

## **JOCONDA Project (01/07/2011 - 30/06/2013<sup>1</sup>)**

Masterpieces can be restored to be studied and to be presented to public. This work is done by specialists, Conservators state certified (master). They work in all countries inside Europe (and outside). They can be individuals with their own personal organisation, gathered in small SME, or for some, they are employed inside main cultural museums such as the Louvre (Paris), Versailles Castle (Paris), Prado (Madrid), National Gallery (Ljubljana), Rijksmuseum (Netherlands), etc. This is for the main masterpieces, but in any important city in Europe there are professional who restore and preserve the masterpieces and art pieces. Those professionals are trained mainly by universitaries studies, sometimes with complement from different VET trainings. Improving Vocational Training for those jobs is the aim of JOCONDA project.

Health and safety at work is an important issue for this profession. They use daily dangerous substances and instruments such as chemical products, cutters, scalpels electric tools, they move heavy charges, they work on sculptural building (scaffolding...), they suffer from back pains, TMS (Musculo Skeletic Troubles)...

JOCONDA project is needed a European level to identify clearly all risks supported by this group of professionals and to identify needs in vocational trainings.

The guidelines which will be issued, will warn professionals and will also, which is very important aim of the JOCONDA project, inform public and private organizations which issue the calls for tenders (States, culture ministries, departments, regions, cities, public museums...) of the risks that conservators face in their job.

JOCONDA project is a cooperation between major stakeholders in the field of Health and Safety at Work, the training organizations, the companies, the public and private bodies, the professional associations of workers and independent workers, the trainers and training organizations at national and European level, the public and private organizations that launch the calls for tenders to restore masterpieces (ministries, museums, regions, cities...).

JOCONDA project wants to minimize risks as well for actors of the sector and as for the masterpieces all over Europe. Masterpieces are part of European Culture and preserving them from time destruction and despoiling, is a way to keep European culture and to allow the European cultural heritage to be kept and shared over Europe.

One of the major objectives of the "EUROPA 2020" strategy is to improve health and safety at work under "Smart Regulation" (Jose Manuel BARROSO - EU Commission).

This objective is for this profession very important. It is important for sustainable development of the EU culture and for people which are forgotten by training and regulations due to the fact that most workers in this field are independent. The risks for those professionals are high and are few or not teach. In their trainings, JOCONDA project will cover those objectives by issuing several documents which will be useful for all actors:

- List of professional risks.
- Correspondence with recommendations issued by several organizations in Europe (INRS in France, National Institute for Research and Safety (<http://en.inrs.fr/>) and dissemination at European level.
- Recommendations from other countries.
- Best practices issued, gathered will be disseminated.

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A best practice compendium will be released in all languages of the partnership and dissemination will also be done to the public or private organizations which publish the calls for tenders in the field of conservation of masterpieces and cultural heritage. The dissemination process is designed to create a "network" of people interested and to organize a final meeting and an international symposium in South West France with significant impact.

In this objective an important consortium meeting will take place in Maribor in 2012 with support from cultural authorities of Maribor and from Slovenian Government through partnership with KIBLA (<http://www.kibla.org/>).

As some countries are more advanced than the others and as those professions are focused more on technical points than on Health and Safety at Work, the gathering of best practices, sharing experiences (correspondence with EQF (European Qualifications Framework) and references with ECVET (European Credit for Vocational Education and Training)), will allow professionals from all countries in Europe to have better training and to improve their competencies, the transparency for VET over Europe and will allow mobility as well for students and workers by a better knowledge of safety at work, of local laws which they have to follow when working in another country.

The objectives of JOCONDA project are to improve Health and Safety at Work of the professionals of conservation of masterpieces by identifying and realizing the categorization of risks, by collecting recommendations and best practices at European level.

- Issuing recommendations, rules of best practices at European level.
- Creating guidelines to integrate Health and Safety at Work for Curators and Conservators in initial and vocational trainings.
- Dissemination of results and guidelines in countries participating through national associations of Conservators and Curators.

An international website, portal in English with local adaptation in all languages from partnership will be issued and updated by partners and national associations.

Contacts have been taken with several organizations able to support dissemination, those organizations agree to support the project JOCONDA:

- PREVENTICA (France), major tradeshow about Health and Safety at Work <http://www.preventica.com/> (impact France with impact on French speaking countries Belgium, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia),
- French Ministry of Culture,
- French National Association of Conservators and Curators,
- Centre Interrégional de Conservation et de Restauration du Patrimoine (Marseille),
- Slovenian Ministry of Culture,
- Public HSW services.

Other organizations will be informed such as national work ministries, European Agency for Health and Safety at Work, European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organizations (ENSHPO).

Another major issue is to create a "User manual" for public organizations which launch call for tenders for Conservation of masterpieces. The public employees which manage the calls for tenders are not sensitized by Health and Safety at Work, they don't know the recommendations and the risks faced daily Conservators

One of the objectives of JOCONDA project is to help those public officers to take in account the Health and Safety at Work in their calls for tender.

<sup>1</sup> The JOCONDA project will conclude with international and interdisciplinary conference to be held in Draguignan-Figanières (France) the third week of June 2013 (see tab "conference 2013").

<sup>2</sup> Extracts from official presentation of the JOCONDA project.