Preface

In most countries large urban development projects pose a challenge for organizations and individuals whose aim it is to preserve as much of the cultural heritage in the cities concerned as possible. Computational approaches are indispensable in all steps of a large urban development project because they

- assist monument protection agencies in collaboration with urban planners to find the optimal compromise in terms of urban needs and preservation of known cultural heritage.
- support the efficient documentation of monuments and archaeological sites before their destruction in the course of urban development activities
- include new and attractive methods of informing the public.

Major infrastructure projects have the potential to create significant new knowledge in cultural heritage, especially in archaeological research. These projects are a real challenge for cultural heritage institutions that seek to document/preserve as much of the cultural heritage in the area considered. Ideally, cultural heritage institutions are involved in all phases of these projects including planning, implementing, and dissemination of the results in terms of new cultural heritage information. Due to their large scale and the often accompanying time pressure, the various tasks involving cultural heritage data management of large construction projects can drive innovation. In the planning phase, it is important to assess different alternatives based on known cultural heritage data. This assessment is often supplemented by commissioning prospection activities in areas where reliable data is not yet available. All cultural heritage sites destroyed in the course of a construction project must be adequately recorded before destruction. In this situation, cultural heritage institutions face new challenges such as excavations in tunnels, coordinating several excavation teams, dealing with sophisticated urban stratigraphy, large amounts of finds as well as large analogue and digital datasets.

The CHNT Committee