

# UNESCO 1970 Convention - Periodic Reporting Form 2019

## Respondent Information

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Position :	MINISTER OF CULTURE
Organization/Agency :	MINISTRY OF CULTURE
Country :	Albania

## Policy and Legislative Framework

### 1. Did your country implement the 1970 UNESCO Convention, and if so, how?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil Law
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criminal Law
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specific Law

### Please describe the specific law(s) used by your country.

Albania ratified the 1970 UNESCO Convention by Act No.8523 of 09 Septembre 1999. In addition, the UNESCO Convention is defined in the new Legislative Decree No. 27/2018 of 17 June 2018 – «The Law of Cultural Heritage and musseums »), Art. 130 bis, the special law regarding the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage. Also, the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage are envisaged in the Albanian Legislative Decree as follow: - The Constitution of the Republic of Albania - Law No. 7895 of 27 January 1995 "The Penal Code of the Republic of Albania" defines the crime of theft and illicit trafficking of cultural heritage value objects, which provides a legal basis to promote more efforts by security structures, respectively Article 138 "Theft of works of art and culture" and article 138 / a "Trafficking in works of art and culture", added to the Penal Code by Law no. 8733 dated 24.01.2001, Article 3); - The Civil Code of the Republic of Albania

### 2. Does your country have an overall policy and/or strategy for fighting illicit trafficking of cultural property (i.e., a document that describes the country's overall vision for fighting illicit trafficking)?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

### 3. Please provide the name and year the policy was passed (and web link to the policy/strategy if available).

- Albanian Government in its national policy, approved by the Decision of Council of Minister Nr. 663, dated 17.07.2013 The Crosscutting Strategy Combating Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking and Terrorism 2013-2020 and Action Plan for 2013-2016 », and - by Decision of Council of Minister No. nr.312, dated 27.04.2016, the National Action Plan "On Preventing and Fight against Trafficking of Movable Cultural Property 2016 - 2018" ([http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore\\_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/75-2016.pdf](http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/75-2016.pdf)) The main objectives of the National Action Plan were: 1. To create and update the National Inventory register of Cultural Heriatge 2. To improve the Regulatory framework in the area of the cultural heritage in function strengthening the fight against trafficking of cultural heritage 3. To strength inter - institutional cooperation in central or local level, to maximize the efforts of all institutions involved in the fight against trafficking of cultural heritage 4. To strength the technical and professional capacities through the organization of trainings and joint meetings. 5. Intensification of international cooperation in the field of illegal trafficking through signing bilateral agreements or multilateral. 6. To raise Community awareness on illicit trafficking of cultural heritage and its consequences.

**4. Please describe your country's overall legal framework for protecting cultural property from illicit trafficking, referencing specific laws and years passed (including specific provisions on the return of cultural objects illegally exported from other States Parties to the Convention).**

The principal national regulation in order to protect cultural heritage from illicit traffickin is : - The Constitution of the Republic of Albania - Penal Code of the Republic of Albania defines the crime of theft and illicit trafficking of cultural heritage value objects, which provides a legal basis to promote more efforts by security structures, respectively Article 138 "Theft of works of art and culture" and article 138 / a "Trafficking in works of art and culture", added to the Penal Code by Law no. 8733 dated 24.01.2001, Article 3) - The civil Code - Law no. 9806, dated 17.09.2007 "On accession of the Republic of Albania in the European Convention" On protection of archaeological heritage " (revised) - Law no. 10027, dated 11.12.2008 "On accession of the Republic of Albania to the Convention" On protection of underwater cultural heritage" - Also, The principal national regulation in order to implement the 1970 Convention are Act No.8523 of 09 Septembre 1999 and the new Legislative Decree No. 27/2018 of 17 June 2018 – «The Law on Cultural Heritage and musseums »), that introduced the article 130 bis specifically concerning the application of the UNESCO Convention.

**5. To what extent does your country's policy and legislation on this issue address the following topics (Please rate the degree of achievement in accordance to options available in the drop down boxes below).**

5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good
2	Satisfactory
1	Poor

4	Clear definition of cultural property
4	State ownership of undiscovered cultural heritage
4	Regulations on trade of cultural property
4	Export controls
4	Export certificates
4	Certificate of authenticity
4	Import controls
4	Establishment of national services
4	National inventory of cultural property

4	Inventory requirements for museums, public institutions, private collections
4	Protection of archaeological sites and regulation of archaeological excavations
4	Public education and awareness raising
4	Measures to prevent museums and similar institutions from acquiring illegally exported cultural property
4	Prohibition of import of cultural property stolen from a museum or religious/secular institution
4	Regulation of the diplomatic pouch
4	Provisions for the return of cultural objects stolen from a museum or other public institution
4	Sanctions (criminal and/or administrative and/or civil) of illicit activities related to destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural property
4	Requirement of register of sales for antique dealers, auction houses, dealers of cultural heritage and art galleries
4	Protection of underwater cultural heritage
4	Regulations regarding the use of metal detectors
4	Regulations regarding the trade of cultural artefacts on internet
Other (please specify): The 27/2018 « The Law on Cultural Heritage and museums » addresses the above topics.	

**6. Did your country's legal framework regarding illicit trafficking of cultural property change as a result of ratifying the 1970 Convention?**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**7. What laws were passed or changed as a result of ratification? (Please provide the name of the law and the year it was passed)**

Law no. 9048, dated 04.07.2003 "On Cultural Heritage", amended over the years; Law no. 9386 dated 04.05.2005 "On museums", abrogated with the entry into force of the new law no. 27/2018 "On cultural heritage and museums"

**8. Please add any additional comments on the legislative/policy framework**

N/A

**9. Has your country implemented a policy to prevent the illicit export of cultural property?**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**Please specify :**

During the period 2013 – June 2018 according to the Law no. 9048, dated 04.07.2003 "On Cultural Heritage", amended over the years, provided in the Articles 7;9 dhe 19 that: That the national and international circulation of cultural heritage in public and private ownership was allowed only after these procedures had been completed: - Registration of property in the national register of cultural assets, accompanied by the Object ID certificate; - The permission of the Minister of Culture for objects of common or museum value. - The permission of the Minister of Culture for a private-owned object after performing the procedures by the Permanent Commission when the object is of private ownership (established by Council of Minister's Decision no 795, dt. 26.11.2003). - The Council of Minister's Decision, which defines the period of stay out of the territory of the object(s), for the export of objects with unique values. A specific by-law (no 2, dt. 18.3.2004), "Guidelines on procedures of movement of movable objects of cultural heritage with special national and unique values, for their restoration, study, and/or display out of the territory of the Republic of Albania", establishes a set of rules and documents that must accompany the object which will be exported. In any case, it's mandatory that the export must be registered to the National Center for the Computerized Inventorying of Cultural Properties, Center which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, responsible also registering the export of objects. At the moment, The new Law 27/2018 "On cultural heritage and museums" is in the process of implementing and drafting by-law acts which clearly specify the procedures for importing import/export of cultural assets and issuing relevant licenses. Albanian law requires the border check of all cultural properties as indicated by the Law 27/2018 "On cultural heritage and museums" Articles 121 - 129. The control on cultural property in both export and import or shipped, is exercised by the Export Offices, which are part of the National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage.

10. **Does the implemented policy include the requirement of a legally issued export certificate of the country of origin and/or transit?**

X	Yes
	No

**Please specify :**

The Law 27/2018 "On cultural heritage and museums" provides rules and procedures for import /export and of a legally issued export certificate of the country of origin and/or transit Article 125, 128, 129. The Ministry of Culture is in the process of drafting By Laws and Guidelines to full implement the new Law which specifies: Free circulation license. 1. Export of movable cultural assets from the territory of the Republic of Albania towards other countries are carried out following the licensing of free circulation, in accordance with the forecasts of this law and the international projections of the field. 2. The subject, which seeks to issue without return from the territory of the Republic of Albania the assets of provided for in paragraph 3 of Article 123 of this Law, shall be provided with a free movement license, stating in Office for Export Issues at National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage: a) Purpose for unlawful release of property; b) Value for each asset, determining at the same time for each of them the cash value. 3. Office for Export Issues, ascertains the compliance of the declared value with the value of reference certified by an assessor of movable cultural properties, licensed under provisions of this law, verifies whether the presented assets are registered in the respective registers. In carrying out this assessment, the export offices are based on the general definitions adopted by the order of the minister responsible for cultural heritage and the list of reference prices, approved annually by a decision of the evaluation commission at National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage. 4. After carrying out the verifications, according to paragraph 3 of this article, the Office for Export Issues expresses with a reasoned decision on the request for issuing a free movement license, informing the interested party no later than 40 days from the receipt of the application. 5. The Free Movement License is issued by the Head of National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage, based on the Office's decision to export issues for a three-year term. The license is issued in three original copies, one of which remains with the practice of the export office at National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage to place in the Official License Register Free circulation; a second is given to the interested and must accompany the movement of the object / estate and the third is sent to the customs authority 6. The free movement license is presented in support of the export declaration, customs formalities of export of cultural assets to the competent customs office. Temporary movement license 1. Temporary export of movable cultural assets from the territory of the Republic of Albania towards other countries is carried out after having been issued a temporary movement license, in accordance with the projections of this law and the international projections of the field. 2. The subject, which seeks to temporarily release the assets of the Republic of Albania as stipulated in article 124 of this law, submit to the competent export office at National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage request for equipment with a temporary traffic license, stating: a) Purpose for the temporary extraction of property; b) The order of the responsible minister, as provided for in paragraph 2 and 3 of Article 121 of this law, if are applicable; c) Value for each asset, determining, at the same time, for each of them the cash value. ç) Entity that will take care of cultural assets outside the Republic of Albania. 3. Office for Export Issues, ascertains the compliance of the declared value with the value of reference, certified by an assessor of movable cultural properties, licensed under provisions of this law, verifies whether the presented assets are registered in the respective registers. for To carry out this assessment, the export offices are based on the general designations adopted by the order the minister responsible for cultural heritage and the list of reference prices, approved annually by decision of the evaluation commission at National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage. 4. After carrying out the verifications pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Article, the Office for Export Issues shall state: a reasoned decision on the application for the issuance of a temporary movement license, by notifying it interested parties no later than 40 days from the receipt of the application. The decision defines the rules and conditions necessary for the temporary movement out of the territory of the Republic of Albania of cultural, subject of review. 5. An appeal against the decision of the refusal shall be allowed to the head of National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage. 6. Temporary movement license is issued by the head of I National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage

11. **Has your country encountered difficulties in returning/restituting cultural property to its place of origin due to incompatibilities with national judicial decisions?**

	Yes
X	No

## Implementation and operative framework

### Institutional Framework

12. **Does your country have a specialized service for the protection of cultural property (as described in Article 5 of the Convention) whose functions may include drafting laws and legislation, establishing national inventory, promoting establishment/development of scientific and technical institutions, organizing the supervision of archaeological sites, establishing rules for curators, antique dealers, etc., developing educational activities and/or publicizing the disappearance of cultural property?**

X	Yes
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No
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13. Please describe this service's major roles and responsibilities.

(maximum of 5000 characters accepted in the field) The specialized services for the protection of cultural property in Albania are as follow: Ministry of Culture The mission of the Ministry of Culture, of Albania is to create and establish the national policies in the fields of culture, according to the Program of the Government. The Ministry coordinates and monitors the public investments in the field of cultural heritage and also protects and promotes the cultural and touristic recourses of Albania, for a sustainable economic development. Under the General Directorate of Strategic Planning for Culture Heritage & Diversity there are the Directorate of Tangible Heritage& Museums and the Directorate of Intangible Heritage & Albanian Language Promotion which have under their responsibility and juridiction 25 institutions. Institute of Cultural Monuments (ICM) and 9 Regional Directorates of National Culture (RDNC) established in Tirana, Durrësi, Shkodra, Berati, Gjirokastra, Vlora, Korça, Dibra, Saranda. The fundamental mission of the Institute of Cultural Monuments is the protection, restoration and re-vitalization of cultural and historical monuments. ICM performs research studies, supervise the implementation of legislation in the field of cultural monuments, manages and supervises conservation and restoration interventions and projects in the entire territory of the Republic of Albania. It is responsible for the staff (including the RDNC) training, authorizes and identifies the criteria for restoration and provides all measures to ensure protection, scientific restoration and full documentation. National Inventorying Centre for Cultural Heritage Properties The Mission of the National Inventorying Centre for Cultural Heritage Properties is to register, maintain and update the digital inventory of the Albanian cultural properties, both tangible (movable and immovable) and intangible. The Centre has a specific database for the lost and illegally trafficked objects which acts as intermediary between the related institutions in case of eventually lost objects. The director is appointed by the Minister responsible for cultural heritage. Centre for Albanological Studies, which is the scientific institution responsible for research, training of students and scientists, as well as spreading of knowledge in the areas of history of Albania, culture, cultural heritage tangible and intangible. Among different scientific institutions under this Centre two of them are responsible for research studies in the field of cultural heritage: the Institute of Archaeology and the Institute of Anthropology and Art Studies. The Institute of Archaeology is responsible for the archaeological scientific excavations in the Albanian territory. According to the Law on Cultural Heritage research, surveys and archaeological excavations in the territory of the Republic of Albania Albanian are state monopoly. The Institute bases its annual activities (in the field of archaeological excavations) according to the annual programme for excavation projects approved by the National Council for Archaeology. The main objective of Institute of Anthropology and Art Studies is the research and scientific study of ethno-culture, preserving and documenting the traditions of spiritual and material culture of the Albanian people. The National Council of Archaeology. Approves, search criteria, documentation and archiving of data and archaeological materials, the integration strategy of archaeological research, to promote the development and fundamental problems of archaeological research; determining the criteria to exercise the profession of archaeologist, permits private entities and individuals, dealing with archaeological digging and activities, in general, all projects of intervention in archaeological areas. The National Council of Archaeology in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology and The Center of Albanological Studies defines the criteria of exposure and presentation of archaeological findings and the adoption of storage manner of maintenance, in function of cultural tourism. The Archaeological Service Agency, an institution under the Ministry of Culture, responsible for the administration of rescue excavations in the territory of the Republic of Albania; protection and the study of archaeological findings, and measures for the salvation of these values. Law no. 27/2018 "On cultural heritage and museums" Articles 28 defines the institutions responsible for the protection of cultural assets and the pursuit of procedures for the circulation of cultural assets and illicit trafficking of cultural property. The Albanian Government does not have a specialized unit exclusively for the procedures of the illicit trafficking of cultural property, but through institutions responsible with the respective structures monitors this process: Ministry of Culture Ministry of Internal Affairs Ministry of Justice

14. Please indicate which of the following departments/ministries/agencies also have specialized services for the protection of cultural property against illicit trafficking (mark all that apply).

	Magistrates and/or judges
	Police, gendarmerie, and/or Department of Interior
	Public prosecutor
	Customs
X	None

X	Other (please specify): In central public institutions there is no a dedicated unit only for the procedures of the illicit trafficking of cultural property. In the Ministry of Interior, the General Directorate of State Police and the General Directorate of Customs has a Directorate of Trafficking, which includes issues of trafficking in cultural assets.
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15. Please describe the roles and responsibilities of these specialized services in more detail.

In the Ministry of Interior, the General Directorate of State Police and the General Directorate of Customs, there is the Directorate of Illegal Trafficking a state-level structure for illegal trafficking, including cultural property.

16. How do relevant stakeholders (Ministry of Culture, police, customs, etc.) coordinate regarding the protection of illicit trafficking? Mark all that apply

	Formal coordinating committee, working group, etc.
	Coordination lead by specialized service (as described in Article 5), antenna or focal point
X	Communication and meetings as necessary (i.e., for specific cases)
X	Cross-trainings (i.e., trainings for police from Ministry of Culture staff)
	No Coordination
	Other (please specify) :

17. Please provide more detail on this coordination, including how it functions and who is involved.

The main objectives of the National Action Plan were: 7. To create and update the National Inventory register of Cultural Heriatge 8. To improve the Regulatory framework in the area of the cultural heritage in function strengthening the fight against trafficking of cultural heritage 9. To strength inter - institutional cooperation in central or local level, to maximize the efforts of all institutions involved in the fight against trafficking of cultural heritage 10. To strength the technical and professional capacities through the organization of trainings and joint meetings. 11. Intensification of international cooperation in the field of illegal trafficking through signing bilateral agreements or multilateral. 12. To raise Community awareness on illicit trafficking of cultural heritage and its consequences The General Directorate of the Fight Against Illicit Trafficking part of the Department of the Fight Against Organized Crime at the Albanian State Police plays a major role for protection of Cultural property against illicit trafficking. It closely cooperates and exchange information with the section Against Illicit Trafficking which is attached at each of Regional Directorate of Police across over Albania. Also Tirana Interpol Office has an important role by identifying and helping to restitute those culture objects which have been stolen and trafficked abroad. In special cases the Albanian State Police collaborate even with the Department Against Organized Crime at the National Intelligence Service to increase its efforts against such phenomena.

18. Does your country use a database of stolen cultural objects?

X	Yes, we have our own national or/and regional database that is not linked with the INTERPOL database
	Yes, we have our own national or/and regional database that is linked with the INTERPOL database
	Yes, we use the INTERPOL database (and do not have our own national database)
	No, we do not currently have a national database or use the INTERPOL database
	We would request assistance to establish such a database

19. Please provide additional details on how your country uses such a database.

By the Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 278 dated 16.05.2018 "On the establishment of the State Database "National Register of Cultural Property (NRCP)", is administered by the Ministry of Culture (National Center for the Inventory of Cultural Assets), the State Database "National Register of Cultural Property (NRCP)", through the National Informatics System for the Registration and Administration of Cultural Assets, for all categories of possessors in order to identify, register, maintain and online procedures of this service with: a) State Institutions, Private Entities (Physical/Legal) possessing and administering Cultural Property Assets for the registration and equipping of passports for national cultural property assets in public and private ownership. b) Customs Service of the Republic of Albania for the monitoring of the movement and ownership of national cultural property assets in public and private ownership within and outside the territory of the Republic of Albania. c) State Police for information exchange in the system regarding cases of thefts of national cultural property assets in the country and denunciations by international institutions operating within and outside the Republic of Albania. d) Citizens for information on the procedures of registration and movement within and outside the territory of Albania for cultural heritage assets. e) Government-net interaction for providing and receiving on-line service with institutions and citizens for the registration of national cultural property assets

Lost objects database - Contains records of lost objects in our museums from 1991 to 2018. Objects of this catalog are available in the network for the needs of Interpol. There is a small% of real objects stolen and unfortunately lack of photos (low resolution) Includes 2240 objects and only 243 of them with photos Each object is identified by a code which is unique. This code is written in the Object ID, on appropriate stamp. Also The Albanian Government through Interpol Albania has unlimited access to the INTERPOL database. The Ministry of Culture responsible for the preservation of cultural assets and the administration of the national data base and lost objects operates through Interpol Albania on the basis of INETERPOL. In the new law no. 27/2018 it is determined that the responsible structure that will coordinate direct processes (including INTERPOL ALBANIA) is the National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage which has the responsibility to administrate the database of stolen cultural property.

## Protection and Prevention Systems

20. To what extent do museums and religious or secular public monuments have their own specific inventories of their cultural property/collections?

	All/almost all cultural property is inventoried
X	Most, but not all, cultural property is inventoried
	Some cultural property is inventoried, but significant gaps remain
	Very little cultural property is inventoried
	No/almost no cultural property is inventoried

21. Please provide additional details on these inventories, specifying whether they are digitized, and including any challenges in creating/maintaining them.

According to the State Database "National Register of Cultural Property (NRCP)", is administered by the Ministry of Culture (National Center for the Inventory of Cultural Assets), the national inventory of cultural heritage in public and private is as follow:  State. Network of Institutions in the center and base, consisting of museums, art galleries, etc.. under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Centre of Albanological Studies (CAS) and Local Government Bodies – 245751 Objects inventoried and registered  Religious institutions – 923 Objects inventoried and registered  Private persons - 43486 Objects inventoried and registered

22. To what extent does your country have a centralized national inventory of cultural property?

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	All/almost all protected cultural property is inventoried
X	Most, but not all, protected cultural property is inventoried
	Some protected cultural property is inventoried, but significant gaps remain
	Very little protected cultural property is inventoried
	No/almost no protected cultural property is inventoried

23. **Please provide additional details on this inventory, including any challenges in creating/maintaining it.**

Cultural Heritage in Albania, tangible and intangible, movable and immovable, now is owned by three owners: 1.State. Network of Institutions in the center and base, consisting of museums, art galleries, etc.. under the Ministry of Culture, Academy of Albanological Studies (CAS) and Local Government Bodies . 2. Religious institutions. Objects that are in the possession of these institutions are of particular importance and often of unique value. 3. Private persons. This property was never documented and inventoried, even less cataloged. Albanian State Strategy has given priority to inventorying and cataloging computing of network museum and art galleries in the country, due to the fact that they are scattered all over the country and most exposed by damages. In the the field of documentation and cataloging of cultural heritage the experience and achievements in Albania are quite well reflected in the the National Inventory Centre of Cultural Property (NICCP), whose mission is computing cataloging of cultural heritage of the Albanian people and the supervision and the monitoring of compliance property rights and the movement. Its function on the basis of three relevant catalogs is an important element in the documentation and the inventory of cultural property In developing its activity, National Inventory Centre of Cultural Property cooperates with the central state administration bodies and local governments, as well as with scientific, cultural, or religious institutions, with physical and judicial persons, for the identification and cataloging of Albanian cultural heritage assets. (maximum of 5000 characters accepted in the field) By the Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 278 dated 16.05.2018 "On the establishment of the State Database "National Register of Cultural Property (NRCP)", is administered by the Ministry of Culture (National Center for the Inventory of Cultural Assets), the State Database "National Register of Cultural Property (NRCP)", through the National Informatics System for the Registration and Administration of Cultural Assets, for all categories of possessors in order to identify, register, maintain and online procedures of this service with: a) State Institutions, Private Entities (Physical/Legal) possessing and administering Cultural Property Assets for the registration and equipping of passports for national cultural property assets in public and private ownership. b) Customs Service of the Republic of Albania for the monitoring of the movement and ownership of national cultural property assets in public and private ownership within and outside the territory of the Republic of Albania. c) State Police for information exchange in the system regarding cases of thefts of national cultural property assets in the country and denunciations by international institutions operating within and outside the Republic of Albania. d) Citizens for information on the procedures of registration and movement within and outside the territory of Albania for cultural heritage assets. e) Government-net interaction for providing and receiving on-line service with institutions and citizens for the registration of national cultural property assets Challenges in creating and maintaining it:  The preservation of standards and the introduction of new technologies cataloging are an important step that should be treated with priority. Regional approaches to improving standards in documentation and inventory of the cultural assets and their implementation in the field of the cultural heritage is an important step to be taken. The realization of a national network cataloging is a priority that requires the cultural heritage, and the collaboration and harmonization of labor between the cultural heritage institutions brings protection, preservation and handling of the national asset in contemporary parameters.  Connection with regional centers and the Customs performed by world-wide web.  Improvement of management of cultural heritage and its involvement in the processes of planning and sustainable development requires a precise documentation and inventory. The complexity of the cultural heritage that should be documented and inventoried and their interaction with our daily environment requires a clear definition and harmonization of practices at European level.

24. **Please describe the extent to which looting/pillaging/illegal excavations of archaeological and ethnological objects is a challenge, including actions taken to combat it.**

(maximum of 5000 characters accepted in the field) According to the State Police statistics: Albania is mainly identified as a country of origin for trafficking in cultural heritage objects and not as their destination. Favorable factors of theft and trafficking in works of art and culture in Albania.  Low sensitivity of the public and the institutions  Use of technology (the use of detectors, illegal searches, perfection of the way of Camouflage stolen objects, the use of electronic communication, etc.)  lack of security in the religious monuments, and lack of information and an accurate inventory of religious buildings, most of them with unique values.  Foreign market requirements for these objects  The existence of international trafficking networks  Lack of regional cooperation between the relevant structures in fight against illegal search phenomenon, acquisition, theft and trafficking in works of art and culture.  The existence of an informal market in trade of works of art in the country, because we are dealing with a commercial activity (paintings, sold by different authors, unlicensed, and without tax invoice)  unlicensed private collectors  Lack of coordination between relevant stakeholders  Lack of inventories and databases in museums  Inadequate security systems in museums  Inadequate security of archaeological sites  Lack of cooperation from the art market  Lack of expertise/capacity in the legal field (lawyers, judges, prosecutors, etc.)  Lack of police capacity related to cultural property  Lack of customs capacity related to cultural property Action taken to combat it:  Successful interventions conducted by State Police.  The establishment of Archaeological Service Agency, an institution under the Ministry of Culture, whose mission is the administration of rescue excavations in the territory of the Republic of Albania; protection and the study of archaeological findings that emerge during the agricultural, construction, engineering or building construction works and measures for the salvation of these values  The establishment of the National Council of Archaeology. Approves, search criteria, documentation and archiving of data and archaeological materials, the integration strategy of archaeological research, to promote the development and fundamental problems archaeological research; determining the criteria to exercise the profession of archaeologist, permits private entities and individuals, dealing with archaeological digging and activities, in general, all projects of intervention in archaeological areas, in accordance with article 30 of law no. 9048, dated 07.04.2003 "On Cultural Heritage", as amended, storage, integration and final displacement of archaeological remains, after conducting archaeological excavation process, all over the country.  Decision of Council of Minister No. nr.312, dated 27.04.2016, the National Action Plan "On Preventing and Fight against Trafficking of Movable Cultural Property 2016 - 2018" ([http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore\\_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/75-2016.pdf](http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/75-2016.pdf)) Objectives: - Preventing the theft and trafficking of works of art and culture, as well as unauthorized archaeological research. - Identifying works of art traffickers, professional initiating investigations, and putting them to justice. - Training and new Capacity Building in the fight against theft and trafficking in works of art and culture - Direction and coordination of the activities of national institutions responsible for combating trafficking in works of art and culture. The Approvement of The Law no. 27/2018 "On cultural heritage and museums" specified Articles 28 defines the institutions responsible for the protection of cultural assets and the pursuit of procedures for the circulation of cultural assets and illicit trafficking of cultural property.

## Knowledge, Skills and Values of Stakeholders and the Public

25. **Has your country undertaken any public awareness campaigns related to the protection of cultural property in the past five years?**

X	Yes
	No

26. **Please describe, including methods, target audience, etc.**

One of the initiatives of the Albanian government implemented by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education is the education program through the culture of returning to the national program as one of the main components of the national strategy for culture which is in the drafting phase. Programs that are part of the museum's functions and curricula in the schools of RA are education through culture. The program "Education through culture heritage" is a platform that applies to all categories in the museum to fulfill the social role of the museum. The Ministry of Culture and the National Inventory Center of Cultural Properties, fulfilling also the obligations that derive from the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property – 1970, has undertaken many successful activities concerning the raising awareness about the illicit movement of cultural goods, knowing the basic principle in the acquisition of cultural property / criteria establishing and exercising due diligence in the trade of cultural goods and also on line sales and the trade of cultural property, why is important an International Code of Ethic for trade dealers. Publications : - The Catalogue of Lost Objects from Albanian Heritage State Institutions from 1990 till 2016 published and distributed. - Leaflet "UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property" published and distributed.

27. **To what extent is the public in your country engaged in the protection of cultural property? Examples of engagement may include :**

5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good
2	Satisfactory
1	Poor

3	Protection of local archaeological and heritage sites by the public (eg. assistance in monitoring of sites, support in documenting etc.)
3	Return of objects to relevant authorities
3	Sharing information on stolen objects with authorities
3	Placing pressure on museums to change acquisition policies
3	Advocating for policy change

28. **Overall, to what extent do police and/or gendarmerie have the necessary resources and knowledge to address cultural property crime?**

	To a great extent
	To a considerable extent
X	To some extent
	To no extent

29. **Overall, to what extent do customs officers have the necessary resources and knowledge to address cultural property crime?**

	To a great extent

	To a considerable extent
X	To some extent
	To no extent

30. **What type of training do police receive on cultural property crime?**

	No specific training on this issue
X	Training has occurred in the past, but is not ongoing
	Training occurs periodically
	In-depth, specialized training for officers working on this issue
	Assistance is required from UNESCO and its partners
	Other

31. **Please provide additional details on the content and frequency of these trainings.**

(maximum of 5000 characters accepted in the field)  Tirana, Albania, 23 November 2011 International expert meeting: Awareness-raising, communication and outreach strategies: fighting the illicit traffic of cultural property in South East Europe  Gaziantep, Turkey, 19-21 November 2012 Building capacities for the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in South-East Europe  Rome, Italy, 23-27 November 2015 Fight against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property for Albanian stakeholders  Paris, France, 26-28 November 2018 Training workshop for the European judiciary and law enforcement officials on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property  Tiranë, Albania, 18-19 December 2017 Conference & Workshop on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property: the challenges and awareness Ministry of Culture during the years has made a lot of enforcements on raising awarnes about thos topic and also: 1. To develop capacities of the staff of the Albanian Public Institutions regarding the prevention and fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property as well as the restitution of stolen or illegally exported objects 2. To develop capacities of the staff of the Albanian Public Institutions for establishing preventive measures for inventories of cultural objects (whether archaeological or not); according to international standards, as a first step of protection. 3. To raise awareness about the illicit movement of cultural goods and on the need to adopt an effective national legislation and to develop international cooperation in this area. 4. To develop networks at local, national and regional levels to ensure general awareness of the dramatic consequences of trafficking of cultural property on the impoverishment of the population. Also the implementation of the National Action Plan forces all law enforcement structures in coordination of all processes involved and staff training (Police and Customs) - To strength inter - institutional cooperation in central or local level, to maximize the efforts of all institutions involved in the fight against trafficking of cultural heritage - To strength the technical and professional capacities through the organization of trainings and joint meetings. - Intensification of international cooperation in the field of illegal trafficking through signing bilateral agreements or multilateral. - To raise Community awareness on illicit trafficking of cultural heritage and its consequences.

32. **What type of training do customs officers receive on cultural property crime?**

	No specific training on this issue
X	Training has occurred in the past, but is not ongoing
	Training occurs periodically
	In-depth, specialized training for officers working on this issue
	Assistance is required from UNESCO and its partners

Other

33. Please provide additional details on the content and frequency of these trainings.

Tirana, Albania, 23 November 2011 International expert meeting: Awareness-raising, communication and outreach strategies: fighting the illicit traffic of cultural property in South East Europe  Gaziantep, Turkey, 19-21 November 2012 Building capacities for the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in South-East Europe  Rome, Italy, 23-27 November 2015 Fight against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property for Albanian stakeholders  Paris, France, 26-28 November 2018 Training workshop for the European judiciary and law enforcement officials on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property  Tiranë, Albania, 18-19 December 2017 Conference & Workshop on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property: the challenges and awareness Ministry of Culture during the years has made a lot of enforcements on raising awarnes about thos topic and also: 5. To develop capacities of the staff of the Albanian Public Institutions regarding the prevention and fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property as well as the restitution of stolen or illegally exported objects 6. To develop capacities of the staff of the Albanian Public Institutions for establishing preventive measures for inventories of cultural objects (whether archaeological or not); according to international standards, as a first step of protection. 7. To raise awareness about the illicit movement of cultural goods and on the need to adopt an effective national legislation and to develop international cooperation in this area. 8. To develop networks at local, national and regional levels to ensure general awareness of the dramatic consequences of trafficking of cultural property on the impoverishment of the population. Also the implementation of the National Action Plan forces all law enforcement structures in coordination of all processes involved and staff training (Police and Customs) - To strength inter - institutional cooperation in central or local level, to maximize the efforts of all institutions involved in the fight against trafficking of cultural heritage - To strength the technical and professional capacities through the organization of trainings and joint meetings. - Intensification of international cooperation in the field of illegal trafficking through signing bilateral agreements or multilateral. - To raise Community awareness on illicit trafficking of cultural heritage and its consequences

34. To what extent have museums in your country adopted a code of ethics, such as the ICOM Code of Ethics, that is in line with the principles of the 1970 Convention?

	All or almost all have adopted such a code of ethics
	Most have adopted such a code of ethics
X	Some have adopted such a code of ethics
	None/only a few have adopted such a code of ethics
	Other (please specify) :

35. Please provide additional details on the degree to which museums adhere to such a code of ethics.

The ICOM CODE of ethics has been adapted to a certain extent by all the National Museums under the Ministry of Culture. But not all the local museums under the local government and municipalities. Also other institutions are considering the opportunity to largely adapt its clauses at their daily actions and regulatory framework.

36. To what extent do dealers and auction houses in your country follow practices that are in line with the principles of the 1970 Convention, such as those outlined in the UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property and the Operational Guidelines of the 1970 Convention?

	All or almost all follow such practices
	Most follow such practices

X	Some follow such practices
	None/only a few follow such practices
	Other (please specify) :

37. **Please provide additional details on the policies and practices of dealers and auction houses in your country.**

There are no auction houses in Albania and the trade dealers follow some of the practices that are in line with the principles of the 1970 Convention because the legal frame work didn't foresee such rules. The new Law 27/2018 "On Cultural Heritage and Museums" establishes by Article 116-118 the obligations about :  Trade of cultural assets  Obligations of the cultural property trader Explained at the point 51 of the Reporting Form (51. Please provide additional details on how your country has used UNESCO's tools). The Ministry of Culture is in the process of drafting by laws and guidelines.

38. **How has your country engaged art and antiquities dealers around the issue of illicit trafficking of cultural property?**

Meetings and consultations with interest groups (collectors and traders of cultural assets) during the drafting of the new Law 27/2018 "On Cultural Heritage and Museums"  Also, the expected result of the UNESCO project "Building capacities and promoting digitized inventory of culture properties and the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural properties" within the framework of the application of the Ministry of Culture and the National Inventory Center of Cultural Properties (NICCP) under the UNESCO Program of Participation in the Activities of Member States 2016-2017 were : - The Conference & Workshop on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property: the challenges and awareness held in Tirana, Albania, 18-19 December 2017 - Leaflet "UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property" published and distributed The Conference & workshop over the course of two days aimed to introduce to the audience the best practices of fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects and to raise awareness regarding the illicit trafficking of cultural property, and to discuss methods and best practices how best to respond to this serious transnational threat in a systematic manner, and in co-ordination with relevant national agencies, International Organizations, private sector and educational institutions. The training will showcase the standard documentation (licenses, permits) in place in countries of EU as well as concrete case studies of movement of objects from the Italian territory to an EU country and to other countries not pertaining to EU. Main objectives of the Conference & workshop: 1. To develop capacities of the staff of the Albanian Public Institutions regarding the prevention and fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property as well as the restitution of stolen or illegally exported objects 2. To develop capacities of the staff of the Albanian Public Institutions for establishing preventive measures for inventories of cultural objects (whether archaeological or not); according to international standards, as a first step of protection. 3. To raise awareness about the illicit movement of cultural goods and on the need to adopt an effective national legislation and to develop international cooperation in this area. 4. To develop networks at local, national and regional levels to ensure general awareness of the dramatic consequences of trafficking of cultural property on the impoverishment of the population. Also, the publication of the leaflet "UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property" will serve to the members of the trade in cultural property to recognize the key role that trade has traditionally played in the dissemination of culture and in the distribution to museums and private collectors of foreign cultural property for the education and inspiration of all peoples.

39. **Do you regulate the trade of cultural objects on internet?**

	Yes
X	No

40. **Have you entered into a specific agreement with an internet platform?**

	Yes
X	No

## International Cooperation

41. **Please list any bilateral agreements your country has regarding the protection of cultural property, including the years for which the agreement is in effect.**

- - Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the United States on the Protection and Safeguarding of Certain Cultural Property, signed in Washington on 12.07.2004, where Ministry of Culture was charged by the Government for the implementation of this agreement. There are no specific bilateral agreements regarding the protection of cultural property, including the years for which the agreement is in effect, apart of this with the Government of the United States. Many bilateral agreements signed in the field of Culture includes protection of cultural heritage, such as: - - Cooperation Program between the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Albania for the period 2016-2019 - Cooperation program between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Albania and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for 2017-2019 - Declaration of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Communication of the French Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Albania on cultural cooperation - Draft agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cultural Cooperation and the Annex to the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cultural Co-operation - The Program of Cooperation in the Field of Culture between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Albania for the period 2016 – 2019 - Protocol of the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Commission Austria-Albania on Cooperation in the fields of culture, association and science for the years 2016-2020 - Renewal of the "Program between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on Cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture for the period 2016-2018 - Memorandum of cooperation between MCYS of Rep. of Kosovo, Diaspora of Rep. of Kosovo and MK of Rep. of Albania,

42. **Please indicate how the 1970 Convention helped with return/restitution cases your country has been involved in?**

	To no extent	To some extent	To a considerable extent	To a great extent
Provided a legal framework for return/restitution				X
Provided a moral framework for return/restitution				X
Provided a diplomatic framework for return/restitution				X
Other (please specify):				

43. **Please provide additional details on or examples of how the 1970 Convention has facilitated return/restitution cases**

The signing of the 1970 Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects from Albanian State has enabled the repatriation and restricting the flow of national cultural assets. All objects are inventoried at the National Center Inventory and files were sent to Interpol. Database served to prove ownership of the state. It is worth mentioning several instances of cooperation between the Albanian government and Interpol based on the UNIDROIT Convention on the Theft and Illegal Export of Cultural Property of 1995, for the identification and repatriation of some archaeological objects stolen in Butrint. All documentation prepared by National Inventory Center of Cultural Property, consisting passport facility (Object ID), code ownership etc, was sent to anti-trafficking sector in the Ministry of Interior to begin the recovery stages. The history of objects repatriated to Albania begins with the portrait of Dea of Butrint (Apollo) which was sent to Italy by King Zog legislated as a gift, but for national purposes to highlight Albania's archaeological riches. Restored in our country by the Italian government in 1981. Is exposed at National Historical Museum. In 2005, are returned from Greece at the Archaeological Butrint Museum, the marble head of Agrippa, the marble head of Herculaneum and head of a child. The three sculptures were stolen from the Butrinti Museum in 1991. Herculaneum portrait and that of the child were found in the National Archaeological Museum of Athens, while the portrait of Agrippa, at the Archaeological Museum of Janine in Greece. In January 2008 from Athens, was returned the statue of Artemis and statue of Apollo, exhibited at the Museum of Piraeus in Greece. In May 2009, returned in Albania 'The head of Zeus (Asclepius)', an object of unique value to Albanian archeology, robbed in 1991 from the Archaeological Museum of Butrint in Saranda. The object was accompanied with passport facility (Object ID) issued by National Inventory Centre of Cultural Property.

44. **Does your country have a system in place to facilitate international cooperation (e.g. single points of contacts and easily accessible information) in cases of illicit trafficking of cultural property?**

	Yes
X	No

45. **How has your country promoted this system and ensure the international community is aware of it?**

□

## Overall

46. **Yearly statistics**

### Thefts

1st Year reporting	1	Number of objects
Additional information : According to the State Database "National Register of Cultural Property (NRCP)", 2240 objects declared lost by the Cultural Heritage Institutions of the Republic of Albania from 1990 to 2018. All the data's are published in the Catalogue of Lost Objects from Albanian Heritage State Institutions from 1990 till 2016. A copy of the publication was submitted to Ms. Mechtild Rössler, the Director of the Division for Heritage and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre during the Sixth Session of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property held in Paris from 28 to 29 May 2018. In 2017, Albania was elected a member state of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (2017-2021), and held the presidency for the period 2017-2018.		
2nd Year reporting	2	Number of objects
Additional information : N/A		
3rd Year reporting	3	Number of objects
Additional information : N/A		
4nd Year reporting	4	Number of objects



Additional information : N/A
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## Illegal Excavations

1st Year reporting	1	Number of objects
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Additional information : N/A
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2nd Year reporting	2	Number of objects
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Additional information : N/A
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3rd Year reporting	3	Number of objects
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Additional information : N/A
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4nd Year reporting		Number of objects
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Additional information :
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## Seizures (cultural objects originating from own country)

1st Year reporting		Number of objects
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Additional information :
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2nd Year reporting		Number of objects
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Additional information :
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3nd Year reporting		Number of objects
--------------------	--	-------------------

Additional information :
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4nd Year reporting		Number of objects
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Additional information :
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## Seizures (cultural objects originating from another country)

1st Year reporting	1	Number of objects
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Additional information : By Decision No. 1502 dated 16.06.2015 of the Tirana District Court, Criminal Chamber, left in force with Decision no. 1459 dated 09.30.2015 of Tirana Court of Appeals, 476 objects in private ownership seized by the State Police in 2013, passed with the final decision in favor of the Albanian state. By Order of the Minister of Culture No. 377, dated 13.06.2017 objects are a permanent collection preserved by 3 (three) National Institutions. - By Decision No. 646, dated 20.11.2017 of the of the Fier Judicial District Court, 264 archaeological objects in private ownership seized by the State Police in 2017, passed with the final decision in favor of the Albanian state. By Order of the Minister of Culture No. 71, dated 28.01.2019 objects are a permanent collection of Institute of Archaeology.
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2nd Year reporting	2	Number of objects
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Additional information : N/A
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3nd Year reporting	3	Number of objects
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Additional information : N/A
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4nd Year reporting	4	Number of objects
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Additional information : N/A

## Restitutions

1st Year reporting	1	Number of objects
<p><b>Additional information :</b> The signing of the 1970 Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects from Albanian State has enabled the repatriation and restricting the flow of national cultural assets. All objects are inventoried at the National Center Inventory and files were sent to Interpol. Database served to prove ownership of the state. It is worth mentioning several instances of cooperation between the Albanian government and Interpol based on the UNIDROIT Convention on the Theft and Illegal Export of Cultural Property of 1995, for the identification and repatriation of some archaeological objects stolen in Butrint, All documentation prepared by National Inventory Center of Cultural Property, consisting passport facility (Object ID), code ownership etc, was sent to anti-trafficking sector in the Ministry of Interior to begin the recovery stages. The history of objects repatriated to Albania begins with the portrait of Dea of Butrint (Apollo) which was sent to Italy by King Zog legislated as a gift, but for national purposes to highlight Albania's archaeological riches. Restored in our country by the Italian government in 1981. Is exposed at National Historical Museum. In 2005, are returned from Greece at the Archaeological Butrint Museum, the marble head of Agrippa, the marble head of Herculaneum and head of a child. The three sculptures were stolen from the Butrinti Museum in 1991. Herculaneum portrait and that of the child were found in the National Archaeological Museum of Athens, while the portrait of Agrippa, at the Archaeological Museum of Janine in Greece. In January 2008 from Athens, was returned the statue of Artemis and statue of Apollo, exhibited at the Museum of Piraeus in Greece. In May 2009, returned in Albania ' The head of Zeus (Asclepius)', an object of unique value to Albanian archeology, robbed in 1991 from the Archaeological Museum of Butrint in Saranda. The object was accompanied with passport facility (Object ID) issued by National Inventory Centre of Cultural Property.</p>		
2nd Year reporting	2	Number of objects
Additional information : N/A		
3rd Year reporting	3	Number of objects
Additional information : N/A		
4nd Year reporting	4	Number of objects
Additional information : N/A		

47. **Please rate the extent to which each of the following is a challenge your country faces in preventing theft and illicit exportation of its cultural property.**

	Not a challenge	Somewhat of a challenge	A considerable challenge	A major challenge
Gaps in national legislation to protect cultural property	X			
Lack of police capacity related to cultural property				X
Lack of customs capacity related to cultural property				X
Lack of coordination between relevant stakeholders			X	
Lack of inventories and databases in museums			X	
Inadequate security systems in museums				

and places of worship			X	
Inadequate security of archaeological sites			X	
Lack of cooperation from the art market				X
Lack of expertise/capacity in the legal field (lawyers, judges, prosecutors, etc.)				X
Lack of regulation on the internet				X
Lack of public awareness				X
Other (please specify):	This should not apply.			

48. **If applicable, please describe the three biggest barriers your country faces in securing the return/restitution of cultural property that has been stolen/illegally exported (e.g., cost of legal proceedings in other countries, lack of communication with counterparts in other countries, etc.).**

N/A

49. **If applicable, please describe the most common reasons why your country is not able to fulfill requests for return/restitution made by other countries (e.g., requests made outside parameters of existing legal framework, lack of evidence for claims, etc.).**

No reason yet.

## UNESCO Support for the Implementation of the 1970 Convention

### General awareness raising and communication strategies

50. **UNESCO and its partners have developed a number of tools to help State Parties implement the 1970 Convention. Please rate how helpful these tools have been to your country :**

	Not helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Extremely helpful
Object ID Standard (ICOM, the Getty, and UNESCO)			X	
UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Cultural Property Dealers			X	
ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums			X	
UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws			X	
Basic Measures Concerning Cultural Items Offered for Sale on the Internet			X	

(INTERPOL, UNESCO, ICOM)				
Model Provisions Defining State Ownership of Undiscovered Cultural Property (UNESCO and UNIDROIT)			X	
Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects (UNESCO and WCO)			X	

51. Please provide additional details on how your country has used UNESCO's tools.

The Object ID standard is taken into consideration by the Albanian authority in order to disseminate information in case of theft. The National Inventory Center of Cultural Property database works according to the standards required in fulfillment of passport for cultural heritage objects. Passport of the cultural heritage objects (Export Certificate ) issued by National Inventory Center of Cultural Property includes: • Title • Photo • No of register • Category • Period • Current location • Period, culture, • Value • Grade of deteriorations, • Restorations undertaken • Ownership • Type • Material • Main dates • Author • Current Status • Location etc, Each object is identified by a code which is unique. This code is written in the passport of the object, on appropriate stamp. The Law 27/2018 On Cultural Heritage and Museums defines "Certificate of Cultural Property" is the official document issued by the competent authority state, which defines the legal status of cultural, publicly owned and private property, according to provisions of this law and contains the entirety of identification data of cultural assets in Republic of Albania, referring to international criteria and standards, which are registered and are kept in the National Register of Cultural Property. UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Cultural Property Dealers. Through the UNESCO Program of Participation in the Activities of Member States 2016-2017 and the selection of the project "Building Capacities and Promoting Digitized Inventory of cultural properties and the fight against the illegal trafficking of cultural property", was made possible more than 50 specialists, police officers, custom service specialists and trade dealers were trained and gained knowledge about the methods of fight against illicit trafficking of cultural properties and relevant legal framework in place by Interpol experts, UNESCO, etc, specialists trained by 6 TOT-s on the methods of inventory in the new database with international standards and data registered and inserted in the database, the Catalogue of Lost Objects from Albanian Heritage State Institutions from 1990 till 2016 published and distributed, Leaflet "UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property published and distributed. Also, The Law 27/2018 "On Cultural Heritage and Musseums" establishes by Article 116-118 the obligations about :  Trade of cultural assets 1. The commercial activity of cultural assets shall be exercised by commercial entities licensed in comply with the applicable legislation on licenses, authorizations and permits. Licensing of commercial entities that carry out commercial activities of cultural property is regulated in accordance with the provisions of this law and the acts by-law on its implementation. 2. The licensing of the subjects mentioned in point 1 of this article is done by the minister responsible for cultural heritage. The exercise of this activity is subject to inspection and inspection in accordance with this law. 3. Special licensing conditions, accompanying documents, review procedures or the revocation of the license, the application fees and the annual quota fee shall be determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers. 4. Commercial entities that exercise the trade of the assets referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, keep a register marking the origin of each item of cultural property, names and addresses of the firm supplier, description and price of each item sold. 5. Information on the sale of cultural property shall be included in a trading register cultural property, which is maintained by the office / directorate of the IKRTK in the territory where it is exercised trade activity. 6. Commercial entities that exercise the trade of the assets referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall have the obligation to update the register provided for in point 5 of this article through the reports. Reports, according to this point, include the information needed to identify wealth and a brief description of the assets sold. 7. Creation and functioning of the "Cultural Property Trade Register" held by National Institute for Registration of Cultural Heritage, is regulated by the instruction of the minister responsible for cultural heritage. 8. The values on which a more detailed description of the cultural property is mandatory of the commercial actions are determined by a joint instruction of the minister responsible for inheritance cultural and ministry responsible for finance. 9. Trading of cultural property, contrary to the obligations of this article, is a violation and assigns responsibility, according to this law, to the respective subject.  Obligations of the cultural property trader 1. Whoever carries out commercial activity for the sale of works of painting, sculpture, graphics, such as and antique objects, or which represent historical interest, are obliged to submit documentation to the buy

52. Please indicate whether your country has uploaded relevant national laws to the UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws.

N/A

53. **What additional tools would be helpful for UNESCO to develop ?**

- Basic Measures Concerning Cultural Items Offered for Sale on the Internet (INTERPOL, UNESCO, ICOM) \* - UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Cultural Property Dealers\* - Model Provisions Defining State Ownership of Undiscovered Cultural Property (UNESCO and UNIDROIT)\*

54. **Have you or other stakeholders in your country participated in any of UNESCO's capacity building workshops or projects related to preventing illicit trafficking of cultural property in the past five years?**

X	Yes
	No

55. **How did these workshops or projects contribute to the implementation of the 1970 Convention in your country? Please provide specific examples where possible.**

(maximum of 5000 characters accepted in the field) □ Rome, Italy, 26-28 January 2010 Workshop on Cultural Heritage objects Database: Fighting the Illicit Appropriation of Cultural Heritage □ Tirana, Albania, 23 November 2011 International expert meeting: Awareness-raising, communication and outreach strategies: fighting the illicit traffic of cultural property in South East Europe □ Gaziantep, Turkey, 19-21 November 2012 Building capacities for the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in South-East Europe □ Rome, Italy, 23-27 November 2015 Fight against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property for Albanian stakeholders □ Paris, France, 20-21 March 2018 Capacity Building Conference "Engaging the European Art Market in the Fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property" □ Paris, France, 26-28 November 2018 Training workshop for the European judiciary and law enforcement officials on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property □ Tiranë, Albania, 18-19 December 2017 Conference & Workshop on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property: the challenges and awareness The Ministry of Culture and the National Inventory Center of Cultural Properties, fulfilling also the obligations that derive from the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property – 1970, has undertaken many successful activities concerning the inventory of cultural properties as the first step of protection and fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods: 1. By Decision of Council of Ministers No. 312 dated 27.04.2016 a National Action Plan for fighting the illicit trafficking of the cultural properties is approved. This action plan contains an integrated approach of many activities and their respective costs, to be implemented by all relevant institutions such as customs, judicial bodies, police, local and national heritage institutions. 2. The Project : "Establishment of Public Information Centres for Registration On-Line National Cultural Property" is biggest one in this field, financed by the state budget, and currently under implementation, and aims to build a technical and professional infrastructure based on international standards for establishing the National Network of Cultural Heritage Administration and creation of 6 local centers depending from NCCICP throughout Albania, of cataloguing the cultural properties of the respective regions. 3. The new Law 27/2018 'On Cultural Heritage and Museums' and by laws acts in process drafting.

56. **There are a number of ways the UNESCO Secretariat could support State Parties in the implementation of the 1970 Convention in the future, in addition to servicing the governing bodies of the Convention. Please indicate the extent to which the Secretariat should give priority to the following activities :**

	No priority	Low priority	Somewhat of a priority	High priority
Support in reforming national policies and legislation				X
Promoting policy dialogues between countries				X
Support for inventorying projects				X
Specialized trainings for police				X
Specialized trainings for customs				X

Specialized trainings for museum staff				X
National workshops to bring together stakeholders across departments, ministries, etc.				X
Regional workshops to bring together stakeholders from across the region across departments, ministries, etc.				X
Awareness raising activities (press releases, video clips, etc.)				X
Development of more legal and practical tools such as the WCO model export certificate, the Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws, etc.				X
Facilitating the sharing of best practices between countries (e.g., online or through a newsletter)				X
Other (please specify):				

57. **Please provide any additional suggestions for how UNESCO should focus its work on this topic going forward.**

- Needs to have a wider comprehension about the legal framework in place in EU countries and methods of operation concerning movement of cultural goods and the fight against illicit trafficking of them, and also about the "UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property". - UNESCO have to establish a 1970 convention training Fund which may help the culture heritage managers of State Parties to know and implement it better. - On the other hand UNESCO have to design a Database of Best Practices on Convention Implementation which may serve State parties to share information and exchange their experiences - To strength the technical and professional capacities through the organization of trainings and joint meetings in regional level and member states.

58. **What difficulties did you State encounter while implementing the Convention during the last reporting cycle period ?**

According to the State Police statistics: Albania is mainly identified as a country of origin for trafficking in cultural heritage objects and not as their destination. Favorable factors of theft and trafficking in works of art and culture in Albania. • Low sensitivity of the public and the institutions • Lack of security in the religious monuments, and lack of information and an accurate inventory of religious buildings, most of them with unique values. • Foreign market requirements for these objects • The existence of international trafficking networks • Lack of regional cooperation between the relevant structures in fight against illegal search phenomenon, acquisition, theft and trafficking in works of art and culture. • The existence of an informal market in trade of works of art in the country, because we are dealing with a commercial activity (paintings, sold by different authors, unlicensed, and without tax invoice) • unlicensed private collectors • Lack of coordination between relevant stakeholders • Lack of inventories and databases in museums and private collections • Inadequate security systems in museums • Inadequate security of archaeological sites • Lack of cooperation from the art market • Lack of expertise/capacity in the legal field (lawyers, judges, prosecutors, etc.) • Lack of police capacity related to cultural property

59. **How has your country used the Operational Guidelines of the 1970 Convention adopted in UNESCO during the Third Meeting of States Parties (2015)?**

Yes

60. **Any other additional issues or comments you would like to share.**

N/A

