



PHOTO EXHIBITION
RICONTRANS
PROJECT DIARIES



RICONTRANS
R[USSIAN] ICON[S] TRANS[FER]

VISUAL CULTURE, PIETY
AND PROPAGANDA:
TRANSFER AND RECEPTION OF
RUSSIAN RELIGIOUS ART IN THE BALKANS
AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
(16TH TO EARLY 20TH CENTURY)

FUNDED BY

ERC Consolidator Grant 2018 (GA-818791)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Dr. Yuliana Boycheva IMS / FORTH

HOST INSTITUTION

Institute for Mediterranean Studies / FORTH

COLLABORATING RESEARCH INSTITUTION

Centre for Cultural Informatics / Institute of Computer Science / FORTH

6 Independent researchers, MA students, PhD students

THIRD PARTIES

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia
National Museum of the Union, Alba Iulia, Romania

SECOND BENEFICIARY

Benaki Museum, Athens

TOTAL BUDGET

EUR 1,914,670

DURATION

May 2019 – October 2025

LINKS

<https://ricontrans-project.eu/>
<https://www.ims.forth.gr/en/project/view?id=135>

RICONTRANS AIMS

- TO MAP the phenomenon in its long history
- TO FOLLOW THE PATHS and IDENTIFY AND CLASSIFY THE MEDIUMS of the transfer
- TO ANALYSE the dynamics and the various moving factors (religious, political, ideological)
- TO STUDY the iconographic and artistic particularities of the objects
- TO INQUIRE into factors which shaped the RECEPTION and their influence on the visual culture of the host societies

RESEARCH PLAN & METHODOLOGY

- Four country-based research groups
- Interdisciplinary and Inter-sectoral collaboration between research institutions, universities and museums
- Fieldwork in SELECTED CATEGORIES OF RESEARCH SPACES (Case studies) to produce A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE of preserved objects and their transfer
- Focus on PARTICULAR CASES expected to illuminate important qualitative elements and variations of the process
- Analysis & Synthesis: Quantitative & Qualitative analysis at the micro and macro-historical level
- Adoption of international standards and methods for the digital documentation, organisation, interlinking and preservation of documented and user generated scientific data and their sources

ESTIMATION

About 5,000 ART OBJECTS & PIECES OF TEXTUAL EVIDENCE
in Greece, Serbia and West Balkans, Bulgaria and Romania

MAIN PROJECT OUTPUTS

- RICONTRANS studies Russian icons as historical evidence for the relations between Russia and the region of Southeastern Europe
- Applies a modern conception of art history as a composite humanitarian discipline
- Shifts attention from a top-down approach which studies only high-quality objects to the study of thousands of modest-quality artefacts and their use by a large number of people

All photographs in this exhibition are reproduced by courtesy of the numerous field researchers of the RICONTRANS Project, as well as professional photographers (Georgios Makkas, Dimitris Giavasis, Maria Fragopoulou, Petru Palamar)

DELIVERABLES

- Publication of numerous scientific articles (above 30) and 11 books (catalogues, monographs and collective volumes)
- Training activities: Training workshops, 1 PhD and 4 MA theses
- Creation of a reliable digital cultural interoperable inventory in line with international cultural documentation standards (CIDOC CRM), by using the comprehensive scientific documentation system of FORTH "Synthesis Core", which includes the scientific documentation of Russian religious objects and their transfers, together with their sources, bibliography and researchers' commentaries
- Restoration and conservation of two collections of Russian artefacts: Benaki Museum Athens & National Museum of the Union, Alba Iulia, Romania
- 3 Exhibitions of Russian artworks: Benaki Museum, Athens (2024), Drama (2024-2025), National Museum of the Union, Alba Iulia (2023)



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