

# Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration for Cultural Heritage Conservation

With a comprehensive study that examines the economic factor and the social value of cultural heritage, the Leipzig Fraunhofer Center is collaborating in a Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft model project which aims to develop innovative conservation and digitalization concepts for cultural heritage artifacts.

On July 2nd, 2014, representatives from the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, the Leibniz-Gemeinschaft and the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (SPK) signed a formal agreement with the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections) and the Saxon State and University Library Dresden (SLUB). The Research Alliance Cultural Heritage (FALKE) thereby responded to former State Minister Prof. Dr. Sabine von Schorlemer's intention to bundle the social, natural and cultural studies expertise of these partners.

The research alliance is unique in Germany. It aims to jointly develop new methods for the restoration and conservation of cultural artifacts and to further intensify the knowledge transfer between research and practical application. Another objective is to embed the significance of cultural heritage more deeply in the public consciousness.

## Study on cultural heritage as an economic factor

In a model project, experts from the Leipzig Fraunhofer Center's Stakeholder Dialogue and Social Acceptance Unit will now evaluate cultural heritage as a regional economic factor, its social value and the significance of investing in preventive and restoration measures for the first time by conducting a study that uses the Dresden art collection museums as an example. They will also support the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft project managers to coordinate and communicate the entire project. The Executive Board of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft has agreed to make 1.5 million euros available for the project over the next three years.

**Duration:** 6/2015 – 7/2018

**Partners:** Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Leibniz-Gemeinschaft, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections), Saxon State and University Library Dresden

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