

# Emergence and Evolution of the ICCROM Sharing Conservation Decisions Course

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this review is to provide some context to the papers included in this publication as well as some reflections on the role of ICCROM and its contribution to education and training in the heritage conservation field.

The paper looks back to the rationale behind choosing a topic like 'sharing conservation decisions' for an ICCROM course and reviews the main aspects in its design and development over the duration of the programme (2001–2011). A brief analysis of the evolution of thinking within our field over the same period provides evidence of the relevance of the theme.

## Introduction

The ICCROM series of courses on Sharing Conservation Decisions (SCD) was offered five times, beginning in 2001–2002, and ending with the 2011 Seminar captured in these proceedings. This paper describes the history of that course in terms of its major themes and learning methods: where they came from, how they evolved, and how we guided that evolution to cope with the topic, which was groundbreaking at the time. Today, the concept of sharing decisions is part of the common language in our field. It is interesting to note, through the results of a quick bibliographic survey, the correlation between the course timeline and the development of the idea in our field. The paper also contains suggestions for how this could feed future education and training strategies.

## Identifying key challenges for ICCROM training in the new millennium

In April 2000, ICCROM organized an intensive three-day seminar with a selected group of its partners. Seminar participants came not only from various regions of the world, but also comprised a balanced group of experienced conservators, art historians and scientists. All of them were involved in the education and training of professionals in the field of movable cultural heritage.

The purpose of the seminar was to reflect on the current challenges in the conservation of cultural heritage and how these might be integrated into the processes of education and training.

Prior to the seminar, a wider consultation provided a number of key aspects on which to focus the reflections and debates. These were related to the cultural values of heritage and conservation, the societal role of heritage and of conservation, and the importance of plurality in conservation approaches, disciplines and contexts.

Years after, the findings from this seminar continue to resonate. However, its immediate outcome was the creation of the Sharing Conservation Decisions course.