



ANNUAL REPORT 2005

THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

PUBLISHED BY
THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

138,
MELITA STREET
VALLETTA VLT08
MALTA

IMQIEGHED FUQ IL-MEIDA TAL-KAMRA
TAD-DEPUTATI FIS- S382-09.05.06
MILL- Ministru għall-Kompetittività u
Kommunikazzjoni, fuqom il- Ministru
għat- Tassewira u Kulturi

SKRIVAN

© 2005 THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be produced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

CONTENTS

- 1 **Legal and Policy Issues**
- 2 **Core Business**
- BUS 1 **Heritage Data Management and Processing**
- BUS 2 **Planning Development Services**
- BUS 3 **Museums and Sites Monitoring**
- BUS 4 **Surveillance, Enforcement and Prosecution**
- BUS 5 **Movement of Goods**
- BUS 6 **Research and Heritage Data Capture**
- BUS 7 **International Commitments**
- BUS 8 **Communication and Outreach**
- BUS 9 **National Forum**
- BUS 10 **Policy Development**
- BUS 11 **Finance and Administration**

1

Legal and Policy Issues

1.1 Core Functions

- The core business of the Superintendence as set by the Cultural Heritage Act 2002 includes the following functions:
 - Heritage Data Management and Processing: national heritage databases, national inventory of cultural heritage assets, museums and sites, clean storage/archiving of documents and artefacts, data provision to the general public.
 - Planning development issues: field evaluations, planning process consultations, recommendations for scheduling, Environmental Impact Assessments, Appeals Board.
 - Museums and Sites Monitoring: assessment, auditing, guardianship.
 - Surveillance, Enforcement and Prosecution: all aspects of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002.
 - Movement of Cultural Goods: import/export, Customs, border control, EU regulations.
 - Heritage Data-Capture: field work, excavation, evaluation of art objects, collections, documentation and other, covering all territory including territorial waters.
 - International Commitments: UNESCO, Council of Europe, European Union, European and Euro-Med partnership, bi-lateral and multi-lateral relations.
 - Communication and Outreach: press, public relations, education, Local Councils, schools, publication programme.
 - National Forum: compilation and upgrade of the State of the Heritage Report.
 - Policy Development: policy, standards, guidelines, regulations, heritage management plans, advice to Government on heritage matters.

Heritage Data Management and Processing

The National Cultural Inventory

1.1 Cultural Heritage Inventory Management Systems (CHIMS)

The Cultural Heritage Act 2002 identifies the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage as the statutory body responsible for the development and management of a National Inventory of Cultural Property.

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage launched the Cultural Heritage Inventory Management Systems Project (CHIMS), which aims to create a new knowledge-based context for understanding, managing and disseminating data concerning Malta's cultural heritage through the creation and maintenance of an electronic database.

Following the publication of a Request For Proposals by the Superintendence, through the Department of Contracts, for the development of a software system for the operation of CHIMS in 2003, and subsequent to the adjudication of submissions made to the RFP, and successful negotiations with the bidder offering the most advantageous offer, namely Datatrak Solutions International Ltd, a Letter of Acceptance was issued to the latter in September 2005. The "CHIMS Composite Agreement", comprising of the "CHIMS Purchase Contract", "CHIMS Maintenance and Support Agreement", and the "CHIMS Hosting Agreement", was signed between the SCH and Datatrak on the 28th of September 2005. The first phase of the Project commenced on the 17th October 2005.

Land Use Issues

2.1 Scheduling of Cultural Heritage Property

2.1.1 No. 1, Ghar il-Lembi Street, Sliema

A house of cultural heritage value located at 1, Ghar il-Lembi Street, Sliema was recommended for Scheduling in terms of the Structure Plan Policy UCO7. The structure, which includes baroque architectural features, is being threatened by re-development rendering its scheduling necessary. Communications were made with MEPA in July 2005 informing them of the above and recommended scheduling of property.

2.2 Co-ordination with MEPA

Between October 2004 and September 2005, the Superintendence had been consulted by the Malta Environmental and Planning Authority on cases linked to development of properties having potential archaeological or architectural heritage assets. Of these a total of 300 cases were handled and 200 cases were inspected by personnel of the Superintendence.

2.2.1 Liaison Meetings with MEPA

Meeting with the chairman MEPA was held to establish means of and improving liaison with Superintendence and MEPA. This meeting was followed up with regular meetings between officers of both organisations. A draft document is being prepared outlining measures to be taken to achieve an improved liaison with Superintendence and MEPA.

2.3 Expropriation

2.3.1 Tac-Caghqi Catacombs - Rabat

Expropriation procedures for property located at 'St. Rita', Kan. Gatt Said Street, Rabat, has been completed by Lands Department. The site had originally been archaeologically investigated by the Museums Department in 1997. The property in question includes two major catacombs and related Early Roman tombs, which form part of the extensive Tac-Caghqi classical period burial grounds.

2.4 Enforcement

2.4.1 Marsa

Interventions were made to stop unauthorised excavations by Works Division in connection with the construction of a floodwater relief channel. Construction works had exposed significant archaeological remains dating to the Roman Imperial period. In collaboration with Works Division, the Superintendence proceeded with an extensive archaeological evaluation of the site in view of the proposed works. The outcome of this evaluation is described in **Section 6.9** below.

2.4.2 Salina

The Superintendence intervened to stop works by Works Division aimed at clearing the water channel, known as Is-Soccorso, at the Salina Saltworks. This intervention was carried out following reports that these works were damaging parts of this historical architectural feature. The Superintendence liaised with the developer and with the Malta Planning and Environmental Authority to ensure that these features were adequately protected in the course of works.

2.4.3 Gzira

The Superintendence intervened in collaboration with the Malta Environment and Planning Authority to protect a World War II shelter located at D'Argens Street, Gzira. Following the intervention, the developer agreed to redesign the foundations of the construction in order to ensure the protection of the shelter.

2.4.4 Mtarfa, site at Triq Dar il-Kaptan

A number of historical and archaeological rock-cut features were discovered in the course of a Housing Authority project at Mtarfa. Investigation of these features by the Superintendence established these features included extensive remains of a World War II shelter. Two ancient rock-cut features were also identified, including a Punic shaft grave and a probable re-utilised Roman tomb.

The Superintendence issued an Enforcement Order to protect these historical features, and monitored subsequent works. Furthermore the Superintendence requested the redesign of the development plans in order to protect the historical features on site.

2.4.5 Hal Resqun Catacombs, Hal Kirkop

Plans were prepared in view of planned works over the archaeological site of Hal Resqun following an application by Works Division to erect a commemorative monument at this site. The Superintendence relocated the exact position of the catacomb on the basis of archival research. This information has been communicated to Works Division and the Malta Environmental and Planning Authority to ensure that the proposed works do not damage the archaeological monument.

3.1 BOV Tarxien Temples Project

The Superintendence participated in a number of meetings of the Project Team, during which designs of the Visitors Centre at Tarxien were presented and discussed, as well as other issues including promotion of the Project, and the archaeological investigations required prior to development.

3.2 Excavations Related to the Visitors Centre, Tarxien

Following meetings with Heritage Malta personnel in charge of World Heritage Sites, and subsequent meetings with the Project Team, a revised proposal for archaeological investigations required by the present development proposal was prepared by the Superintendence. The Team agreed that the required archaeological investigations will be carried out by Superintendence and funded by Heritage Malta and BOV. Specifications for the engagement of services related to mechanical means of excavation required on site were prepared by the Superintendence and submitted to Heritage Malta. Heritage Malta issued a number of calls for quotations for which there were no successful bids, following which a tender was published by Heritage Malta for the required services.

3.3 Archaeological Excavations at Ggantija

An archaeological investigation of an area at Ggantija where a collapse had occurred in 2003 was carried out by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage in connection with Heritage Malta's intention to reconstruct the area. The Superintendence monitored the removal by mechanical means of megaliths affected by the collapse. An archaeological excavation of the infill behind the collapsed megaliths was carried out. Two major contexts were determined, namely an earlier collapse of the original infill, and another layer consisting of soil and rubble. Only prehistoric pottery shards were found, as well as a small amount of animal bones. Drawings of the exposed elevations were made, and a photographic record was taken.

3.4 Hal Saflieni

An archaeological investigation at "St Joseph", Hal Saflieni Street, Paola was required in view of a re-surfacing of a backyard at these premises, which lies over the Hypogeum. Investigation entailed the removal of a layer of debris underlying a layer of relatively modern tiles which surfaced the courtyard. No archaeological deposits were found below the layer of debris. This layer immediately overlaid bedrock. The exposure of the latter resulted in the identification of only a minor squareish cut that could possibly be of any archaeological significance. Although the surface contained no clear archaeological features, a photographic record was taken. Plans for the re-surfacing of the courtyard could proceed. This was done by the owner in conjunction with Heritage Malta who ensured that necessary measures of drainage for safeguarding the underlying prehistoric monument.

Surveillance, Enforcement and Prosecution**4.1 Bingemma Tomb Case**

Police Proceedings were initiated against a number of youths who had illegally occupied an ancient tomb at Bingemma. The case was first heard in February, 2005 and is still ongoing.

4.5 Police Action re: Pillaging of Marine Sites

Following a letter from the Superintendence to the Commissioner of Police, an extensive investigation has been initiated concerning pillaging of archaeological and historical sites at sea. Approximately 500 items of cultural value have been recovered in six major seizures in private residences and in one diving school. The inquiry has since been upgraded to a Magisterial Enquiry and was still ongoing by the end of September. The Superintendence is assisting the Police and the Magistrate throughout the investigation.

4.6 Countering Illegal Activities: Maritime Cultural Heritage

A meeting has been requested with Police and AFM to create a joint action for improved patrolling and crime prevention with respect to cultural heritage at sea. A preliminary meeting with the Police DC and with the Police Superintendent for Gozo was held at Floriana HQ in July 2005. A number of measures were decided upon to put pressure on illegal activities on the west coast of Gozo, including spot checks at sea and patrolling at sea by Police units. A further meeting was held in September at Floriana HQ. The scope of the meeting was the broader security issues faced by marine cultural heritage.

4.7 Illegal Works Under St. John's Co-Cathedral

The Superintendence requested Police action after inspecting the site of illegal works in Merchants Street, Valletta. Works included unauthorised excavation and rock-cutting extending under St. John's Co-Cathedral. The incident is currently the object of Police investigation and the Superintendence are assisting the Police.

4.8 Hamrun Wartime Shelter

Following reports in the press and from the public that a wartime shelter was being damaged by ongoing development works in High Street, Hamrun, officers of the Superintendence intervened and stopped the works in September 2005. Subsequent investigation ascertained that the development as approved did not threaten the cultural heritage and no direct intervention by Superintendence was necessary.

4.9 Wartime Shelter in Victoria, Gozo

Superintendence of Cultural Heritage intervened, following accidental discovery of a wartime shelter during development works in Republic Street, Victoria, Gozo. Superintendence subsequently liaised with MEPA and the developer to devise appropriate mitigation measures and document the site.

Export and Movement of Goods

5.1 EU Directive for Free Movement of Goods

Following a number of issues raised by the respective EU directorate, the Superintendence drafted and subsequently published a new legal notice amending LN 246/03. This new legal notice implemented a number of legal requirements spelt out in EU Directive 93/7/EEC that had not yet been endorsed into national legislation. The legal notice was published in Maltese national law during the month of February as LN 46/05.

The proposed national legal framework still requires ratification of the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (Rome, 24 June 1995). The Superintendence has initiated the final proceedings to sign and ratify this convention as indicated under article 50 (1) of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002.

5.2 Policy Issues

The Superintendence has prepared the necessary documents proposing a new regulatory strategy to be implemented between 2005 and 2007. The document, entirely drafted by in-house expertise was subsequently presented to the ministry in February 2005.

So far, a new declaration form, as proposed in the regulatory strategy document, has been implemented as from September 2005. T2L and EX1 customs documents are now being accompanied by this declaration and Superintendence only endorses customs documentation on the basis of this declaration.

5.3 Export or Movement of Cultural Goods

Following a proposal by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, article 41 of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002 has been amended to also cover movement of cultural property from national territory. In this manner, movement can now also be clearly regulated through national legislation. The amendment was published in July 2005.

Following this amendment, the two proposed legal notices intended to separately regulate movement and export respectively were amalgamated into one and re-proposed as such to the Attorney General's Office for endorsement and subsequent publication.

Tasks and requirements related directly with Export and intra-community movement of goods have been outlined on SCH website for ease of reference. Declaration forms are also available for download through SCH website.

Research

6.0 Archaeological Investigations

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage carried out various archaeological investigations, both on land and at sea. The cases treated in the course of 2005 were the following:

6.1 Ta' Bistra Catacombs

Officers of the Superintendence supervised works on the road from Rabat to Mosta, during which a tract of catacombs has been uncovered at Ta' Bistra. These catacombs are part of a large early Christian burial site that has been obscured by buildings and roads. Despite opposition by leading museum curators of the time, these catacombs had been buried under road works. Since then, it was commonly believed that this particular stretch of catacombs had been irretrievably lost. The Superintendence closely followed the situation, giving the necessary guidance to ensure the protections of these catacombs.

6.2 Torri Falka, Mgarr

A stretch of agricultural terraces at Torri Falka has been investigated by the Superintendence at an area impacted by a proposed quarry extension. It had been noted that the site in question contained a concentration of surface ceramic scatter. Monitor stripping of the topsoil revealed a stretch of stratified deposits of the Classical period, lying directly over bedrock. Evaluation of this site is still ongoing.

6.3 Santa Margarita Cemetery

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage took steps to protect archaeological discoveries in Rabat (Malta). An amount of Roman pottery has already been identified on the site. Officers from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and from MEPA intervened to protect the archaeological remains, and to stop the unauthorised works. A MEPA application has been cast by the developer to regulate the development and in giving feedback to MEPA and Superintendence. Due to its sensitivity, it was recommended that further investigations and that full recording of Archaeology investigations be effected at developer's expense.

6.4 Bir Miftuh Megaliths

The Superintendence have undertaken works to re-erect the stretch of megaliths at Bir Miftuh, which lie between Luqa and Gudja. One of the displaced megaliths weighed approximately three tonnes. Repositioning this megalith posed a challenging task, despite the use of a powerful crane and contemporary techniques. These megaliths are important remains, and form a distinctive local landmark at the side of the road. The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage hopes that public awareness will increase regarding archaeological features that are less well-known. This would lead to a greater appreciation of the national heritage, and would contribute to the protection of such archaeological remains.

6.5 Cistern in Mons. M. Azzopardi Street, Siggiewi

In October 2004, while clearing works at corner plot, revealed rock-cut features that appear to be Cisterns. One cistern is a crudely finished bell-shaped cistern of approximately 5 metres across, resulting in a bench along the sides. Visible features at roof level suggest that this cistern had a possible pitched roof with large slabs, but these have been cleared away. One large worked block was identified in the spoil-heap on site. Cistern had 2 monolithic pillars along the centre line, which had been removed during clearing and placed in neighbouring site. No ceramic matter could be identified on site, but the type strongly suggests known examples from classical sites, such as Ta' Cacciatura.

Further investigations, revealed a larger extent of rock-cut feature, probably associated to Classical Cistern. Technical solutions were assessed to permit development to proceed by guaranteeing preservation of features.

6.6. Mdina Cathedral – Triq is-Sur

In November 2004, paving works were carried out by a private contractor working on behalf of Works Division. In the course of work, a large stone bowl was identified within the earth fill. The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage were notified regarding the discovery. Officials from the Superintendence inspected the site. Works were suspended and archaeological excavations were made in three days, not to delay the continuation of the paving works.

6.7 Discovery of Two New Fougasse Pits at Xatt I-Ahmar - Ghajnsielem

Following discovery of two previously undocumented fougasse/stone mortars at Xatt I-Ahmar, by officers of the Superintendence and inspected with Mr. Stephen Spiteri of Works Division who confirmed their interpretation. Excavation of the fougasse commenced in collaboration with the Local Council to ensure the site is adequately protected. Drawings of the first fougasse have been completed.

6.8 Doni Street, Rabat

Construction works for the laying of foundations for the permitted development at Doni Street, initiated according to the design agreed to by SCH. The works involved introduction of Pylons on site to create a suspended floor. The works were monitored by officials of SCH.

6.9 Xatt il-Mollijiet, Marsa

Following discovery of archaeological remains at Marsa, works were suspended (refer to Section 2.4.1). Subsequently excavation works were initiated in collaboration with Works Division aimed at establishing the full extent of the archaeological remains in the area. Works were carried by mechanical means under constant supervision of the Superintendence. The results obtained by

this investigation permitted the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to take official steps to protect this site. In the course of June 1/100 section drawings of the investigation trenches have been completed and submitted to Works Division.

6.10 Cathedral Square, Mdina

Following paving project in Cathedral square Mdina, archaeological remains were uncovered and reported to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. An archaeological investigation of the site was initiated under the direction of the Superintendence funded by Mdina Rehabilitation Centre resulting in the uncovering of important remains from the classical and medieval period. However the final assessment of this structure's date and function will depend on the outcome of the ongoing investigations. Works are still ongoing.

6.11 Housing Project, Mtarfa

Construction of a Housing Authority project at Mtarfa exposed a number of rock cut features. The investigation of this features established that they belonged to a WWII shelter. Possible remains of a re-utilised tomb were also identified. Superintendence continued monitoring works at Mtarfa Housing Project throughout the works. Works revealed previously unknown cultural heritage features, including a tomb from antiquity. Superintendence of Cultural Heritage requested the redesign of the development plans in order to protect the historical features on site. (Refer to **Section 2.4.4**).

6.12 Grand Harbour Approaches Survey

A survey of a stretch of the seabed due north of the Grand Harbour has been undertaken by remote sensing in a joint project between Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and RPM Nautical Foundation (USA). The survey was carried out in April 2005. A meeting was held between Superintendence official and RPM to review preliminary results of the survey.

6.13 Ghar Ix-Xih Excavations, Xewkija

A five day excavation was carried out at the Roman site of Ghar Ix-Xih, located over Mgarr Ix-Xini Valley, Xewkija. The investigation is part of a broader collaboration with the Sannat and Xewkija Local Councils, and has also involved the Department of Archaeology of the University of Malta. This preliminary investigation of the site established that a fairly well preserved ancient stratigraphy has survived on site, in spite of its exposed topographical position. Documentation and materials recovered from the site are being assessed.

6.14 Rock-Cut Installations at Mgarr Ix-Xini

A further archaeological investigation carried out in the Mgarr Ix-Xini area by a field team of the Superintendence and led by the Superintendent. The project consists in the exhaustive survey and documentation of a large cluster of rock-cut features pertaining to an as yet un-established ancient productive industry.

6.15 Marsamxett Bay

Following a report, divers of the Superintendence inspected an extensive stretch of Marsaxlokk Harbour opposite to the Ghar L-Ahmar coastline. An extensive very large scatter of ancient ceramics, Roman and Byzantine in date. The site has not been studied before and merits further survey and documentation.

6.16 Ggantija Temples

Refer to Section 3.3

6.17 Hal Saflieni

Refer to Section 3.4

7.1 The Council of Europe

7.1.1 – CDPAT: Cultural Heritage Steering Committee Meeting

The Superintendence represented the Maltese Government at this meeting held between the 25th and 27th October 2004. The meeting reviewed the current state of matters relating to Council of Europe Initiatives in the area of Cultural Heritage. The meeting also discussed in depth the new draft Framework Convention of the Value of Cultural Heritage which is being currently completed by the Council Secretariat.

7.2 European Union

7.2.1 CEN Technical Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Property

Officials from the Superintendence were nominated to participate in Work Group 1 – (General Guidelines and Terminology), submitted by the Malta Standards Authority. These nominations were also sent to CEN. The meeting was held in Milan on 17-18 January 2004. This meeting was attended by Dr. JoAnn Cassar, who submitted her preliminary report on this meeting of Work Group 3 of CEN/TC346, ie, Conservation Works.

7.2.2 Meeting on Export of Cultural Goods from the EU

Officials from Superintendence attended the technical committee meeting held in Brussels on 17th February. The following issues were raised and discussed:

- A summary of a report and accompanying recommendations on the implementation of Directive 93/7/EEC in EU member states. The report will be sent to all member states by end of March.

- Proposal for amendment to Council Directive 3911/92 covering inspection of suspicious property originating from third countries. (Proposed by Great Britain).
- Proposal for amendment to Council Directive 3911/92 covering the granting of an export license on cultural property originating from other EU member states (Proposed by Germany).
- Proposed online export application form.
- Brief presentation by new member states on the transposition of Regulation 3911/92 into national legislation and its implementation.

7.2.3 Interreg Programme

Superintendence officers attended a one day seminar on the INTERREG III A program organised by OPM regarding possible joint project with Sicilian counter parts.

7.3 UNESCO

7.3.1 UNESCO – Period Reporting

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage contributed to the period reporting questionnaire sent in October 2004 to UNESCO. This report was forwarded to UNESCO by the Ministry for Tourism and Culture.

7.4 INTERPOL

7.4.1 Symposium on Illicit Trade in Cultural Goods

Officer from Superintendence attended a symposium on illicit trade in cultural goods organised by Interpol in June 2005. The officer was accompanied by representative of the Malta Police. The symposium made a number of recommendations to member states to help counteract illicit trade of cultural goods.

8.1 Superintendence Website

The Superintendence Website can be accessed as follows: www.culturalheritage.org.mt. The site is user friendly and from the homepage, one is immediately linked to any new activity or news of the Superintendence. The website also carries information about the different initiatives undertaken by the Superintendence during 2005. The Annual Report of the Superintendence is also published on its website. This report includes an overview of the main activities undertaken by the Superintendence between October 2004 and September 2005. The website is continuously being updated and developed.

8.2 Culture 2000 – Crusades Programme

The exhibition 'Crusades: Myth and Realities' opened at the National Museum of Archaeology. This exhibition reflects the multifaceted interaction between European, East Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cultures and reveals a synthesis of local and external concepts and mentalities. Valletta is the final stop of the journey of this exhibition which started in Cyprus at the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre in December 2004, continued in Athens at the 'Foundation of the Hellenic World' in February 2005 and then it was hosted at the Castle of Lagopesole in Italy last June. The final stop of the exhibition at Valletta symbolises at the same time the end of the historical crusades.

The project **Crossings: Movements of People and movement of cultures: Changes in the Mediterranean from Ancient to Modern Times** is the result of an international partnership between different entities, made up of the following partners:

- Pereides Foundation, Cyprus – Project Coordinator
- Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Malta
- Foundation for the Hellenic World, Greece
- Istituto per le Technologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali – CNR, Italy
- Centre de Recherces en Arts , University of Picardie, France

8.3 European Heritage Days (Council of Europe)

European Heritage Days National Competition 2004 Results

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage has announced the best three projects and activities organised by schools participating in the European Heritage Days National Competition 2004. The chosen projects and events belonged to Sacred Heart Senior School of St. Julian's, Lija Primary School, and St. Anne Primary School, Marsascala.

European Heritage Days 2005

The theme selected by the Superintendence for this year's Heritage Days has been 'THE LOCAL HERITAGE MUSEUMS', which was held between 17th to 23rd. October 2005.

The main aim of this year's European Heritage days has been the promotion of those small but highly significant museums that are located within our parishes and Local Councils. These local museums and community collections deserve wider attention and promotion because of their intrinsic importance to local heritage and identity. However, in most instances these also require effective implementation of basic museological standards and benchmarks through the support and assistance of heritage professionals.

Activities by the Superintendence were focused at Zabbar Sanctuary Museum and included activities for schoolchildren, on site lectures and special tours. An e-workbook on Zabbar and its history has also been prepared and launched on the occasion.

8.4 CHERM – Cultural Heritage Enhancement in the Region of Maghreb

Superintendence of Cultural Heritage attended a meeting in April held at Kenitra University, Morocco on the CHERM / CHERK programme. This programme is funded under the sixth Framework Programme – INCO-MPC/SSA-2. The scope of the meeting was to strengthen the partnership

through a discussion of actions to be taken in the coming year, on the subject of pre-historic Maghreb.

8.5 Euromed – Navigation du Savoire

An officer from the Superintendence participated in this project by attending a month long training session in Algiers. Training was provided on remote sensing and data analyses on board a survey vessel, various underwater search methods including the use of a metal detector and excavation at sea.

8.6 Local Councils

The Superintendence has conducted an opinion survey with all Local Councils of Malta and Gozo. The aim of this survey was to establish the nature and extent of Local Council participation in the cultural heritage sector. The survey was addressed to all 68 Local Councils. The final analysis of the Survey results will be carried out with the help of the National Statistics Office and will be made public by the Superintendence.

8.7 Mgarr ix-Xini Project

A meeting was held with the Superintendent and Councils of Sannat and Xewkija, relating to a project for the upgrading of Mgarr ix-Xini area. Project may involve archaeological excavations. (Refer to Section 6.14)

8.8 Santa Lucia - Hypogeum

In collaboration with Santa Lucia Local Council, the Superintendence has prepared a didactic panel explaining the importance of the Santa Lucia Hypogeum which was excavated in the 1960's. This is hoped to be the first step towards a broader collaboration with the Local Council of Santa Lucia for the conservation and study of the site.

8.8 Xaghra Local Council

A meeting was held with the Xaghra Local Council during which a proposal prepared by the Xaghra Local Council

regarding the promotion of cultural heritage at the locality as a heritage experience, was discussed with the Superintendence. The Xaghra Local Council also showed interest in applying for Guardianship Deeds at a number of sites. The Superintendence is presently in discussion with the Local Council in evaluating the possibility of Guardianship Deeds to the Xaghra Local Council.

8.9 Monograph

This is the second Monograph issued by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. This Monograph entitled *Imago Dei - The Sculpted Image of the Crucifix in the Art of Early Modern Malta*. This monograph proposes ideas and raises issues on the art of Early Modern Malta. It discusses a variety of case studies all related to the imagery of the crucifix. Through this data, it explores the interaction of values between different categories of material culture. The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage promotes research on cultural heritage subjects and issues through its publications programme. Publications are available for sale from local bookshops and from the office of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

8.10 Superintendence of Cultural Heritage Press Releases

Month	Heading
April	Project for the Identification and Documentation of the Maltese Fougasse
May	Archaeological Excavations at Cathedral Square, Mdina
May	SCH Condemns Acts of Vandalism on Portes des Bombes, Floriana
June	No Press Releases
July	No Press Releases
August	Archaeological Discoveries at Mdina & Marsa
September	EHD 2005 – Activities for Schoolchildren at Zabbar Parish Sanctuary Museum 27/09/2005
	European Heritage Days 2005 26/09/2005
	Heritage Management Scheme San Gwann

8.11 Culture 2000 – Crusades Program

Deloitte have revised the funding for the security allocation from € 8000 to € 2000. No consideration has been accounted for, for certain expenses listed in our first quarter return. These expenses were necessary in order to send these artefacts for the exhibitions. Namely, the Condition Reports and the Restoration and Conservation of certain artefacts.

9.1 National Forum 2005

The National Forum for Cultural Heritage this year will be held on the 11th December 2005. The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is assisting the Ministry for Tourism and Culture in the planning and organisation of the Forum.

Following last year's Forum, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage collected all reports prepared by the Reporters, and these reports have been merged into one single document and presented to the Minister for Tourism and Culture. The main issue of this report deals with the establishment of a national policy on cultural heritage.

This year's Forum will include four workshops on different themes, in connection to the Cultural Heritage Act 2002. In the course of the Forum the Superintendence is expected to submit the State of the Cultural Heritage Report for 2005.

10.1 Exercise of the Right of Preference

A policy document has been drafted by the Superintendence which includes recommendations for the regulation of the State's power to exercise the Right of Preference, as per Article 40 (1) of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002. The Right of Preference gives the Superintendent the right to acquire cultural property on a preferential basis from private owners, following approval of the Minister responsible for Culture in consultation with the Committee of Guarantee. The draft policy document has been presented to the Committee of Guarantee for further discussion, prior to the issue of a specific legal notice on the regulation of the Right of Preference.

10.2 National Strategy for the Cultural Heritage

In February, 2005 the Superintendence submitted extensive document on the drafting process of the national strategy for Cultural Heritage. The document and its recommendations are in line with the indications provided by the Minister for Tourism and Culture in the National Forum 2004. The proposal was discussed with the Permanent Secretary, MTAC who instructed the Superintendence to implement it. A list of contributors has been drawn up and invitations to participate have been sent by Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. The Topic Papers, once completed, will be integrated into a single document which will be considered as a First Draft of the National Strategy. This Draft will be used as the basis for the public consultation process. Work on the compilation of the National Strategy Document is in process.

10.3 Amendments to the Cultural Heritage Act 2002

Following the amalgamation of the Malta Centre for Restoration with Heritage Malta in March 2005, the MTAC has initiated a redrafting process of the Cultural Heritage Act. The views of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage were

requested with respect to necessary changes required in the Act. These views have been collected and were passed on to the Permanent Secretary.

10.4 Donations (National Heritage) Rules, 2005

MTAC has requested the views of the SCH with respect to the newly drafted donations/rules 2005. The scope of the rules is to regulate the bequest of Cultural items or sponsorships for Cultural Heritage ends, allowing such donations to be deductible from Tax Dues. The proposals of Superintendence were drafted and presented to the Permanent Secretary.

10.5 Registration of Non Governmental Cultural Heritage Organisations

Superintendence drafted a proposal for Regulations relating to the registration of Non Governmental Cultural Heritage Organisations. Such Regulations are in line with the Cultural Heritage Act and is necessary for the application of the Donations (National Heritage) Rules 2005. The draft regulations have been prepared and presented to the Permanent Secretary.

10.6 Regulation of Movement and Export of Cultural Goods

Drafts have been completed for two Legal Notices relating to:

- Regulation of Movement of Cultural Goods
- Harmonization of Export Procedures

The drafts have been passed to AG for final vetting and approval.