**The new European hub for research on**

**Cultural Heritage at Manifattura Tabacchi**

*Fondazione CR Firenze has bought a new site and, through an agreement with CNR, has made it available to researchers, scholars, and professionals who will have open and integrated access to the most cutting-edge technologies for the knowledge and preservation of the cultural heritage. This is going to be possible thanks to the '****European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science*** *(****E-RIHS****)', coordinated by the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche.*

Florence, October 5, 2022 - The European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science (**E-RIHS**) will be based in Florence. Its intent is to group together, coordinate, make interactive and accessible the best laboratories, physical and digital archives, and cutting-edge technologies throughout Europe. The core of this research infrastructure will be in the premises of Manifattura Tabacchi, the former Florentine cigar factory now engaged in one of the most important urban regeneration projects in Italy. This site was purchased and made available by **Fondazione CR Florence**, in agreement with the **Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche.**

The CNR, E-RIHS coordinator, negotiated with the founding states and obtained, from the

European Commission, to establish in Florence, symbol of the Renaissance and of the cultural assets Restoration, the headquarter of this research infrastructure which will foster, with an interdisciplinary approach, innovation in the knowledge, conservation, and management of archaeological sites, monuments and artwork.

This morning, inside the E-RIHS future headquarters, Manifattura Tabacchi displayed its project concerning the re-overhaul of the spaces housing the E-RIHS ([**http://www.e-rihs.eu**](http://www.e-rihs.eu)).This project is the result of the agreement between CNR and Fondazione CR Firenze.

This initiative is the outcome of the synergical work put in place by the involved institutions whose intent is to create a center where human sciences, scientific disciplines and technologies gather into a single knowledge, following the example of Leonardo da Vinci.

Having provided public and private researchers, scholars, and professionals in the field with access to the most advanced study techniques, the **E-RIHS** has grown over time thanks to over 20 years of experience in projects financed by the European framework programs for research and innovation in the sciences of the cultural heritage. These projects were coordinated by Italy with the leadership of the **CNR** and the participation of the **Opificio delle Pietre Dure** (**OPD**), **Italian universities** (Florence, Bologna and Perugia) and the **Istituto Nazionale di fisica Nucleare** (**INFN**).

The prestige built over time resulted in the E-RIHS entering the 2016 work plan of the

research infrastructures considered a European priority. It was also recognized as being

of global interest in 2017 by the *Group of Senior Officials on Global Research Infrastructures.*

"We are proud that Italy, with CNR, is leading the European Research Infrastructure for

Heritage Science. And I am delighted that a scientific hub of such relevance will be based here, in Florence, where art will dialogue with science and technology." said **Maria Chiara Carrozza**, CNR president. “The strength of our country and our institution lies precisely in the interdisciplinary cooperation that makes it possible to deepen the knowledge of the cultural heritage, to preserve it, and pass it on to future generations. The synergy in the E-RIHS project will make it possible to address all issues related to cultural heritage: from restoration to fruition, from conservation to promoting, from monitoring to management, from protection to the tourism market. I believe that this project will enable the best experts to carry out excellent research, creating an internationally unique, state-of-the-art infrastructure in the field of cultural, natural and archaeological heritage. Laboratories and centers distributed throughout Europe will provide access to scientific instruments, innovative methodologies and databases".

“We are proud to have such a prestigious European institution as the **E-RIHS** in our

city" states **Luigi Salvadori**, President of the **Fondazione CR Firenze**, “A large-scale infrastructure about knowledge that will transform Florence into the true world capital of

restoration, research, innovation, and advanced training. The awareness of the importance of this operation pushed us to facilitate the implementation of this project. Choosing this location is very meaningful because right here, in Manifattura Tabacchi, by preserving and cherishing its past, a new piece of Florence projected into the future is being born. We welcome the E-RIHS and hope that it can soon begin to operate for the benefit of all.”

"The choice of Florence, and especially of Manifattura Tabacchi, as the site of a research facility of such great prestige fills us with pride. We are very grateful to Fondazione CR Firenze and CNR for the trust they have placed in us." said **Giovanni Manfredi**, CEO of

Manifattura Tabacchi. "Envisioning the new Florentine home of the E-RIHS is challenging: the B8, chosen by the Fondazione, is an extraordinary building that we will recover in all its charm, technologically updating it so as to achieve the highest standards of environmental sustainability. Consistent with the principles of the circular economy, here as in the rest of Manifattura, we have chosen to celebrate heritage, to preserve rather than rebuild.

Our goal is to give back to the city an entire neighborhood, a new center for contemporary culture capable of creating innovation, growth and contamination. The E-RIHS arrival confirms that Florence, while firmly rooted in its extraordinary past, is as vital as ever today, and launched toward its future."

The E-RIHS is located in a section of the B8 central part. The B8 is the building originally

intended for the factory's Management and General Services which marks the monumental entrance to Manifattura Tabacchi in via delle Cascine. The conservative restoration project will consider the new purpose of the building, and it will include the BREEAM certification, one of the most used and internationally recognized procedures for sustainability in buildings.

**THE E-RIHS IN NUMBERS.**

Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Hungary and, as an observer, the international organization

ICCROM, have expressed an interest in the E-RIHS. Looking forward, at full capacity, the assumed numbers for the E-RIHS are: 60 to 100 access providers; 600 to 1,000 people including researchers, technicians and staff; 1,000 to 1,500 users per year. The E-RIHS' core mission of providing access to the most advanced tools in the field is complemented by ongoing research activities, by advanced training and by internationally promoting itself.

On Tuesday, Oct. 11 from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, at Manifattura Tabacchi, during the conference 'The E-RIHS Cultural Heritage, Research and Urban Regeneration in its future location’, it will be explained what has been done so far and the next steps. Registration at the link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/biglietti-e-rihs-nella-sua-futura-sede-patrimonio-culturale-ricerca-e-rigenerazione-425138058377>

Links to download images of the E-RIHS:

<https://cloud.cnr.it/owncloud/index.php/s/qmhrsKHbTsBWmx5>

**Summary sheet**

**Who**: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Fondazione CR Firenze, Manifattura Tabacchi

**What**: Manifattura Tabacchi presented the project for the re-functionalization of the

spaces that will house the headquarters of the E-RIHS (http://www.e-rihs.eu), resulting from the agreement between CNR and CR Florence Foundation. The Manifattura Tabacchi regeneration project is being promoted by a joint venture established in 2016 by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti Group's real estate company, and by PW Real Estate Fund III LP, a fund managed by Aermont Capital.

**Where**: via delle Cascine 35, Florence

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