

EDITORIAL**Nota Pantzou**

Editor-in-chief, DIADRASIS, GREECE

In this issue, E-dialogos' primary objective and commitment, to serve as a forum for both young and experienced professionals as well as academics and field experts to share research ideas and projects and discuss challenges, is achieved. The selection of papers from young experts, senior professionals and academics covers an interesting range of topics and brings up the importance of dialogue, synergies, local engagement and youth empowerment in heritage protection and research in a rapidly evolving world.

In the first article of this issue, Diadrasis team presents the efforts made towards designing and carrying out the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum held in conjunction with the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting in Bahrain. The theme of the 2018 Forum was "Protect Heritage in an Ever-changing World". How is this possible? The answer lies in young people's education and engagement. Young professionals not only need to become fully aware of lurking current risks and challenges but to also become equipped with the knowledge and appropriate skills through "intercultural exchange" and expert mentoring. Under the umbrella of the powerful and popular World Heritage concept, the better informed and skillful they become, these young experts are able to handle obstacles and provide solutions, contributing to the sustainability of cultural resources.

Acknowledging the power of youth in taking action and bringing change, Drolia and Markatou designed

and carried out an outreach activity in an area whose heritage is underpromoted and relatively unknown both at a national and a local level. Their paper outlines this community-driven educational activity for Greek school children, from inception to completion and reminds us of the positive outcome that synergies between NGOs and local authorities can create.

Extracurricular activities are one tool for raising awareness about cultural heritage among young people. National curricula play an overly important part in forging identities and creating an understanding of the past and cultural heritage through the teaching of the subject of history. Mike Corbishley, an expert on education and archaeology, has launched the innovative World Curriculum project, which aims at mapping the position of the subject of history in national curricula worldwide. This unique project underway, when completed will expand the discussion on the politics of the past as well as on curricula's role in promoting knowledge amidst the fragility of heritage.

Rapid changes and/or technological advancements leave traces on both intangible heritage and modern artworks as demonstrated through the articles of Francisca Sousa and Royce Lyssah Malabonga. Francisca Sousa introduces us to Time-Based Media and informs us about the challenges experts and museum staff encounter when conserving this type of artwork. The risk of the technologies employed becoming obsolete

is what requires experts' attention. Sousa emphasizes that the key to designing efficient conservation strategies and successful decision making is an active dialogue between artists, conservators, collectors and other museum experts. Royce Lyssah Malabonga, through the example of the oral tradition of hakawati, demonstrates how the elements of intangible heritage can face endangerment or even disappearance in light of social transformations and political tensions. But as the hakawati case exemplifies, when conditions permit recreation is possible.

Kamara's article raises the significance of networking and embracing a global mindset in the success of locally initiated heritage projects. What is more, drawing on her team's experience, Afroditi Kamara emphasizes that networking and community participation are,

from the outset, instrumental in disseminating best practices and creating effective and long-term heritage policies without compromising local needs.

Guest author in this issue's "My favourite..." column is Giannata Rizi. With his account about the conservation project on the castle of Aquila in Gagnola, not only shares with us things that he learned, he also calls attention to the fact that in heritage conservation and management we should not expect to claim only success stories. On many occasions goals are compromised and competing needs bring a halt to projects. Yet, so many lessons may be learned from failures and mistakes. If only heritage experts shared their failures more often...

28 July 2019

Nota Pantzou

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nota Pantzou', written in a cursive style.

Editor-in-chief