action and put things suggested into practice. This pilot project is seen as a perfect opportunity to continue several streams of action taken over the last five years. Building upon EU projects like [MODI-FY](#), [PRO-Heritage](#), [RCIA](#) as well as the [European Heritage Label](#) awarded to the [Union of Lublin 2014](#) and the [Imperial Palace Vienna 2016](#). Thus, creating a strong sector combining (built) Cultural Heritage & CCIs to the benefit of both and to increase employment opportunities as well as fostering the general idea of sustainable Cultural Heritage of Europe.

A quite knowledgeable and competent consortium consisting of Cultural Heritage experts, Creative Hubs and representatives of European Regions is going to create a newly defined sector for Cultural Heritage by revising the current ESCO system and rebuilding the EU Skills Panorama. At the same time, a series of innovative educational measures like sophisticated digital skills modules are developed and implemented. Furthermore, a number of study visits are organised, which complement the also foreseen workshops, thematic conferences and international stakeholder meetings.

One highlight of the pilot project outputs will be a prototype of the European Competence & Community Centre for Heritage Assets, short EUComp-Centre, which is going to be implemented in Mauerbach, AT. Regarding competences the focus here will be on built heritage as these are the main expertise of BHOe and BDA. The purpose is to demonstrate how such centres can strongly contribute to the economic wealth of European Regions. This at the same time shows the creative power immanent in Cultural Heritage and CCIs.

Together with the findings and results of the first phase of FLIP1, addressing Finance, Innovation and Patenting, this pilot project will round up the potential of the (new) sector and will lead actors and policy makers onto a successful path: a Europe, being proud to present its grand past, fully aware of the economic and climate protection potential of the same and in the position to demonstrate all that to its people and the rest of the World.

[Partners involved](#)

[Project website](#)

EHL@N

In 2013 the EU Commission started the European Heritage Label (EHL) as an initiative of several national governments to improve the knowledge of European history and the role and values of the EU. The purpose of the European Heritage Label (EHL) is to emphasise a common European history, to strengthen the feeling of belonging to the Union among all European citizens, turning previous borders into bridges. In addition, taking advantage of the diversity that characterises European culture, to stimulate intercultural dialogue and to still create a sense of being part of a united Europe.

The main goals of the EHL@N project are to give (higher) visibility and reinforce the idea of

- a common European culture: rich, flourishing, diverse; built on and through a long-shared history,
- a shared heritage which helps to define common values and eventually a shared identity for European citizens,
- the integration of those values defining the European Union project and making them attractive for all, especially for young people.
- finally, supporting quality and sustainable growth through capacity building measures and audience development, combining the enhancement of cultural heritage with the encouragement of contemporary creation and creativity.

In order to achieve those goals as well as to fulfil the mission that the EHL sites have defined for their cooperation, the network shall accomplish the following objectives:

- developing an appropriate framework/network structure, establish mission statement and ensure sustainability
- strengthening the existing brand EHL using common CD and utilise the label brand
- developing and maintaining an engaging multilingual website for the general public
- disseminating, communicating and marketing the network project as well as the network – by creating and initiating models, tools and means to improve the visibility of each site and the future of the entire network
- developing and maintaining a support website for EHL network and sites, containing information about cooperation, education, exchange programmes and joint activities as well as funding opportunities
- strengthening co-operation between EHL sites, through common conferences and events, exchange of best practice, project ideas and training offers
- supporting sites in order to meet the requirements of monitoring procedure of EU Commission
- identifying and promoting the key values common to the EHL sites as well as Europe as a whole
- supporting EHL sites in developing individual and/or joint project ideas
- supporting the concept of the [New European Bauhaus](#) (NEB) and the [Conference of the Future of Europe](#) mainly in regards to sustainability

With EHL@N sites can rely on a strong support system, offering quality information, practical tools and means as well as useful services for prosperity and long-term success, which is going to benefit all of Europe. In addition to that EHL@N aims to combine sustainability, quality of experience and life-quality enriching measures as suggested by NEB.

[Partners involved](#)

[Project website](#)