

24.04.2018 - UNESCO Office in Brussels

## **Syria: EU, UN to co-chair second Brussels Conference on 24-25 April**



**On 24 and 25 April 2018, the International community gathers in Brussels for the second Brussels conference on “Supporting the future of Syria and the region” co-hosted by the United Nations and the European Union.**

The Syrian conflict is entering its eighth year. So far, over 13 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance, and more than 5 million Syrians are internally displaced.

The first day’s sessions focus on the need to protect Syrians across the region and on how to deliver better assistance. In the afternoon, the International community is invited to reflect on ways to foster economic and social development in hosting countries and on securing a future for children and young people. Early in the afternoon, the side event “Education for the future” will be held.

On the second day, the plenary sessions are going to give prominence to political, regional and humanitarian focuses. The closing remarks and pledge announcements will be live-streamed.

UNESCO is working in Syria to address education needs and to protect and restore damaged or threatened cultural heritage.

To address the education needs in Syria and the region, UNESCO has set out a [“Strategic framework for Education in Emergency in the Arab Region”](#) which aims at supporting Member States in meeting their educational needs in times of crises. Four main strategic goals are highlighted in the Framework in response to education needs: 1- children and youth affected by crisis can access inclusive and quality learning opportunities; 2- learners affected by crisis are empowered with values, knowledge, and skills for life and work; 3- education actors provide quality education; 4- education systems are responsive and resilient to crisis.

Since March 2011, Syria’s exceptional cultural richness has been severely damaged. There has also been a rupture in the practice and transmission of Syria's intangible heritage. As the UN agency with the mandate of safeguarding the world’s rich and diverse cultural heritage, UNESCO has a critical role to play in Syria. With the support of the European Union, through the project [“Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage”](#), UNESCO and its partners are working to restore and protect Syrian cultural heritage.

“Supporting the future of Syria and the region” builds on the previous conferences hosted in London in 2016 and Brussels in 2017, where the international community pledged significant financial support for humanitarian assistance and protection.

The 2018 conference gathers together more than 85 countries and organisations.

[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/brussels/about-this-office/single-view/news/syria\\_eu\\_un\\_to\\_co\\_chair\\_second\\_brussels\\_conference\\_on\\_24\\_2/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/brussels/about-this-office/single-view/news/syria_eu_un_to_co_chair_second_brussels_conference_on_24_2/)