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**Project title**                      **INCAS – Innovative methods for the Conservation of cultural Assets**

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**Project focus**

This project aims at enhancing the value of architectonic heritage through its preservation and conservation. The problem at the root is the deterioration of architectonic assets due to atmospheric events, flashes, human activities. This deterioration causes a loss of economic but also artistic and cultural value. A good conservation and maintenance will attract more people to the site. Moreover, if the restoration works are carried out using new technologies, more respectful of the original features and more environmental friendly (e.g. nanotechnologies) the site will become a point of interest also for researchers, experts and scientists. Obviously, the activity of restoration, the studies and the methods utilized should be documented and publicized in a scientific and also in a general, easy way comprehensible to everybody who will visit the site. The promotion activity is essential to make the site more attractive, interesting and competitive compared to other more popular areas.

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**Expected results**

The expected results refers to three different aspects:

- The concrete action of restoration of some pilot areas as a demonstration of the efficacy of new technologies (pre-competitive phase);
- The creation of a network among research centres and enterprises active in the restoration sector in order to exchange information, knowledge for a reciprocal enrichment;
- The awakening of those bodies/subjects, that are involved in the restoration activity or that own or manage the architectonic heritage, in the use of the best materials and techniques.

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**Actions**

- Demonstrative action of restoration of architectural heritage (medieval walls) through nanotechnologies:
  - philological research about the original characteristics of the architectural works concerned
  - identification of those technologies that best fit the restoration needs
- Creation of a network among research centres (universities) and restoration enterprises
- Improvement of education and training courses (in universities) on new technologies of restoration

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**Benefits for partners**

The advantage of the owners/managers of the heritage to restore is the possibility of finding technical solutions and costs evaluations for the conservation of their heritage.

The advantage of the research component is represented by the exchange of knowledge, techniques and innovative methods to be applied in the cultural heritage conservation.

The associations of professionals and enterprises can benefit from this action because they will know and see the field application of new materials that they can use in their activity.

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| <b>Innovation</b>                      | <p>The innovation reveals on two levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Innovative materials and techniques: the materials and the techniques applied for restorations will be more environmental friendly, more respectful of the human health and more respectful of the matter of the object considered having a reduced impact on its original features and on the surrounding environment;</li> <li>- The network aims at put in contact the world of art with that of research and that of industry which often are very far but that can find some points of contact and enrich reciprocally.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Previous projects</b>               | <p>The project INCAS continues a trend of activities limited to the pure scientific research (in the field of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme) regarding the setting-up of nanotechnologies for the restoration of ancient frescos.</p>  |
| <b>Target</b>                          | <p>Restoration enterprises, regional/national board of cultural heritage and environmental conservation, cultural assets' owners (both private and public).</p>   |
| <b>Key words</b>                       | <p>Architectural heritage / restoration / nanotechnologies / innovation / cultural asset</p>  |
| <b>Partners involved at this stage</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Municipality of Soave (Italy)</li> <li>- Italian University specialized on nanotechnologies</li> <li>- Other historical walled towns in Central Europe</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Further partners requested</b>      | <p>The partner requested should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bodies, subjects or towns concerned with architectonic heritage and interested in conserving and restoring it;</li> <li>- Research centres and/or universities concerned with nanotechnologies or new techniques and materials for restoration;</li> <li>- Associations of the restoration sector in order to create a network among enterprises which work in restorations.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Estimated total cost</b>            | <p>About 2.000.000 €</p>  |
| <b>Estimated project duration</b>      | <p>About 30 months</p>  |
| <b>Priority Axis</b>                   | <p>4. Enhancing competitiveness and attractiveness of cities and regions</p>  |
| <b>Area of intervention</b>            | <p>4.3 Capitalising on cultural resources for more attractive cities and regions</p>  |
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