

EPICO Programme 2023– 2025: conservation, climate change, and energy efficiency

The research activity for our 2023-2025 programme will have to tackle new energy efficiency and sustainable development challenges. Mutual interactions between collection conservation and the environment have been at the core of the research programme from the outset. The results expected of the great technical systems renewal work at the Chateau de Versailles, as well as a convergence of interest from European governments and the Network's member institutions in the effects of climate change on cultural heritage have led us to develop concrete responses to this problem. from

New assessments and exchanges will occur within the new programme's palace-museum partners to disseminate the EPICO method in Europe and identify actions needed to mitigate the impact of climate change and reduce energy use and CO2 emissions in historic houses.

We will explore these topics over four study days, in 2023 and 2025, bringing together the scientific committee for the programme, so as to

- Compare major alteration causes within European palace museums which have benefited from an EPICO-method assessment since 2015,
- Assess the impact of climate among these alteration causes,
- Share new conservation strategies integrating traditional housekeeping methods and new technologies

We will also consider new digital and multi-scale multimodal instrumental tools, aiming to consolidate, ensure interoperability, and disseminate information already produced using the EPICO method for conservation in European palace museums, thus helping to establish EPICO as an authority in the field of preventive conservation. Transferring technology to a digital platform will enable increased increase access to the method and the inclusion of information from different research levels - micro and macro (climate, light, pollutants...), essential to optimised preventive conservation.

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