



Improving **RE**search capacities of **Al**banian higher education institutions in conservation and restoration of **C**ultural **H**eritage

WP 3 | Development
Research capacity building: training on the job

Proposal for activities to be re-scheduled
(due to COVID-19 emergency)



COVID19 sanitary emergency has noticeably impacted upon project activities planned for the initial months of REACH project (M1-M6). Despite the limitations to international mobility and in compliance with the containment measures, most of the foreseen outcomes/deliverables have been accomplished, thanks to a structured re-arrangement of the activities and the commitment of all partners (see the document *Summary of completed activities and reached outcomes/outputs* for more details).

However, the persistence of the emergency situation makes it necessary to further re-modulate some project activities and actions scheduled for the next months, specifically related to WP3.

Based on the data collected so far and the objectives achieved, the following plan is therefore proposed, in order to guarantee the progress of the activities until December 2021 (M24).

The analysis of the critical path shown in Fig. 1 highlights, in the first place, how the proposed re-arrangement would not interfere with WP2; it would, instead, allow WP2 activities to spread over a longer timeframe and, therefore, not be stopped if the entry into force of further restrictions would cause delays in the procedures for the purchase, delivery and installation of equipment in the laboratories. At the same time, starting the activities related to WP3 would allow the knowledge transfer process to proceed independently from the “physical” laboratories set up; this will meet the need to level and balance the knowledge in the technical-scientific applied research fields to cultural heritage that emerged from the need analysis. The activities of the structural WP (WP5) and the transversal ones (WP6, WP7, WP8) would proceed in parallel, maintaining their original development structure throughout the entire duration of the project.

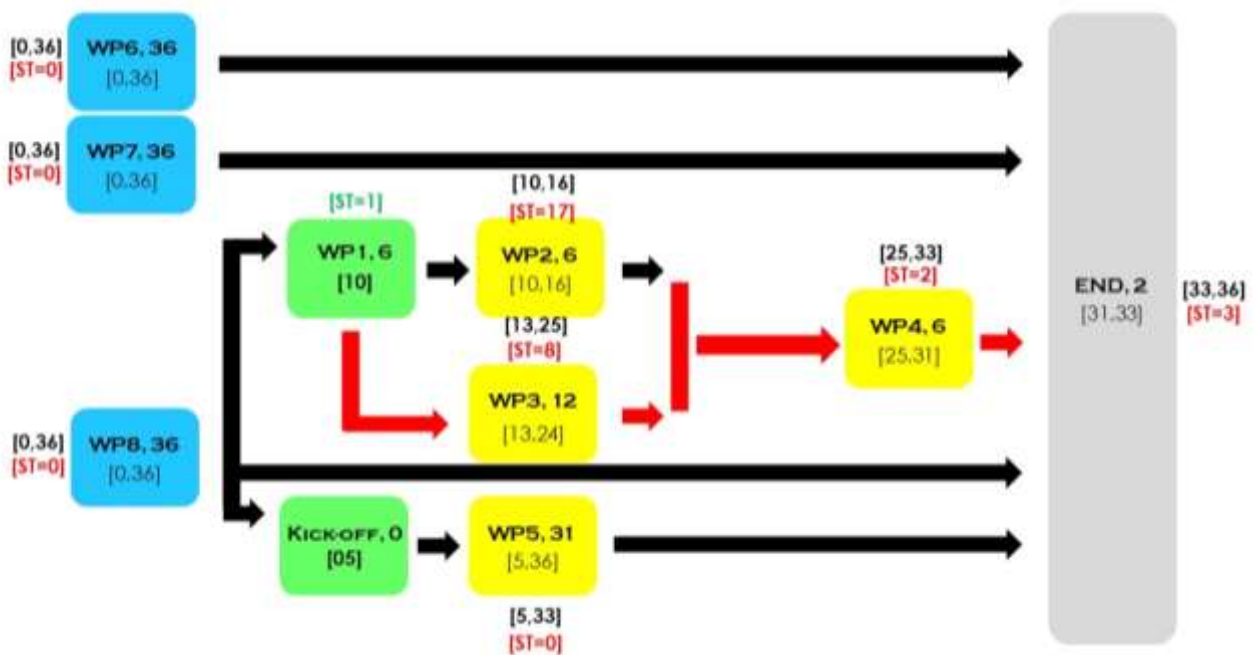


Figure 1 Critical Path post COVID19

Data from need analysis highlighted that applied research to cultural heritage is mainly associated with humanities and theoretical studies, for better understanding its socio-cultural value; less relevance is, instead, given to science-related disciplines and topics, as characterising constituting materials and making technologies, monitoring the state of conservation and understanding the degradation phenomena of cultural heritage. Moreover, it emerged that about 36% of interviewed from Albanian academic partners has

never used scientific equipment and collected data also demonstrated that, when referring to scientific instruments, most of the interviewees indicated GIS/ GPS software or stations for on-the-field surveys, while the use of equipment for materials characterisation is very limited or lacking.

Therefore, data provide evidence for the need to level the basic knowledge in the applied technical-scientific fields to cultural heritage of the Albanian staff involved in the capacity building process before proceeding further. To meet this need, the introduction of a new action 3.0, called **Preparatory Training** is here proposed.

Between January and March 2021 (M13-M15), EU partners (UNIBO, UNIURB, ESCRBBG) will deliver an online training to Albanian academic partners, based on the following scheme and topics:

	Trainer	Couse (tentative title)	Number of hours
UNIBO	Mariangela VANDINI, Sara FIORENTINO	Science and cultural heritage: aims, analytical techniques and public engagement (16h) ¹	16
UNIURB	Laura BARATIN, Francesca GASPARETTO	The first approach to the conservation: the digital documentation (8h) ²	8
ESCRBBG	Sonia SECO, Carmen LORENZO, Fernando CARRERA, Álvaro ARIZAGA	Principles of archaeological conservation ³	11

To ensure that the Preparatory Training will be successfully carried out within the scheduled times and make it functional to the capacity building process, it is essential that, by **December 2020**, Albanian staff to be trained by and at EU partners for the entire duration of REACH will be selected and their names and contacts provided to UNIBO, WP3 leader (action 3.1).

Moreover, to take everyone's commitments into due consideration, the selection of dates and daily amount of hours to be dedicated to the courses will consider institutional calendars.

Regarding other actions and tasks within WP3:

- ✚ **Action 3.2** (training of Albanian partners at EU partners) is still scheduled in presence; to ensure maximum flexibility in terms of organisation and schedule, a wider timeframe is proposed for the development of training activities: between May and November 2021 (M17-M23).
- ✚ **Actions 3.3 and 3.4** (bilateral workshops for the definition of action plans on Albanian case studies) are still scheduled in presence (by December 2021 - M24), with the possibility of translating them online, following the conclusion of the previous action (3.3).
- ✚ In compliance with the above actions, **outcomes 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3** will be reached by December 2021 (M24).

¹ See Appendix 1 for more details.

² See Appendix 2 for more details.

³ See Appendix 3 for more details.

At this point, a consideration on the organization of **Technical Workshop** within **WP2 (outcome 2.4)** is necessary. As the purchase of equipment is still ongoing and restrictions on international travels persist, the possibility to postpone to Spring 2021 the Technical Workshop could be evaluated. As described in the project proposal, the Technical Workshop aims to a collaborative definition, among Albanian and EU project partners, of applied research procedures and best practice approaches/methods to cultural heritage conservation-restoration; therefore, the Preparatory Training that would take place between January and March 2021 would also set the basis for a more fruitful collaboration between EU and Albanian partners during this activity. Should these changes be accepted, **outcome 2.3**, relating to the drafting of best practice guidelines, could be moved into a "task" that will be assigned to Albanian academic staff participating in the project (under the supervision of EU partners) following the Preparatory Training and Technical Workshop.

Below, some considerations on the activities relating to the other WPs in progress (WP5 and WP8) are also provided.

WP5 | Development - Structural Impact

- ✚ As WP5 is distributed throughout the entire duration of the project, visits of MoESY representatives to EU institutions will take place when the sanitary emergency will allow international travels in safe conditions.
- ✚ In the meantime, the representatives of the MoESY will work with EU partners to reach the outcomes 5.1 and 5.3, complementary to each other. As anticipated, deliverable 1.2 (WP1 | preparation) is under discussion within WP1 due to the limitations on access to the documentation imposed by COVID-19 emergency; deliverable 1.2 will flow into WP5 and, integrating the analysis of the EU standards related to the training of the conservator-restorer for cultural heritage, will be provided as part of deliverable 5.1 (Report on the analysis of EU standards for research training in cultural heritage).

WP8 | Management

- ✚ WP8: mid-term meetings had been scheduled at M12, 24 and 30. Similarly to what has been done for WP1, the proposal is to keep one at the conclusion of WP2, WP3 and WP4. In this way, the mid-term meetings will represent an effective opportunity to update all partners on the progress (and any necessary re-schedule) of the project activities.
- ✚ Taking into consideration the changes made to the original time schedule, it is necessary to share this document (after submission to and approval by the Steering Committee) with the partners, in order for them to be promptly updated; the document should be accompanied by a TO DO LIST (Figure 2), distributing the tasks among all partners and indicating the deadlines to be met.
- ✚ It is equally important that, on a monthly basis, the leader of the WP in progress (with the exception of the transversal WPs) sends an update email to all project partners, including any re-scheduling of the activities, the approaching deadlines and eventual "save the date(s)".

	UART	UPT	UNISHK	ASA	MOE	UNIBO	UNIURB	ESCRBCCG
WP2	provide requested materials and information to UNIURB	provide requested materials and information to UNIURB	provide requested materials and information to UNIURB	provide requested materials and information to UNIURB			lead WP2 activities	
WP3	select n.2 staff members to be involved in the training and provide names and contact to UNIBO	select n.2 staff members to be involved in the training and provide names and contact to UNIBO	select n.2 staff members to be involved in the training and provide names and contact to UNIBO	select n.2 staff members to be involved in the training and provide names and contact to UNIBO		lead WP3 activities	provide UNIBO with n.1/2 staff members as teachers for preliminary training in Jan-Feb21 deadline: December 2020	provide UNIBO with n.1/2 staff members as teachers for preliminary training in Jan-Feb21 deadline: December 2020
WP5					fill in the questionnaire for the analysis of the current training of conservator-restorers in Albania (to be sent to UNIBO)	draft a report on research training measures for conservator-restorers in Italy deadline: December 2020	support UNIBO staff in drafting the report	draft a report on research training measures for conservator-restorers in Spain (to be sent to UNIBO)
						collect documents related to EU research standards in conservation-restoration and set the basis for drafting a comparative document between Albanian, Italian and Spanish situation deadline: March 2021		
					supervise and integrate the basic comparative report provided by UNIBO deadline: May 2021			

Figure 2 TO DO LIST proposal to be shared with all partners

APPENDIX 1

Science and cultural heritage: aim, analytical techniques and public engagement

Sara FIORENTINO, Mariangela VANDINI

[REACH project | WP3 preparatory training | 16h teaching module]

Topic 1

3 h | Applied Materials Science to Cultural Heritage: introduction and virtual Lab tour

Topic 2

3 h | Non-invasive and invasive analytical techniques: basic principles for understanding differences and intended use

Topic 3

3 h | Non-invasive and invasive analytical techniques: basic principles for understanding differences and intended use

Topic 4

2 h | Putting theory into practice: study cases

1 h | Science, Cultural Heritage and how to engage the public

Topic 5

4 h | Risk management and cultural heritage: an overview

APPENDIX 2

The first approach to the conservation: the digital documentation

Laura BARATIN – Francesca GASPARETTO

[REACH project | WP3 preparatory training | 8h teaching module]

Topic 1

1h | INTRODUCTION

What is a *Digital Documentation Process* for conservation

Why it is so important to design a correct Documentation Process for a Conservative Intervention

2h | THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING DIGITAL: THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF DIGITAL HERITAGE IN EUROPE

Principal European Charters and Documents about the *Digital Cultural Heritage* (DCH)

Presentation of some important European Projects about the Topic of DCH and Digital Documentation

The Definition of the *contemporary Panorama* for Conservators and Restorers

1h | THE FIRST APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF AN ARTWORK

Observation, historical Analysis, preliminary Photos, preliminary Measurement: *how to start in a correct way*

Topic 2

1h | INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSERVATIVE PLAN SCHEDULE

Some examples of conservative plan form different European countries

2h | METHODOLOGY AND DIGITAL TOOLS FOR THE DOCUMENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Keywords of a correct Conservative Documentation: Recording, Managing and Being Accessible

Web Platforms for Conservative Documentation: Some Example

1h | THE POSSIBLE GUIDELINE FOR A CORRECT APPROACH TO THE CONSERVATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

First: observe and study the object; Second: *document*; Third: start to design the intervention

APPENDIX 3

Principles of archaeological conservation

Sonia SECO, Carmen LORENZO, Fernando CARRERA, Álvaro ARIZAGA

[REACH project | WP3 preparatory training | 11h teaching module]

Topic 1

1h | INTRODUCTION

Prof. Álvaro Arizaga: Archaeology and conservation: a strange relationship?

Topic 2

2h | DEGRADATION AND CONSERVATION ON ARCHAEOLOGY: CRITERIA, ELEMENTS, PHASES

Prof. Fernando Carrera

1 h: Degradation and conservation.

1 h: Criteria and phases (for conservation).

Topic 3

2h | PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION IN ARCHAEOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTION

Prof. Fernando Carrera

1 h: Conservation on field.

1 h: Storage, packaging and exhibition.

Topic 4

2h | THE CONSERVATION ON LAB: ORGANIC MATERIALS, CERAMICS AND GLASS

Prof. Sonia Seco

1 h | A virtual visit to a Conservation laboratory .

1 h | Criteria and methodologies.

Topic 5

2h | THE CONSERVATION IN LAB: METALS

Prof. Carmen Lorenzo

1 h | A virtual visit to a Conservation laboratory (metals).

1 h | Criteria and methodologies.

Topic 6

2h| THE CONSERVATION OF SITES AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Prof. Fernando Carrera

1 h | Specific challenges.

1 h | Criteria and methodologies.