



**SLOVENSKI STANDARD**  
**SIST EN 16853:2026**

**01-maj-2026**

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**Ohranjanje kulturne dediščine - Konservatorski postopki - Sprejemanje odločitev, načrtovanje, izvedba in dokumentacija**

Conservation of cultural heritage - Conservation process - Decision making, planning, implementation and documentation

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Erhaltungsprozess - Entscheidungsprozesse, Planung, Umsetzung und Dokumentation

Conservation du patrimoine culturel - Processus de conservation - Prise de décisions, programmation et mise en œuvre

**Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: EN 16853:2026**

**ICS:**

97.195	Umetniški in obrtniški izdelki. Kulturne dobrine in kulturna dediščina	Items of art and handicrafts. Cultural property and heritage
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**SIST EN 16853:2026**

**en,fr,de**

# Sample Document

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EUROPEAN STANDARD  
NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

**EN 16853**

March 2026

ICS 97.195

Supersedes EN 16853:2017

English Version

**Conservation of cultural heritage - Conservation process -  
Decision making, planning, implementation and  
documentation**

Conservation du patrimoine culturel - Processus de  
conservation - Prise de décisions, programmation, mise  
en œuvre et documentation

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Erhaltungsprozess -  
Entscheidungsprozesse, Planung, Umsetzung und  
Dokumentation

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 19 January 2026.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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## European foreword

This document (EN 16853:2026) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 “Conservation of Cultural Heritage”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2026, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2026.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 16853:2017.

This document includes the following significant technical changes with respect to EN 16853:2017:

- a) the mandatory Annex A “Principles of documentation” has been included;
- b) Clause 4 “Overview” has been removed;
- c) Clause 11 “Ongoing evaluation and monitoring” has been added.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

## EN 16853:2026 (E)

### Introduction

Cultural heritage is of significance and value to present and future generations. Conservation is a central consideration when it comes to retaining, protecting and sharing that significance and offers a rare and privileged opportunity to understand, enhance, and protect cultural heritage. It follows that decisions to embark on conservation are of concern to society and should be made in a responsible and informed manner.

Conservation often involves different participants and may require dialogue with stakeholders. It is an inter-disciplinary practice involving a range of professionals with historic, scientific, technical and other competences. How conservation is achieved and the manner in which it is thought about, planned and carried out is of concern to not only conservation practitioners but also to allied professionals and to owners and custodians and is the subject of this document.

Conservation professionals seek to understand the object and how it has attained its present condition. They use knowledge of the object, its past and present use and diagnosis to decide what, if any, action is needed to secure its future use and enjoyment. Conservation of tangible cultural heritage respects its intangible aspects and may comprise some or all of preventive, remedial or restoration work.

The objective of conservation is to manage change in a way that sustains the significance of cultural heritage. Conservation is more complex than just a mechanistic series of actions with a beginning, middle and end. Successful conservation results in the delivery of identified objectives. It usually involves the following components: documentation, definition of scope, information gathering, risk evaluation, formulation of conservation options, and the development and implementation of a conservation plan. Although conservation can be understood as an ongoing process, continuing into the future, a specific intervention or project can be completed by the delivery and evaluation of an agreed set of outcomes including recommendations. Ultimately the emphasis on each component will depend on the circumstances in which conservation is undertaken.

This document sets out good practice for the conceptual and practical elements of conservation. It is a tool that can stand alone or support national regulations, always in compliance with them, and applies to all types of objects, whether protected by legislation or not. It can be applied to public and private tendering, and to procedures in institutions. It also provides the principles that all documentation practice in conservation should rest upon regardless on whether the methods used employ digital or analogue tools. Aligning documentation practice with these principles will make documentation more interoperable and accessible. This document addresses ethical requirements to make knowledge about cultural heritage available. It enables stakeholders to understand the value and maximize the use of conservation records.

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the process of decision-making, planning, implementing and documenting the conservation of tangible cultural heritage. It applies to material expressions of tangible cultural heritage such as individual objects, collections, the built environment, historic sites, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes.

This document concerns the documentation gathered during a conservation process and focuses on concepts to support the sector in working towards interoperability, whilst not specifying methods, systems or conventions.

NOTE This document does not cover how to identify cultural heritage nor who or what competences are required to undertake decisions or other parts of the process.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 16095:2012, *Conservation of cultural property — Condition recording for movable cultural heritage*

EN 16096:2012, *Conservation of cultural property — Condition survey and report of built cultural heritage*

EN 17429:2020, *Conservation of cultural heritage — Procurement of conservation services and works*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1 cultural heritage

tangible and intangible entities of significance to present and future generations

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2019, 3.1.1]

### 3.2 significance

combination of all the values assigned to an object, ensemble or collection

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2019, 3.1.7]