

INTERNET PORTAL

EACHMED

European and Mediterranean Agency for Cultural Heritage

www.eachmed.com

THE AIM

Europe invests most in the Cultural Heritage science and technology sector at a regional, national and communal level in respect to its GNP.

But investing intelligently means, above all, suggesting the right methodologies for analysing, restoring and developing artefacts to the national, regional and communal authorities responsible for the upkeep of heritage.

But if research into diagnosis and restoration is essential, the need to **communicate** the results of this research and **distribute** resulting products is no less important.

This is a common European problem: the safeguarding of cultural heritage does regard all nations and peoples.

Many countries, North African, Middle Eastern as well as European, will soon be involved in the EACHMED portal. It is in the interest of all these countries to be able to make use of our 'Agency' to publicise their products and research as well as to learn about products and research produced by others.

The Portal aims to generate qualified experts and assist in the creation of new businesses in this sector, using the scientific and technological research currently available in Europe coming from all the partners of this initiative.

A Portal of this type requires a massive amount of institutional cooperation both at a national level, from Ministries, Regions, councils and Industrial Associations, and at an international level from bodies such as European research Institutions and Industrial Associations.

The scientists who make up the Portal can offer these resources.

As far as Italy is concerned, the work carried out by the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) is fundamental for both the financial management and the size of interventions: its "Cultural Heritage" Special Project is the most important and complete scientific research project in Italy. No other project of similar scale and with comparable funding is currently underway in Europe. The complete text of the project may be consulted in several languages at www.pfbeniculturali.it. All the products of this Project will be offered on the Portal.

THE PORTAL

To improve the circulation of information, the Portal will be accessible in national versions (in thirty two languages: Albanese, Arabic, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Russian, Spanish, Serbian, Slovenian, Slovak, Swedish, Turkish) and in an international English language version. The Portal is currently undergoing testing.

The Portal is subdivided into nine "**Channels**" and four "**Functions**" dealing with the following subjects:

A - The Channels

1. DATABASES

This channel gives information on numerous specialised databases covering a wide range of themes, ranging from archaeology to botany to geology to art history, giving the answers to questions such as, for example, Which species are cultivated in Italian botanical gardens? Which pollens are available in Italy?

Which obsidians in the Mediterranean basin? What is the chemical composition of antique glass? How many science museums are there in Italy? Where can I find a database of ancient DNA sequences? At the moment the database title and a brief description are shown, and functioning demos will also soon be available on-line. More information on the databases is available from each author. *Subscribers wishing to add further databases to this channel should contact the Portal manager for approval*

2. TECHNOLOGY

This channel deals with services and products related to the safeguarding of Cultural Heritage, and is targeted at public bodies such as regions, provinces and local councils as well as at businesses and individual citizens. One of the principal aims of this channel is the introduction of scientific and technological innovations into companies which are often too small to afford to do this themselves. Examples of the methodologies available include; How to eliminate graffiti from lapideous materials; use fluorinated polymers to protect monuments; integrate anti-fungal compounds in paper; characterise pigments, binders and varnishes in paintings and new methodologies for the assessment of decay in bronze surfaces. At the moment the database title and a brief description are shown, and functioning demos will also soon be available on-line. More information on the databases is available from each author.

Subscribers wishing to add further items (patents etc.) to this channel should contact the Portal manager for approval.

3. PUBLISHING

This channel aims to promote manuals, monographs, textbooks, as well as multimedia products such as CDs, VHS videos, software and websites in the cultural heritage sector, taking as a starting point results of the CNR's PFBC. Furthermore, it aims to promote multimedia items produced by others in this sector. Subjects covered range from a study of the scientific museums in Italy to the draining of lake Fucino; from the characterisation of antique glass to Punic antiquities in Italy and from the Bergamo organs to laser techniques for the restoration of heritage artefacts.

Some of the texts available through this channel are already in print while others are yet to be published. *More information is available from the authors themselves Items produced inside the PFBC give 'pfbc' as their 'source'.*

4. TRAINING

Each year in Italy numerous training courses are held by Universities, Public bodies, Government and private organisations, and it is often difficult to navigate between the many which are on offer. The aim of this channel is to publicise the many training courses in the cultural heritage field, targeting particularly students, graduates, operators and technicians from businesses. It is extremely useful to be able to access this information via a single site, but the scientific validity of the training courses shown must be carefully assessed on the basis of the information provided by the promoters.

Subscribers wishing to add further training courses to this channel should contact the Portal manager for approval

5. EVENTS

An immense number of Cultural Heritage events are held in Italy alone. This channel allows the user to search for events, is continuously updated and is linked to event organisers, making it possible to search by type, place and date. Events such as Congresses, Meetings, Workshops and seminars held in Italy and abroad are shown, along with how to participate in them. All this information can now be accessed via this single site, but the scientific validity of the events shown must be carefully assessed on the basis of the information provided by the promoters.

Subscribers wishing to add forthcoming events to this channel should contact the Portal manager for approval

6. ENTERPRISES

This channel aims to promote the creation of new enterprises, using technologies and equipment developed under the CNR's BCPF and made available for this purpose. These companies can manufacture prototypes which will be used for the diagnosis and restoration of immobile and mobile artefacts. The channel will also show the national, regional, provincial and local council structures which exist to promote the creation of new

businesses.

We welcome proposals by subscribers for the creation of new enterprises. These should be sent to the portal management which reserves the right to display them publicly.

7. INSTITUTIONS

This channel provides information on all types of scientific and technological activity carried out by public bodies, including the scientific departments of the ministries (MBAC, MIUR, etc.), the regions, provinces and local councils, with links to the original sites for further information. Particular attention is paid to proposals for research developed under the VI Framework Programme of the European Union of interests in the Cultural Heritage sector. The site also gives users looking for Italian or foreign partners for European Union projects the opportunity to post notices on the portal, using the 'Partner' button. Being extremely useful documents for those wishing to participate in European Union Projects, individual work programs from the VI Framework Programme are included.

8. PUBLICATIONS

This channel offers information (articles of specialist interest published in international scientific journals in particular) of a type which is currently unavailable in any one single Internet portal. It provides a fast, on-line link to scientific sources.

Of particular importance are the abstracts of articles from the quarterly Journal of Cultural Heritage (CNR-Elsevier), the international, interdisciplinary scientific journal published in Paris by Elsevier, and with its headquarters in the CNR PFBC offices in Rome.

Subscribers are invited to send useful information related to their scientific publications so that these may be added to the channel. These are subject to the approval of the portal manager the works of Dante Alighieri will not be accepted!

9. REGISTER

How many Italian scholars are involved in Cultural Heritage science and technology, and who are they? Which businesses use scientific methods for the diagnosis and restoration of artefacts? The research funded by the CNR's BPBC has made it possible to create a database of researchers and businesses operating in the cultural heritage sector. which also contains useful data on the national scientific institutions which deal with the safeguarding of Cultural Heritage nationally, regionally and locally in our country. This list will be available as soon as the necessary authorisation of the use of personal data required by law has been given by those included, which is forecast for the beginning of 2003.

For the moment only a small part of the register is available.

All those who feel that it is useful to be listed may add entries: interested subscribers should submit entries to the portal management for approval.

B - The Functions

1. FORUM

'FORUM' allows users to discuss and propose ways to improve communication between researchers, companies and the public administration which deals with Cultural Heritage. A simple sign-up procedure allows all users to participate in these forums.

2. PARTNER

"PARTNER" allows all users to seek partnerships for the development of scientific projects. The project type is displayed, and use is completely free of charge and self-managed . Those making use of this function to seek and offer collaboration should be aware that all communication between parties takes place without screening on the part of the Portal and thus must be verified and authenticated by the users themselves.

We recommend that those seeking non-Italian partners post requests in English.

3. EXPERT

"EXPERT" allows any user, in Italy or abroad, to ask questions about all the subjects shown and related to Cultural Heritage. These questions are sent by the Portal direction to national and/or International experts

and the answers will be published in the same column along with the original question; when answers are particularly complex, they will be sent to the person user who posted the question via e-mail.

4. USEFUL SITES

"USEFUL SITES" allows users to search the sites of Institutions, Institutes, Companies, the press etc. related to cultural Heritage worldwide.