Acronym - VELA

Title – Venezia Libro Aperto

Scientific coordinator – Francesco Guerra

Department – Department of Architecture and Arts

ERC sector – SH5

Principal Investigator – Flavia De Rubeis

Organization of PI – "Ca' Foscari" Univeristy of Venice

Iuav role – partner

Duration – 24 months

Start – 17/10/2023

Closure – 16/10/2025

Project budget – € 267 191.00

Iuav budget – € 130 469.00

Funding to Iuav – € 96 738.00

Source of funding – MUR (Ministry of University and Research) - Call PRIN 2022

Description – The VeLA project intends to bring together all the graffiti in the city of Venice in a single corpus, whose purpose is to be a centre of a programme of studies and to make them accessible in all respects, in addition to the census and the construction of the database. The project take Doge's Palace as a case study to experiment technologies and increase museum accessibility, fostering the recognition of historical graffiti as cultural heritage, as an inalienable cultural value, to be preserved and appreciated as it already happens elsewhere in international contexts.

Objectives – The VeLA project consists of research, development of international digital survey protocol and accessibility for people with visual or hearing disabilities:

1. Creation of a web portal based on a shared database of all the graffiti of the Doge's Palace (Venice) from the 14th to the 20th century, mostly unknown and unpublished. The database will include editing and text study (interoperable with EpiDoc) in a centralised data entry system with web access, georeferencing (QGIS), metadata, laser scanning and/or photogrammetric survey.

2. Design of a unified international protocol of data acquisition to safeguard graffiti that will indicate:tools and methods for in situ data acquisition; processing in order to obtain a useful product for the study; methods of storage in digital format.

3. Development of an audio reading programme of selected graffiti for people with visual or hearing disabilities. Through the use of beacons, the user, at a predetermined distance from the graffiti,receives a signal on the personal device (phone or tablet) that activates, in a dedicated app, the web page with visual content and audio description.