



ENCoRE General Assembly -
26-27 November 2020
Venue: Online

ENCoRE Conference **Postponed**

Activities of the Board

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Cover picture: Empty studios, due to Covid19

Dear Members,

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you have managed to cope in these difficult times, both professionally and on a personal level. The Covid-19 crisis has imposed very significant changes to our teaching in conservation-restoration education, in particular concerning the practical aspects, which are so essential for our students as future conservator-restorers. Moreover, there are also pros and cons with distance teaching of theory. In particular, there is a real concern that politicians and administrators might regard remote learning as a cheaper and more viable way to provide education rather than contact teaching, and this is not acceptable. Given the enormous economic pressure, and the different problems caused by Covid-19, this may be

understandable, but still we are tasked with communicating - and advocating forcefully - the importance of supervised hands-on practice linked with face to face teaching of theory. Of course, online teaching can offer advantages too, in affording flexibility of physical location and in reducing logistical issues and travel expenses, etc. Nevertheless, online teaching cannot be allowed to replace direct contact, as it is not an adequate substitute for our students. In the long-term, post-Covid-19, they must continue to be taught via "hands-on" physical contact with objects to learn the implicit and explicit knowledge of conservation-restoration practice.

ENCoRE General Assembly 2020 - online

The biennial ENCoRE General Assembly and the ENCoRE Conference, which had been scheduled for May 2020, were re-scheduled for 25 -27 November in Porto (P).

Unfortunately, given the present situation with the Covid-19 numbers rising again, it is unrealistic to plan any physical meetings. However, according to the statutes of ENCoRE the General Assembly has to take place "at least every second year", and so the only way to follow the statutes will be to hold an online meeting, for which the board will take all the necessary preparatory steps. The online General Assembly will have to be much shorter than our usual 1 ½ day physical meetings,

and there will not be as much opportunity for discussions. We nevertheless think that there will be important matters to discuss. The board hopes that in the near future another - physical - General Assembly can take place, maybe as soon as 2021, to make up for the reduced form of this year's meeting.

The ENCoRE General Assembly 2020 will be held on 26-27 November as an online event

26 November:	15 – 17 pm CET
27 November	10 – 12 am CET

All the necessary information will be sent to members in good time.

ENCoRE Conference 25 November 2020 postponed

Similarly, it will not be possible to have the ENCoRE Conference as a physical event and the board has discussed the possibilities of holding an online conference. It was nevertheless decided to postpone the event. The theme "Specialisations: Trends and Challenges in Conservation-Restoration Education" is a significant topic that is best treated in the context of a physical event, where there is enough room for debates and individual discussions. We hope that the situation will improve and that we can have the conference next year. We will keep you informed!

Activities of the Board

All throughout the past Covid-19 months the board has continued its work. Although it has been a long process, the publication of the Turin Conference 2018 is finally ready to be shipped and to be put online, thanks to the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow, and in particular to Aleksandra Hola and also Nico Broers, both members of the board.

One of the main tasks of the board was the adaptation of the questionnaire to provide an overview and better understanding of the member institution programmes. It was reworked and simplified, as some of the questions had led to misunderstandings or were overly complicated. Given the changes which occur in the universities teaching programmes over time, it was decided at the General Assembly 2018 in Turin that the members should update their programme information for each General Assembly, so that ENCoRE holds data which is as up-to-date as possible.

The ENCoRE website is now quite old, and is being overhauled. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic it has not yet been possible to finalise the reorganisation of the contents and the new design. The website is - and will be - an important information resource for

potential course applicants as well as enrolled students and teaching staff, and will give higher visibility to ENCoRE. It is hoped that it will be possible to present at the General Assembly a first impression of the new design.

As a consequence of the evaluation of the questionnaires and in preparation of the new website the board has started to systematise the specialisations of the member's programmes and make them more understandable for interested parties, which can sometimes be difficult using only the official designations and course titles. Bringing the specialisations, as defined by the institutions themselves in the questionnaires, into a coherent and at the same time flexible system has been a difficult task. We have found that there are two categories: material (e.g. stone, paper, wood, ...) and typology (e.g. contemporary art, archaeological remains, books, interior decoration, ...). "Typology" may describe a specific set of materials used for the construction of an object with function/s. We are still working on drafting a list of specialisations and also on a system to show the curricula structures. We hope for good ideas and fruitful discussions at the General Assembly!