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Project Title: European Cultural Heritage Identity Card

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Coordinator of the Project: University of Ljubljana

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SUMMARY

The primary objective of the “EU Cultural Heritage Identity Card” (EU-CHIC) project is to propose a strategy, and systems, for the most efficient methods and tools of harmonising criteria and indicators to track changes and interventions on the tangible cultural heritage across Europe and its neighbouring countries. The project results demonstrate a significant cost-benefit advantage for owners, managers, authorities and conservators in charge of protecting Europe’s immovable cultural assets. It also creates the capability to monitor, and systematically report on, various human and natural impacts on the physical state of that heritage, and assist in the provision of the most relevant and economic choices for effective preventive conservation.

The aim of EU-CHIC was to develop and test guidelines, required for the efficient compilation and storage of data, pertinent to each asset and structure under observation. The EU-CHIC system has a potential to support sustainable maintenance, preventive conservation and the rehabilitation of historic sites and monuments. It can assist in the application of newly developed strategies that will be designed to evaluate efficiency, and be user-friendly in their approach. It enables screening, and monitoring over time, progressive changes to the physical heritage as a result of recurring human interventions and environmental impacts.

One of the basic requirements in the development of the European Cultural heritage Identity Card project (EU-CHIC) was therefore to define data management protocol and thus to contribute to a unified approach to the collection and organization of data on cultural heritage assets in order to use this in a process of effective decision-making relative to the assets preservation.

![Diagram](image)

**Fig. 1.** The simplified scheme of intention of EU-CHIC
EU-CHIC data management protocol developed in several phases. First, the pyramidal approach to organize cultural heritage data evolved through discussions amongst project partners. However, in Athens project meeting in February 2012 the general opinion was that the pyramid format should be developed into the concept of an iceberg. Thus, as a final result, the EU-CHIC consortium devised and elaborated the concept of the ‘EU-CHIC iceberg’ - the “CHICEBERG” protocol for integrated documentation of tangible cultural heritage, together with detailed CHICEBERG guidelines.

Fig. 2. Initially identified groups of data to be covered by Cultural Heritage Identity Card

The basic concept behind the CHICEBERG is to divide heritage asset data into the three levels. This presented an outline of the content and philosophy behind the European Cultural Heritage Identity Card. Protocol proposal also gives some information on the proposed methodology for the collection, presentation and application of data required for the identification, knowledge accumulation and scientific decision-making of cultural heritage assets.
CHICBERG is sub-divided into three levels of data: General data - level 1; Pool of knowledge - level 2; and Decision support data - level 3. Each level is structured according to purpose and need. The consortium formulated templates for levels 1, 2, and 3 in order to test the guidelines and the protocol concept. Each of the EU-CHIC partners have prepared case studies on the basis of the pre-defined CHICBERG templates, and provided language translations of the CHICBERG guidelines. All those documents are publically available at the projects’ public web page (www.eu-chic.eu), where also public consultation was launched in September 2012 in order to invite experts to contribute to the further methodology implementation also beyond the project duration.
The consortium consists of 12 partners from 11 countries: Slovenia, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Poland, and Spain. They are committed to coordinating activities at both national and international level. Members of the EU-CHIC Advisory Committee come from six countries - Egypt, France, Norway, Italy, United Kingdom (Scotland) and The Netherlands.

Fig. 4. The countries from which comes partners of EU FP7 Coordinating Action EU CHIC
EXPECTED RESULTS AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

Expected final results of the project according to DoW were:

- Review and document current methodologies and tools for data collection and assessment; achieved as WP2, WP3 and WP4 results;
- Develop criteria and indicators for risk assessment; achieved as WP3 results;
- Develop guidelines for the future improvement of methods and tools for the collection and storage of data required for the evaluation of changes to heritage assets over time; achieved as WP4 and WP5 results;
- Consolidate recommendations and strategies, adjusted to the particular needs and heritage preservation strategies of the various European, and neighbouring, countries: achieved as WP5 and WP6 results.

All anticipated final results were achieved during the project development.

The EU-CHIC project has developed a broad societal impact on key players in the field of cultural heritage preservation across the EU and neighbouring countries, especially through the:

- Online consultation process, launched in September 2012 at www.eu-chic.eu;
- Translation of the CHICEBERG guidelines into 11 languages;
- Implementation of the methodology as demonstrated by case studies;
- Various dissemination activities, including the:
  - Launching, maintaining and editing of public web portal and of members’ area web page
  - Development of mid-term and final dissemination and awareness plan
  - Publication of promotional material: folder, poster, promotional textile bags
  - Preparation of the international conference in Split, Croatia, May/June 2012, together with conference material
  - Publication of the conference proceedings
  - Preparation of three projects’ public workshops: Vienna, Ravenna, Olimje
  - Preparation of the promotional DVD
  - Publication of two leaflets; first with the anticipated results and the work flow and the second (final) leaflet with the CHICEBERG guidelines level 1 publication
  - Development of the strategic plan for the CHICEBERG guidelines implementation (Deliverable 5.3)
All EU-CHIC partners and Advisory Committee members will continue to promote the use of the EU-CHIC methodology by contributing to the adaptation and development of the final project results, and achievements, to meet real end-users requirements.

In a manner similar to that implemented by the “Monumentenwacht” organisation in the Netherlands, and Flanders Region of Belgium, a significant aim of the EU-CHIC project is to stimulate and assist in the creation of new initiatives for the regular monitoring and inspection of historic buildings and monuments. With guidance and support of an Advisory Committee, such initiatives will be established in the project’s beneficiary countries and regions.

All Project partners will maintain and develop cooperative links with relevant governmental and other authorities responsible for safeguarding the cultural heritage, its protection and preservation, and a range of other stakeholders. They will continue to promote and assist in the introduction of the EU-CHIC system in their respective countries, and will further facilitate its use in neighbouring States.

Project partners and Advisory Committee members will be encouraged to direct other beneficiaries and partners to adopt the EU-CHIC methodologies in local conservation schemes. Significant successes in this arena will greatly assist in achieving the widespread adoption of a universal methodology, and the harmonisation of criteria and indicators, as identified in the project’s overall objectives.

The EU-CHIC project has launched two web pages, which will remain active till 2017:

- **Project Members Area page** has restricted access and requires login data. It is the projects’ working area, where partners exchange documents, find information on the project development, and communicate with each other. The page is regularly up-dated at: www.chiceu.net

- **Public web page** is devoted to communications with the wider public. Here, the final results of the project are openly published. The page is regularly up-dated at: www.eu-chic.eu
RESULTS ACHIEVED AND WORK FLOW DESCRIPTION

The development of the project is being achieved through the activities of four core WPs that are supported by integrated coordination and dissemination WPs.

Most significant results of the WP2:

- Collection (questionnaire) and analysis of 27 information systems from across Europe and neighbouring countries
- Identification of key-players in CH management in Europe and neighbouring countries
- Identification of future research priorities in the European area
- Workshop on the assessment of current information systems: Vienna, Austria, April 2010.

Most significant results of the WP3:

- Collection (questionnaire) and analysis of 21 existed risks assessment methodologies across Europe and neighbouring countries
- Extensive survey of literature, documents, standards and related projects
- Elaboration of the proposal of major risks to be considered by the project
- Elaboration of the proposal of methodology, risk indicators and hazard prioritization to be considered by the project
- Workshop on the risks assessment methodologies, Ravenna, Italy, October 2010

Most significant results of the WP4:

- Collection and analysis of 23 information systems’ data collection MTTs from Europe and neighbouring countries
- Analysis of established domains, projects and references
- Development and definition of criteria and indicators of the main MTTs used for collecting information on European CH
- Extensive survey and analysis of the data, collected by questionnaire
- Identification of the most efficient MTTs’ in terms of time, costs and knowledge
- Identification of the level of difficulty and efficiency of each MTT
• Identification of key-players

• Elaboration of the proposal of the most efficient MTTs for the EU-CHIC project

• Workshop on Assessment of methods and tools, Olimje, Slovenia, June 2011

**Most significant results of WP5:**

• Elaboration of the EU-CHIC data management scheme and concept (Iceberg)
• Elaboration of the EU-CHIC Guidelines: Proposal of protocol for integrated documentation of tangible CH
• Testing of the EU-CHIC Guidelines through case studies, prepared on a pre-defined template
• Development of the proposal for integrated methodology for knowledge based decision making procedures related to CH preservation
• Development of the necessity index methodology proposal for the prioritization of CH preservation works
• Application of the quality control principles to the CH documentation field
• Development of strategic research proposal for further EU-CHIC methodology elaboration
• Development of strategic proposal for EU-CHIC Implementation and further development through relevant EU Policies
• Development of strategic proposal for EU-CHIC network articulation and expansion
• Exploration of potential funding options for further EU-CHIC development
• Preparation, conduction and analysis of the end-users survey
• Formation of the extensive bibliography on the CH data compilation, presentation and storage
• Creation of all partners’ professional profiles

**Most significant results of the WP6:**

• Launching, maintaining and editing of public web portal and of members’ area web page
• Development of mid-term and final dissemination and awareness plan
• Publication of promotional material: leaflet, folder, poster
• Preparation of the international conference in Split, Croatia, May/June 2012, together with conference material: leaflets
• Publication of the conference proceedings
• Preparation of three projects’ workshops: Vienna, Ravenna, Olimje
• Translation of the EU-CHIC Guidelines into respective partners’ languages
• Preparation of the promotional DVD
• Coordination of dissemination activities
As a final result, the EU-CHIC consortium devised and elaborated the concept of the CHICEBERG protocol for integrated documentation of tangible CH, together with detailed CHICEBERG guidelines. CHICBERG is sub-divided into three levels of data: General data - level 1; Pool of knowledge - level 2; and Decision support data - level 3. Each level is structured according to purpose and need.

The consortium formulated templates for levels 1, 2, and 3 in order to test the guidelines and the protocol concept. Each of the EU-CHIC partners have prepared case studies on the basis of the pre-defined CHICEBERG templates, and provided language translations of the CHICEBERG guidelines.

The guidelines, originally written in English, are being translated into the following languages: Croatian, Czech, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Russian, Slovenian and, Spanish.

All the submitted case studies and language translations are published on the projects’ public web page (www.eu-chic.eu).

Fig. 5: EU-CHIC project public web page (www.eu-chic.eu; 02.10.2012).