



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

EPICO

2023-2025 PROGRAMME

CONSERVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY MODERATION



EPICO

EPICO (European Protocol In Preventive Conservation) is a research programme and assessment framework designed specifically for preventive conservation in historic houses and palace-museums.

This ground-breaking framework stands out in its systemic approach, and has been honed by an inter-disciplinary team since 2014. The method examines the state of collections and decorative elements alongside environmental phenomena and site management factors in one holistic whole, before issuing diagnostics, recommendations for preventive conservation action to be taken, and the resources needed to make it all happen. In 2018, the EPICO programme was awarded the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award in the Research category, and was described as “a powerful tool for the preservation of European heritage”.

2023-2025 PROGRAMME

CONSERVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY MODERATION

For the period spanning 2023 to 2025, the programme’s research activities will need to focus on emerging energy moderation and sustainable development goals. The two-way interaction between collection conservation and the environment has been a cornerstone of the programme’s research activities from the very start, but two factors are now prompting a need for tangible solutions to these issues: the results of the major renovation works on the Palace of Versailles’ technical grid, as well as concerns surrounding the impact of climate change on our cultural heritage, as expressed by governments across Europe and European Royal Residences Association members.

The climate emergency, heritage conservation, energy moderation and sustainable development are interdependent variables as much as they are obstacles. Taking action on one variable without considering the others would trigger domino-effect imbalances in heritage conservation, energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

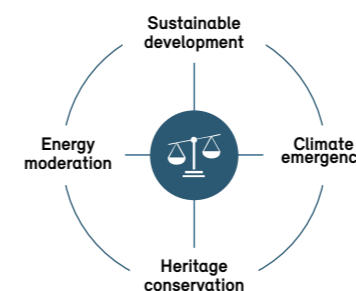
By focusing on understanding each one and the environment they inhabit, a balance may be struck between these various moving parts — doing so relies on embracing a systemic assessment approach by way of the EPICO method.

New conversations and assessments will be taking place within the new programme’s partner palaces and museums across Europe, all with the same goal in mind: rolling out the EPICO method and identifying action points with a view to mitigating the effects of the climate emergency and cutting back on energy consumption and CO2 emissions in historic houses.

New digital and instrumental tools will also be assessed to consolidate and share the information that has already been collected via the EPICO method to conserve our palaces and museums, turning the method into an up-to-date, gold-standard framework for preventive conservation. Technology transfer via a digital platform should help expand the framework’s accessibility and weave in information sourced from various stages of the investigative process (such as climate, light and pollutants), all of which are key to achieving A-grade preventive conservation.

Thanks to its “structural nature, its particularly innovative approach from an environmental and heritage perspective, and the manner in which it champions French expertise on the world stage”, the EPICO programme is backed by France’s Ministry of Culture.

SYSTEMIC APPROACH



FROM 2023 TO 2025, A HANDFUL OF TOPIC-SPECIFIC DAYS WILL RUN TO ALLOW THE PROGRAMME’S PARTNERS TO EXPLORE PARTICULAR THEMES WITH A VIEW TO:

COMPARING and contrasting the root causes of damage seen in European historic houses and palace-museums that have been assessed via the EPICO method since 2015;

REFLECTING on how the climate impacts on said root causes; d’altération;

SHARING new conservation strategies by combining traditional upkeep/maintenance methods with cutting-edge tech.

EPICO

WINNER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE
FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE/
EUROPA NOSTRA AWARD 2018

Current partners



Current contributors



Partners up until 2017



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Find out more about EPICO over on
europeanroyalresidences.eu
and en.chateauversailles.fr

