

- ☒ I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a Horizon Europe Project
- ☐ I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

**TOPICS OF INTEREST****Horizon Europe 2021 – Cluster 2****Destination: Innovative Research on the European Cultural Heritage and the Cultural and Creative Industries.**

Horizon-CL2-2021-Heritage-01-01: Green technologies and materials for cultural heritage.

Expected outcomes:

- Contribute to the objectives of the Green Deal by developing methods to conserve, preserve and restore monuments and artefacts with respect to different materials in a sustainable, green way;
- Promote research on the quality of conservation, in order to foster a more sustainable and green maintenance and restoration of cultural heritage. Ensure higher quality standards in conservation and restoration of Europe's cultural heritage.

**PARTNER INFORMATION**

The Planning Authority (PA) is a public entity which is responsible for land use and planning in Malta. The Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED - [Planning Authority \(pa.org.mt\)](http://pa.org.mt)) is the official recognized document which addresses the spatial issues for the Maltese Islands in the coming years.

The Heritage Planning Unit (HPU) is a unit within the PA that is responsible for cultural heritage in terms of land use and planning. The core tasks of the HPU are vast and varied and include the assessment of the cultural heritage component within requests for permits, valorization of cultural heritage, legal protection of monuments and sites, monitoring of restoration works, drafting and administering restoration grant schemes, and compiling and maintaining heritage data including attributes and spatial data.

Throughout the years, the unit has focused on heritage in timber owing to the launching of several restoration grant schemes aimed at a particular cultural heritage element that is so characteristic of the traditional streetscapes within our historic towns and villages. The traditional closed timber balcony is a feature under threat owing to the use of non-traditional materials and non-traditional craftsmanship. Over the years, the PA has managed to secure and make funds available so that people are able to afford the restoration of deteriorated balconies or the replacement of non-traditional ones. Through these schemes, the PA has managed to compile guidelines detailing how works are to be carried out so that the basic principles of conservation are respected. Additionally, the PA has also worked hard to help the traditional craftsman since such a trade was declining.

However, further research is required to be able to better understand the traditional materials, designs, proportions, finish, and craftsmanship so that the feature can be protected better. To this end, it is envisaged that green technologies and the use of digital innovation can provide better solutions.

### **Description of the Legal Entity**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Institution | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry /SME    | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Please specify</i>     |

### **Description of the (Research) Team**

Within the scope of the project, the research team has significant experience in the conservation and restoration of the traditional closed timber balcony. This heritage feature that is commonly found within the local traditional streetscapes of the towns and villages, is a feature that is also found within the Mediterranean countries especially North African countries and European countries that have an Arab influence.

Existing academic material is scarce and thus it is the intention of the project to be able to carry out research that would enable a better understanding of the origins of this feature. Additionally, one of the objectives of the project is to be able to determine and study those core elements that constitute the feature. Mainly, these elements include traditional materials, design, proportions, finish, and craftsmanship. It is envisaged that the use of technologies can help in identifying certain aspects that will in turn help with identifying deterioration within the material, as well as help with creating a profile and details of the existing feature. This will in turn lead to a better protection especially when traditional craftsmanship is required to manufacture like-with-like replacements.

### **Expertise of the Team Leader**

**Architect David Mallia** PhD in restoration of monuments. Manager of the Heritage Planning Unit within the Malta Planning Authority with nearly 30 years' experience in heritage protection and planning. Member of ICOMOS. Over the years, he has built relationships with other major heritage stakeholders in Malta and participated in EU projects ("Progetto Kasa" & "ThreeT"). Since 2008 has organized and managed several successful heritage restoration schemes. As an architect, he was involved in several successful restoration projects aimed at re-using buildings of cultural heritage importance. Moreover, he is significantly involved in the editing of a number of heritage related publications.

**Joe Zahra** – Senior Planning Officer within the HPU. Over 28 years of experience in the field of cultural heritage. Throughout the years, worked on the assessment of the cultural heritage component within requests for permits, assessment the cultural heritage component within Environmental Impact Assessments, assessment of the cultural heritage component within Major Projects, identification and valorization of cultural heritage, process and administration of the legal protection of monuments and sites together with requests for reconsideration and appeals, monitoring of restoration works, drafting and administering restoration grant schemes, policy review and compiling and maintaining heritage data including attributes and spatial data as well as digitization.

### **Potential role in the project**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Please specify</i> |

Already experience as a	Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
	Partner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
	Expert Evaluator	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>
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