

Personal statement for the candidacy for the ICCM Board

Dr. Maja Frankovic, conservator counselor, National Museum Serbia, m.frankovic@narodnumuzej.rs

Belgrade, September 30, 2022

Dear ICCM Members,

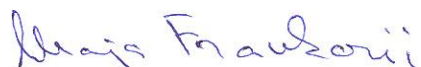
The ICCM have had formative role in my professional life, firstly through conference proceedings, which are the main resource about the state-of-the-art mosaic conservation practice. Then through participation at the conferences, which gave me the opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world, passionate about the same subject of mosaics. Through this exchange, some collaborations were made, friendships as well, but also it made me aware that an active community where one can question and discuss issues of common interest is a strong tool for professional development.

This was my motivation to found the SEE Mosaics project in 2008 with the group of likeminded colleagues from the region. We started with the idea to raise the awareness amongst stakeholders about the needs for more organized and active protection of the ancient mosaic heritage in our region, as well as to enhance region's visibility in the international community. Today we have a database that holds records on capacities of the region regarding ancient mosaic heritage, its state of conservation and conservation resources. We also have a strong network of professionals that meet regularly, exchange ideas and occasionally collaborate on projects.

By putting my candidacy for the ICCM Board, I hope to serve the committee to continue fulfilling its mission. Five years have passed since the last ICCM conference and in the meantime the world has changed on many levels, from environmental to social. At the upcoming conference we are about to see how those changes have affected our field of work and what the new challenges would be. Some directions, such as questions of sustainability, participation of communities, or the possible uses of fast developing digital technologies are already being tackled in heritage conservation but I'm sure many more, from technical to philosophical, will be raised. This might call for widening the scope of our work and will possibly require formation of working groups to explore themes of interest.

I intend to put my experience from the SEE Mosaics project and my practice in conservation to help build a platform on international scale where we could share, discuss current challenges and hopefully push our profession boundaries even further.

Sincerely,



Maja Frankovic



Maja Franković

Maja Franković a conservation specialist with more than 15 years of experience in development and implementation of projects in conservation of cultural heritage, including preventive and curative conservation, cross-disciplinary research, education and capacity building with the focus on mosaic and stone conservation.

She holds MA in conservation-restoration from the University of Arts in Belgrade and PhD in Geo-sciences from Faculty of Mining and Geology, University of Belgrade. She has been trained in mosaic conservation through internships (2002 and 2004) at Musée départemental de l'Arles antique, France. She has participated ICCROM International Course on Stone Conservation in 2013.

From 2005, she was employed at the National Museum Serbia where she led a team restoring the museum's mosaic collection. From 2009 to 2021 she worked at the Central Institute for Conservation in Belgrade as the mosaic and stone conservator and the head of the Center for conservation-restoration. She acted as a board member of the Central Institute for Conservation from 2015 to 2021. From 2021 she is back at the National Museum Serbia on the position of the conservator counselor.

Her work experience comprises more than 25 conservation projects where she was the responsible conservator and project manager, including conservation of mosaics and stone artefacts from WHS Gamzigrad-Felix Romuliana, mosaics from Villa urbana in Budva, Montenegro and Skelani in Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She was a consultant to the Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute in Belgrade for conservation and restoration at the Belgrade fortress. She has also been an assistant at ICCROM Course on Archaeological Conservation for Southeast Europe in 2009. As a member of the research group, she participated in the bilateral project Serbia - France "Influences of mortar as repairing material on stone monuments of Serbian cultural heritage", EGIDE-Pavle Savić, 2014- 2016. She has participated in numerous international scientific and professional conferences where she presented the results of her work and published 35 papers.

She is co-founder of the SEE Mosaics project – platform for collecting data on mosaics in Southeast Europe and networking of professionals involved in mosaic conservation. She has been a member of ICCM since 2002.