

# PORTUGUESE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE ON CULTURAL HERITAGE (IPERION-CH)

**TYPE** Distributed

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## **DESCRIPTION**

Cultural Heritage (CH) is the backbone of a nation, bestowing upon it both a sense of belonging and one of permanence, grounded in its history which itself is visibly materialised through its CH. But the importance of CH goes beyond its symbolic significance. CH is also a powerful motor of tourism and thus an important asset of modern societies, particularly in a post-industrial intensive context. Recognising this status, the participants decided to join resources to strengthen the research infrastructure in the field, aiming at a strong competitive position, not only in the national but also in the international context.

## **INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER(S) / NODE(S)**

Direção-Geral do Património Cultural (DGPC); Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil (LNEC); Universidade de Évora (UE)

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## **ACTIVITIES**

Access to laboratory equipment; Integrated studies of cultural heritage including museum objects, architectonic/integrated art, and archaeological remains; technical training; access to sample banks; access to scientific databases (conservation-restoration reports, xylotheque and Technical library).

## **IMPACT**

For the first time in Portugal, IPERION-CH.pt makes available a world-class network of facilities and know-how to all researchers in cultural heritage, providing access, support and services to the wider community of scientific researchers, universities, museums and other centres of knowledge. The RI will support the scientific community in conducting top-level research in the cultural heritage field, ranging from art history to the issues posed by the degradation of ancient artefacts and to the overall conservation of architecture with integrated art.

The importance of Cultural Heritage (CH) for the development of Portugal is widely acknowledged. Therefore, the creation of an open infrastructure dedicated to research in material CH

(IPERION-CH.pt) will have important national/regional consequences, namely:

- Recognition of CH as testimony to national identity, as a driver of cultural tourism and a way towards local sustainable economic development
- Support to other research groups and interdisciplinary work with researchers from related areas such as ethnology and anthropology;
- Development of studies aimed at identifying the best rehabilitation or conservation-restoration practices, eventually leading to the development of new, improved and marketable products;
- Support for conservation and rehabilitation professionals through training, counseling and analytical services.