

## **ACTION COST C17. SPAIN.**

AppWG314RepSpainHeritage

Report from IETCC CSEC Mariana Llinares 8 th dec 2003

The Spanish Cultural Heritage consists of a total number of 42 640 movable properties and 14 364 real properties. The latter are classified in the following categories :

*Monuments:* Architectural or engineering works as well as colossal sculptures with historic, artistic, scientific or social interest.

*Historic gardens:* Delimited spaces, as a result of the arrangement of natural elements by humankind, sometimes complemented with structures. Their interest is deemed according to their origin, their historic past or their aesthetic or botanical values.

*Historic ensembles:* Group of real properties forming a unique settlement, which can be scattered or continuous, with a physical structure representative of the evolution of a human community. A historic ensemble can also be a delimited group of real properties into a bigger settlement, and with the same characteristics set out above.

*Historic sites:* Sites or natural spots bound to the memory of the past, popular traditions, cultural or natural creations or mankind doing, which have any historic, ethnological, palaeontological or anthropological value.

*Archaeological areas:* Sites or natural spots with movable or real properties liable to be studied with archaeological methods.

In Spain regional governments have their own democratically elected parliaments, form their own cabinets and legislate and execute policies in certain areas such as heritage, though Madrid still retains jurisdiction for Church's and some other national heritage (royal) properties.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport has created a web site with all the information related to de Spanish Cultural Heritage, where an updated list of all the existing cultural heritage buildings can be found (<http://www.cultura.mecd.es/patrimonio/>).

As far as I know, nowadays there is not an operative method to obtain the assessment of the economic value of cultural heritage buildings. There are only some approaches dealing with variables such as land value, materials' value, replacement of certain singular elements, ... , but historic, artistic, aesthetic or evocation values are not easily quantifiable.

The main classified attacks to our Historic Heritage and the measures aimed to protect it are:

*Pillage and theft:*

- Historic Heritage Inventories and Catalogues.
- Legal protection to real estate heritage
- Information and collaboration with the state forces of security.
- Monitoring and control in sales, auctions, exhibitions and temporary exportations
- Updated databases of theft objects and goods , with updated pictures and dossiers.

*Vandalism:*

- Social education
- Campaigns of motivation to become aware of the need of protection and conservation of the Historic Heritage.

*Natural disasters and deliberate catastrophes:*

- Create social conscience of protection and help
- Prevent potential fires, floods and other telluric catastrophes
- International agreements on cultural heritage protection in case of armed conflict

In June 2003 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport together with the Ministry of Science and Technology made a framework agreement to digitize all the elements of the historic heritage, with the following aims:

- Cultural spreading of our cultural and natural heritage.
- Classify and protect the cultural heritage : the digital replica of the real properties allow an unlimited number of virtual visits (which is of great importance for the places with limited acces for conservation reasons) as well as it facilitates the possible restorations.

- Avoid geographic barriers to scientists and researchers of all over the world giving them access to the detailed analysis of the real properties from their own research centers.
- Contribute to develop quality tourism.

With regard to the item *Available technology* of the *Working group activities and standing agenda items*, in the Spanish High Council of Scientific Research there is a group of researchers studying the effects of high temperature on stone in historic buildings. They found that stone buildings which suffered historic fires have particular pathologies related to the high temperatures they had to bear. I'm waiting for some more information of their investigation, that maybe I can bring to the next meeting in Trondheim.

We shall also bring as case study, if possible, information of the fire protection installations in the timber structured roofs of the Royal Palace (Real Alcázar) of Segovia, and all the measures they are taking into account to avoid a fire like the one in 1862, which destroyed a big part of the building.

The State is aware of the need of available traditional skills (which at the present time is not so common) that are required in post-fire situations, therefore they have started a campaign of vocational training of young people.

The application of current codes to heritage properties is most times impossible because right now the Spanish codes are too prescriptive. The Ministry of Development is now carrying out, with the help of Eduardo Torroja Institute, a new building regulatory system. The idea among those responsible for the Code in the Ministry is to adopt as much as possible a Performance-Based approach.