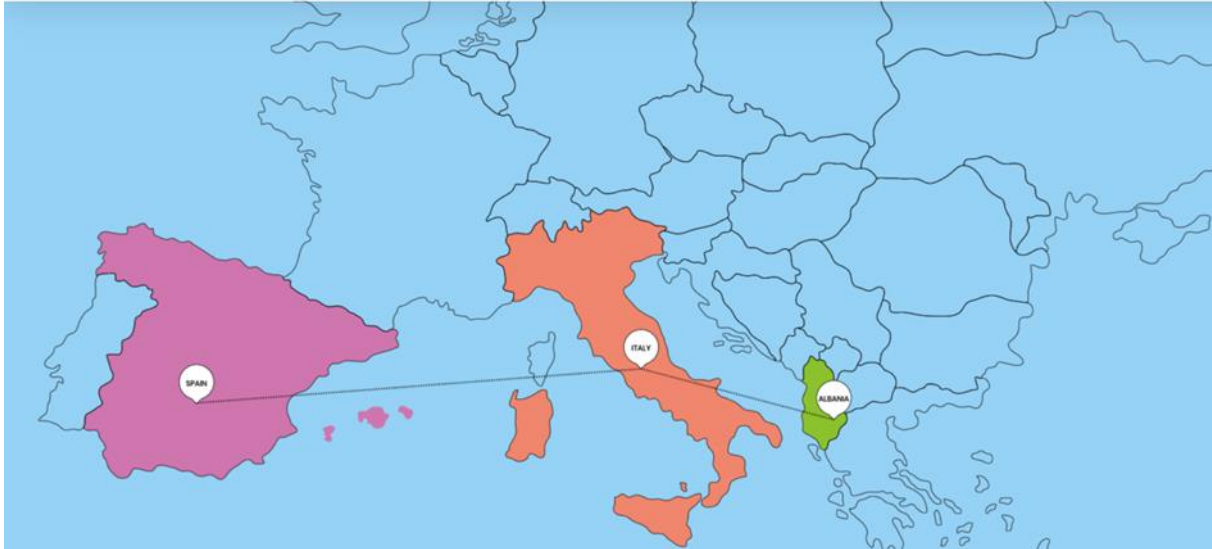




Improving REsearch capacities of Albanian higher education Institutions in conservation and restoration of Cultural Heritage



REACH is transnational project financed by the European Union in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, Capacity Building project in the field of Higher Education.

REACH aims to support the development of multi-disciplinary research skills and technical know-how in the field of Cultural Heritage conservation and restoration in Albania.

Based on the awareness that Cultural Heritage stands as a key resource for local economic growth of Albania, REACH is also expected to contribute to its accession process to the EU, through the modernisation and internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions (or HEIs).

The project consortium is guided by the **University of Art of Tirana** and includes the **University of Shkodra Luigj Gurakuqi**, the **Polytechnic University of Tirana**, The **Academy for Albanian Studies**, and the **Ministry of Education Sport and Youth of Albania**.

The consortium also includes three **Italian Partners** (Bologna University- Unibo, University of Urbino Carlo B - UNIURB, Fondazione Flaminia Innovation Center-CIFLA) and one **Spanish partner** (Escola Superior de Conservación e Restauración de Bens Culturais de Galicia)

REACH project partners stand out by virtue of the specific competences they have. Albanian partners will be individually guided by EU partners in the implementation of research skills and best practice approaches for the study and conservation of Cultural Heritage.

Capacity building process will not be the same for each Albanian partner: complementary skills will be developed, related to disciplines that all contribute to sustainable and










methodologically tailored studies and conservation activities, but without overlapping. This will set the basis for collaborations that can be established during the project and continue after its conclusion.

REACH Project has two specific objectives:

#1: strengthening, in the Albanian HEIs, applied research capacities in the field of conservation and restoration of Cultural Heritage.

#2: supporting Albanian ministerial bodies in defining criteria and strategies for assessing the quality of applied research to conservation and restoration of cultural heritage, in line with the European standards.

To REACH these aims a set of activities have been identified and planned to achieve the following aims:

-  Albanian partners will receive improved **Lab facilities**, with new set up and equipped Laboratories and technical staff/teaching staff/researchers suitably trained
-  **Research methodologies** will be **implemented**, thanks to a capacity building process for developing **interdisciplinary approach** in conducting applied research to Cultural Heritage conservation
-  **Connections** among researchers at national and international level will be consolidated, with the possibility to develop further jointed projects
-  **Structural Impact** on the HEIs system will be evaluated through the assessment of the adequacy between training offer and labour market.
-  Basis will be set for starting ministerial procedures for the **validation** of conservators-restorers as a highly qualified professional figure, in line with European standards.

REACH Is articulated around eight Work Packages, a group of connected and related activities oriented to reach a specific goal. Five of them represent the core of the project activities, in terms of capacity building and transfer of knowledges, the other three are concerning the transversal activities aimed at guaranteeing a good coordination and communication among the project partners.

WP 1 | It's a matter of PRIORITIES

First, we need to know where to start from. An in-depth need analysis will be carried out as a starting point, to outline a scenario of research priorities and educational needs in the field of Cultural Heritage conservation and restoration in Albania.

WP 2 | Improve yourself

Second, we need to provide Albanian partners with equipment and technical know-how. Technical Labs will be set up at Albanian HEIs partners, followed by dedicated training and technical workshops provided by EU partners. The capacity building process is now started!



