

## **Statement of Cooperation**

**between**

**ICCROM**

the International Centre for the Study of the  
Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

**and**

**E-RIHS**

the European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science

### **1. Objective**

The purpose of this Statement of Cooperation is to establish a framework of cooperation to be planned and implemented jointly by the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (hereinafter indicated as ICCROM) and the European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science (hereinafter indicated as E-RIHS). It shall be identified as the parent document of any subsequent agreement executed between them.

ICCROM and E-RIHS agree to implement, to the best of their ability, the activities according to the terms listed below.

### **2. Preamble**

ICCROM is an intergovernmental organisation (IGO) created by UNESCO in 1956 and established in Rome, Italy, in 1959. It works in the service of its member states to promote the conservation of all forms of cultural heritage in every region of the world through its initiatives in training, information, research, cooperation and advocacy.

E-RIHS is the only pan-European Research Infrastructure (RI) serving the Heritage Science field, with potential global impact (GRI). E-RIHS is a pan-European distributed infrastructure supported by 15 Member States plus Israel and participated by eight more EU and associated countries. At present

E-RIHS is in its preparatory phase until January 2020, under the EU project E-RIHS PP. The E-RIHS European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) is planned to be launched in 2021, at which point E-RIHS will establish its international legal entity as an ERIC.

ICCROM and E-RIHS (hereinafter the “parties”) share a mutual interest to promote the development of conservation and they are willing to explore common areas of collaboration. Effective and ongoing global cooperation between countries, institutions, and stakeholders is fundamental for the sustainable conservation of cultural heritage. A key aspect of such cooperation is the advancement of conservation practice and capacities worldwide through shared access to up to date knowledge, tools and training. To this end heritage science, as a provider of knowledge and tools is a vital resource of global importance for cultural heritage conservation.

A key priority for ICCROM is that institutions and actors with responsibilities for the care and conservation of cultural heritage have access to up to date knowledge and research facilities, to ensure the benefits of heritage science are available to all its member states. The goal of E-RIHS is to provide access to the RI facilities, share scientific resources, exchange and share knowledge as well as to promote joint research activities, training and mobility of scholars and researchers in the field of heritage science.

Therefore, the establishment of a platform for global cooperation regarding heritage science is of common interest to ICCROM and E-RIHS.

### **3. Principles governing partnership**

The principles and conditions governing the implementation of the partnership are as follows:

- ICCROM and E-RIHS, drawing upon their respective institutional strengths, will cooperate in broad-based and multi-sectoral initiatives for the conservation of cultural heritage;
- ICCROM and E-RIHS will collaborate at the headquarters, as well as in decentralized activities at national and international level;
- ICCROM’s and E-RIHS’s partners will constitute vital links for the activities within this partnership agreement.

### **4. Topics and elements of partnership**

ICCROM and E-RIHS agree to maintain open channels of communication and they will establish operative agreements on the following identified topics:

#### **1. Advocacy**

To raise awareness and encourage global cooperation in heritage science:

- a. ICCROM will seek to enhance the visibility of E-RIHS and dissemination of its results through the provision of regular updates regarding E-RIHS via the ICCROM

website

- b. Through individual exchanges, ICCROM will communicate the potential value of E-RIHS to its member states. As appropriate, these can take the form of letters of support or other forms of communication to ministries and institutions to facilitate at policy and institutional level.

## **2. Training and capacity building**

To promote transdisciplinary training so that diverse actors within the heritage sector and beyond can work together effectively to develop research proposals and undertake projects:

- a. Joint efforts between ICCROM and E-RIHS will be pursued to monitor the training environment for heritage conservation and heritage science in order to establish training needs and develop effective responses to these.
- b. ICCROM and E-RIHS will cooperate in the development and delivery of diverse training opportunities to enable transdisciplinary working within heritage science.

## **3. Knowledge Exchange**

To promote greater open access to data, knowledge and tools through shared digital platforms:

- a. ICCROM will work to promote open access policies and opportunities within its member states, and encourage the participation of institutions in E-RIHS digital platforms.
- b. Joint efforts between ICCROM and E-RIHS will be pursued to identify barriers to knowledge exchange within cultural heritage conservation and heritage science, to identify strategic support needs.
- c. ICCROM will contribute, as it is able, specific knowledge resources to E-RIHS digital platforms.

## **4. Impact Enhancement**

To enhance benefit delivery to member states and ensure the effectiveness of E-RIHS in delivering impact joint efforts between ICCROM and E-RIHS will be pursued to:

- a. Define impact pathways for heritage science
- b. Develop methods to evaluate heritage science impact

- c. Identify ways to enhance heritage science impact

## **5. Institutional relationship**

ICCROM and E-RIHS will work to clarify their relationship with regard to their specific mutual roles.

The list of topics can be eventually updated and integrated on the basis of mutual agreements and regulated by exchange of letters.

It is understood that the details of joint activities, conditions for utilisation of the results obtained and arrangements for specific visits, exchanges and all other means of co-operation, will be negotiated for each case, and will be regulated by specific agreements defining, in particular, any eventual financial obligation.

## **5. Relationship between the parties**

Nothing in this agreement constitutes either of the parties as agent of the other for any purpose whatsoever. Neither party will have the authority or power to bind the other, to act as agent of the other, or to contract in the name of or create liability against the other in any way or for any purpose save as expressly authorized in writing by the other.

## **6. Termination of the Agreement**

Any of the parties may terminate this agreement at one's month notice to the other party.

## **7. Effective Date and Duration of Statement of Cooperation**

This Statement of Cooperation shall enter into force on the date of signature for a period of three years. ICCROM will examine with E-RIHS the feasibility of renewing and extending this agreement 6 months before its expiration.

For ICCROM:

For E-RIHS :

Date:

Date:

Webber Ndoro

Luca Pezzati

Director-General

Co-ordinator E-RIHS-PP