

# Integrated conservation strategies in the Netherlands

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## ABSTRACT

In the Netherlands strategies for ensuring quality in conservation are carried out by different institutions. Aim of this paper is to discuss the contribution of the system MDCS (Monument Diagnosis and Conservation System) to different synergistic programmes and to the citizens involvement in conservation.

MDCS is a freely accessible web-based system [1] including atlases for the visual identification of damage to monuments and a section where relevant diagnostic and intervention techniques are elaborated to be used in practice.

In the Netherlands the Monumentenwacht organization, active at a provincial level, performs regular surveys on the state of conservation of monuments and supports their owners in maintaining them. Because of the growing relevance of their task in conservation, the programme 'Monumentenwacht moves' was started in co-operation with the faculty of Architecture of the TU Delft aiming at empowering the inspectors. Workshops are given to Monumentenwacht on the use of MDCS terminology to visually identify the damage. On this basis hypotheses can be made on possible causes of damage, according to the method included in the MDCS system. The use of a common terminology makes scientific communication possible. The programme 'Monumentenwacht moves' also contributes to the ERM national program on the enhancement of Quality and Professionalism in the country [2]. ERM guidelines are produced by different branches active in conservation; in the guidelines links are made to the MDCS terminology atlases. Owners of monuments in the Netherlands are expected to maintain their building according to the Dutch Heritage Legislation. In the case of private owners contractors play an important role in deciding on the necessary interventions. Investigations on specific issues are often lacking or entrusted to not independent parties. The ERM programme helps guarantee ethical and technical correctness and 'Monumentenwacht moves' aims at allowing inspectors perform independent investigations on recurrent damage mechanisms, also referring to the MDCS system.

MDCS is provided with a function for visual monitoring, which can be used by laymen owners to follow the development of certain types of damage. Finally, in the CONSECH20 [3] project concerning monuments in concrete, the MDCS atlas on concrete damage will be improved to be used by technical people and laymen. It is intended to involve them in the conservation of concrete monuments not only as (potential) users but also for monitoring of interventions.

## REFERENCES

- [1] <https://mdcs.monumentenkenis.nl/>. MDCS is supported by TNO (Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research), RCE (Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency) and the Technical University Delft
- [2] ERM - Erkende Restauratiekwaliteit Monumentenzorg
- [3] <https://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/research-projects/i/96/32496.html>