

**PREVENTIVE CONSERVATION STRATEGIES:
INTERMUSEUM NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
MUSEI&AMBIENTE**

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Musei&Ambiente means Museums&Environment and it focuses on preventive conservation. The idea of an intermuseum network for environmental control was born from the MUSA project and developed during the last two years (2002-2003) with the collaboration of Istituto dei Beni Artistici, Culturali e Naturali (IBACN), Emilia-Romagna Region. A network was created through Internet and wireless communication technology to monitor buildings containing works of art using a remote-controlled system.

The idea was born from the necessity of conserve exhibits in the best possible condition into the museums, art galleries, libraries, churches and underground archaeological sites. Besides, also recent regulations have established the standards and targets of quality that museums, libraries and historical archives will have to achieve in the near future, in particular the Ministerial decree dated 10/05/2001.

The system is particularly useful for those sites without conservation experts to report situations at risk or ongoing hazards. In fact the network offers to museum curators and technical staff a practical means of tackling preservation of the cultural heritage by automatic and manual environmental measurements (physical parameters and aerobiological contaminants). The museums are continuously remote-controlled and the Data Management Centre send to the museums periodically reports, alarm messages and restoration procedures, if necessary. The physical parameters monitored are transmitted in real time from the peripheral sites to a central archive providing analyses and forecasts on the trend of environmental conditions. The User interface consists of a web site, a useful tool for connecting remote sites with the Data Management Centre. Deterioration is a continuous and natural process. Musei&Ambiente Service works to slow it.