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The Holy Sepulchre rehabilitation project: An emblematic source of innovation EDICULA Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership “Educational Digital Innovative CULTural heritage related Learning Activities”- Innovation Session

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Prof. Moropoulou, dear partners, and colleagues,

As a representative of Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, and on behalf of Prof. Mike Turner, who unfortunately could not attend this panel today, we are honored to be part of the EDICULA Project and of this conference.

The EDICULA project brings to the forefront multi-disciplinarity and innovation in cultural heritage. It relays on the cooperation of engineers, architects, urban designers and visual communication, among others, to provide a more holistic approach to conservation beyond each field's professionalism. And its innovation reflects in combining these disciplines for developing advanced methodologies in cultural heritage conservation and various activities.

The focus on the relationship between the scales – the object, the building and the city, along with the understanding of materials and materiality, context and setting – are critical in developing awareness and providing a context for educational programmes.

Moreover, the unique research on the conservation of the Holy Aedicule in the Holy Sepulchre provides a new approach for hands-on studies which will be the basis for our joint master's degree including the National Technical University of Athens, Sapienza in Rome and the Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem; three exceptional cities that are included on the World Heritage List.

The multiplier effect of the emblematic conservation project of the Holy Aedicule's rehabilitation of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, both its prominent scientific achievements, as well as its sensitivity in understanding communities and working with various stakeholders, will be conducted in other conservation projects of selected sites in Jerusalem on the coming event in April 2022, organized by Bezalel and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

At Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, in both the Department of Architecture and the Master's Program in Urban Design, aspects of conservation are being taught for few years already. Trying to emphasize the connection on the various scales – mostly buildings and the city. Though starting to enrich them with hands-on experience in documentation – traditional methodologies as well as advanced ones, and hands-on experience in conservation works in-situ – learning about materials and implementing them by students. Understanding the benefit of gathered knowledge that is gained stage by stage. All tied together with fostering a critical thinking and critical heritage.

All of these unique examples, and the valuable cumulative experience may serve as a milestone for teaching, training and research and for the new curricula syllabi of the joint master's degree.