

# UNESCO 1970 Convention - Periodic Reporting Form 2019

## Respondent Information

Name: Efthymia Alphas

Position :	Archaeological Officer
Organization/Agency :	Department of Antiquities
Country :	Cyprus

## Policy and Legislative Framework

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

	Civil Law
	Criminal Law
X	Specific Law

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

The Convention was ratified by Law 61 of 1979, published in the Republic of Cyprus' official gazette (no. 1533) on the 4th July 1979.

### 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)?

	Yes
X	No

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

□

### 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 main national legislation that protects cultural property in Cyprus is the Antiquities Law enacted in 1935 with its amendments (up to 2018). The 2012 and 2014 amendments were especially important for the protection of cultural property since they further restricted the use of metal detectors and protected all sea zones. Other Laws that have been enforced in accordance to European Council Directives and Regulations are: - The Return of Cultural Goods Law of 2016 - Export of Cultural Goods Law No. 182(I)/2002 The Law on Private and Local Museums (Procedures and Preconditions) (2009) determines the process and the conditions by which private and municipal museums can be accredited. In this respect, the role of the Department of Antiquities is to provide local community and municipal museums with all the necessary assistance and consultation to maintain internationally accepted standards. With respect to the collections of newly established private and municipal museums, the Department of Antiquities continuously highlights and promotes the practice of due diligence. The National Committee for the Combating of Looting and the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Heritage, which was appointed in 2015 works on issues related to the protection of cultural heritage. The Committee comprises of experts/representatives from the Department of Antiquities, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works, the Legal Services, the Cyprus Police, the Department of Customs and Excise, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Church of Cyprus. - Customs Code Law No. 94(I) of 2004 The Department of Customs and Excise of the Republic of Cyprus, due to its physical presence at all points of entry, exit and in transit through the Republic of Cyprus and E.U. borders in general, has a major role to play in enforcing the laws and regulations related to the exportation of cultural goods. The Department exercises its powers to control persons and goods and also to facilitate trade. According to Customs Code Law No. 94(I) of 2004 any goods may be detained or seized as liable to forfeiture, amongst others and in the case of importation or exportation of goods contrary to any prohibition or restriction under the customs and other legislation. Consequently, the Department of Customs and Excise has the responsibility to implement 'The Antiquities Law' at the time of importation or exportation of goods and detains or seizes any cultural property which is imported without an authorized license. Within the above framework, the Department of Antiquities cooperates very closely with the Department of Customs and Excise. The Department of Customs and Excise of the Republic of Cyprus implements 'The Export of Cultural Goods Law No. 182(I) of 2002' for combating the illegal movement of cultural goods at the points of exit from and transit through the Republic of Cyprus. According to this national law, the export of cultural goods without an export license is prohibited. All consignments declared for exports regarding the cultural goods are subject to 100% documentary and physical checks. Random checks in relation to exports in general are also carried out within the preventive measures undertaken by the Department of Customs and Excise. Once a cultural object appears at a point of entry, exit or transit the Department of Customs and Excise notifies the Department of Antiquities, Documents accompanying the object are inspected and further information on the provenance is requested (i.e. any information resulting from the conduct of due diligence is requested). As a result of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199, this procedure has been made more efficient and less time consuming. Following the temporary seizure of a cultural object the Department of Antiquities then notifies the Cyprus Police (Office of Cultural Heritage and Interpol-Nicosia), which then contacts and cooperates further with other specialized organisations, such as INTERPOL, FBI, and EUROPOL. Bilateral agreements in effect that incorporate issues relating to cultural heritage The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has bilateral agreements relating to the protection of cultural heritage with the Government of the Russian Federation, the Palestinian National Authority, the Government of the State of Israel, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus - State of Georgia, the Swiss Federal Council, the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Arab Republic of Egypt. Trilateral Agreements have been signed with the Hellenic Republic and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and a trilateral Agreement with the Hellenic Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the Prevention of Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Import, Export or Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the Promotion of its Restitution is in the final stages of negotiation.

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

5	Clear definition of cultural property
5	State ownership of undiscovered cultural heritage

5	Regulations on trade of cultural property
5	Export controls
5	Export certificates
1	Certificate of authenticity
5	Import controls
5	Establishment of national services
5	National inventory of cultural property
5	Inventory requirements for museums, public institutions, private collections
5	Protection of archaeological sites and regulation of archaeological excavations
5	Public education and awareness raising
5	Measures to prevent museums and similar institutions from acquiring illegally exported cultural property
5	Prohibition of import of cultural property stolen from a museum or religious/secular institution
2	Regulation of the diplomatic pouch
5	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
5	Requirement of register of sales for antique dealers, auction houses, dealers of cultural heritage and art galleries
5	Protection of underwater cultural heritage
5	Regulations regarding the use of metal detectors
5	Regulations regarding the trade of cultural artefacts on internet
Other (please specify):	

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

X	Yes
	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)**

UNESCO, Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970, Ratified 19 October 1979, (Law No. 61/1979).
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8. **Please add any additional comments on the legislative/policy framework**

□

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

X	Yes
	No

**Please specify :**

For cultural heritage originating from Cyprus as per the Antiquities Law, Article 27, no person is allowed to export an antiquity without a license to export. The export license of an antiquity may be granted only for purposes of temporary exhibition, long-term loan for exhibition purposes or for the study and scientific analysis of excavation material. Furthermore it is not allowed to grant a permit for the export of a private collection.

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 :**

According to Customs Code Law No. 94(I) of 2004 any goods may be detained or seized as liable to forfeiture, amongst others and in the case of importation or exportation of goods contrary to any prohibition or restriction under the customs and other legislation. Other legislation means the Cyprus or Community legislation in force and for which the Department of Customs and Excise has authorization and or responsibility for the implementation of its provisions. Consequently, the Department of Customs and Excise has the responsibility to implement 'The Antiquities Law' at the time of importation or exportation of goods and detains or seizes any cultural property which is imported without an authorized license. Within the above framework, the Department of Antiquities cooperates very closely with the Department of Customs and Excise. The Department of Customs and Excise of the Republic of Cyprus implements 'The Export of Cultural Goods Law No. 182(I) of 2002' for combating the illegal movement of cultural goods at the points of exit from and transit through the Republic of Cyprus. According to this national law, the export of cultural goods without an export license is prohibited. The export license shall be issued by a competent authority and must be presented, together with the export declaration (SAD), at the time when the customs export formalities are carried out, at the customs office that is competent to accept such a declaration. All consignments declared for exports regarding the cultural goods are subject to 100% documentary and physical checks. Random checks in relation to exports in general are also carried out within the preventive measures undertaken by the Department of Customs and Excise. Once a cultural object appears at a point of entry, exit or transit the Department of Customs and Excise notifies the Department of Antiquities, which in turn sends an Archaeological Officer to inspect the specific object/s in order to assess whether further investigations are required. Documents accompanying the object are inspected and further information on the provenance and the legal export from the country of origin or transit is requested. As a result of UN Resolution 2199 a special form has been designed for the temporary seizure of cultural goods for investigation purposes. The form is now filled-in directly by the Archaeological Officer who investigates the specific cultural good. Following the temporary seizure of a cultural object the Department of Antiquities then notifies the Cyprus Police (Office of Cultural Heritage and Interpol-Nicosia), which then contacts and cooperates further with other specialized organisations, such as INTERPOL, FBI, EUROPOL, and other related bodies, on an international level.

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

X	Yes
	No

**Please specify :**

One of the main obstacles encountered in securing the restitution of illicitly exported cultural property originating from Cyprus is the identification that is required to be proven. For example, one of the most frequently identified categories of cultural property found to have been illicitly exported abroad are ecclesiastical cultural goods (icons, wall-paintings, vestments etc) that were originally part of churches situated in the now occupied areas of the island. In some cases these objects were not inventoried or adequately documented prior to the 1974 invasion and it is consequently often difficult to prove their provenance in court, especially considering that in some countries the legislation provides that the burden of proof on the provenance of an object is on the claimant country. In addition, illicitly exported cultural goods such as pottery, metal objects, jewellery, coins etc. which form part of the contents of tombs or sometimes settlements may be found in illegal excavations. As a result their identification cannot be proven by providing photographs, inventory numbers etc. simply because they were unknown. In some courts, providing parallels for these objects is not accepted as adequate evidence for their provenance and their return is therefore extremely difficult.

## 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
	No

13. **Please describe this service's major roles and responsibilities.**

The protection of cultural heritage and the prevention and combating of trafficking of cultural property is one of the basic elements of the mission of the Department of Antiquities. The Department's specialised staff (archaeologists, conservators, technicians etc) is dedicated to ensuring that the island's cultural heritage is protected and preserved in the best way. The staff of the Department of Antiquities conduct systematic and salvage excavations; conserve movable and immovable cultural heritage found both on land and in the sea; ensure the safe storage of cultural goods; organize educational and other events that aim towards the promotion of cultural heritage and the enhancement of the public's important role in the preservation and protection of cultural property; ensure that monuments and sites are protected and promoted in the best way; prepare the necessary information/ signage for visitors to museums, archaeological sites and monuments; keep digitised inventories of both moveable and immovable heritage; investigate online auctions/sale of cultural goods in order to identify missing objects; cooperate with the Cyprus Police and the Department of Customs and Excise in order to combat the illegal import and export of cultural objects; publish scientific articles and books related to their research; organize scientific workshops/conferences on cultural heritage and its protection; prepare scientific reports on archaeological surveys and or excavations, which are used in order to schedule a building or site in the First or Second Schedule to the Antiquities Law or to enhance the protection of an area due to its cultural significance; participate in EU, UNESCO and other working groups and committees concerning the protection of cultural goods.

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
X	Police, gendarmerie, and/or Department of Interior
	Public prosecutor

	Customs
	None
	Other (please specify):

15. **Please describe the roles and responsibilities of these specialized services in more detail.**

In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention and, in alignment with international prerequisites and recommendations by the General Secretariat of Interpol and other relevant organizations and on account of the serious problem that Cyprus faces concerning the destruction and looting of its cultural heritage in the areas which are not under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus, in August 1998 the Cyprus Police established an Office of Cultural Heritage which cooperates with other specialized organisations, such as INTERPOL, FBI, EUROPOL, and other related bodies, all over the world. Among the main goals of this Office are: the protection and preservation of world cultural heritage; the fight against illicit trafficking of works of art and cultural heritage and the return of stolen antiquities to their lawful owners. The Office of Cultural Heritage, which is situated at Police Headquarters (Criminal Investigation Department), advises and co-ordinates the activities of local criminal investigation departments and other police units which investigate cases involving cultural property. In order to accomplish the above goals, the Office of Cultural Heritage implements numerous significant measures at a local and international level. At the local level, the Office cooperates closely with other government authorities (Legal Services, Department of Antiquities, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Customs and Excise,) as well as the Church of Cyprus, monasteries, private collectors and others involved in this issue. Furthermore, monuments and archaeological sites are regularly patrolled by the Cyprus Police enhancing their protection.

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

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

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

The National Committee for the Combating of Looting and the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Heritage, which was appointed in 2015 works on issues related to the protection of cultural heritage. The Committee comprises of experts/representatives from the Department of Antiquities (DoA), the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works, the Legal Services, the Cyprus Police, the Department of Customs and Excise, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Church of Cyprus.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, we have our own national or/and regional database that is not linked with the INTERPOL database
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.**

Inventories kept by the Department of Antiquities provide to a very large extent for the risks of misappropriation and theft. A specially designed inventory system is maintained by the Department of Antiquities, under the title CADiP (Cyprus Archaeological Digitization Programme). CADiP aims at increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the management of Movable Antiquities (including Museum inventories) and Ancient Monuments through detailed digitization (detailed description, photographic documentation, bibliographical references, exact provenance etc). The system also applies a Geographical Information System (GIS) integrating geographical data with archaeological findings. Inventories of private collections have been digitized and filed in such a way that the retrieval of information has been made faster and easier. In addition, the records of the objects that were part of one of the largest private collections of antiquities which remained in the occupied part of Cyprus after the Turkish invasion of 1974, have been digitized. Objects from this collection have been tracked down in the past in auction houses and antique shops abroad. A digital database of photographs and other information related to ancient monuments and sites in occupied Cyprus has been set up. The database includes detailed images taken prior to 1974, of icons, frescoes, mosaics, architectural members belonging to monuments and sites in occupied Cyprus. This database, which is continuously updated, will greatly enhance national and international efforts to monitor and protect cultural objects that are illicitly trafficked. The slide images of the objects that are part of state and private collections in the occupied areas have been digitized. Consequently, the process of checking antiquities that are put up for auction against those that are currently missing has been made quicker and more efficient.

## 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.**

- The Cyprus Archaeological Digitization Program (CADiP) is the Department of Antiquities' digitization heritage management system. Up to now 1568 Ancient Monuments, 20216 Movable Antiquities and 3530 Surveyed Areas have been digitized. Digitization has been set as a priority by the Department of Antiquities and therefore further funding is being pursued for the continuation of the project and the acceleration of the digitization process since it is necessary to employ additional staff and to upgrade the existing software and server equipment. - The digital database of photographs and other information related to moveable antiquities, ancient monuments and sites in occupied Cyprus continues to be updated. The database includes detailed images taken prior to 1974, of icons, frescoes, mosaics, architectural members belonging to monuments and sites in occupied Cyprus. This database enhances efforts to monitor and protect cultural objects that are illicitly trafficked. - In 2016, a project began and was completed for the studio photography of around 4000 antiquities exhibited in the Cyprus Museum, as well as antiquities that have been selected to be part of the New Cyprus Museum permanent exhibition collection. - The digital database of antiquities that are on long-term loan to Ministries, organizations and other museums is continuously updated. In this way, the efficient monitoring of collections that are currently on long-term loan is possible. - Private collections of antiquities registered at the Department of Antiquities have been digitised.

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

	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.**

In October 2009 the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus implemented a digitization heritage management system, by introducing the Cyprus Archaeological Digitization Programme (CADiP). The Department considers digitization as one of its main objectives and priorities, and aims to create a full digitized database, which will increase efficiency and effectiveness in retrieving Cypriot Archaeological data, through the application of the Geographical Information System (GIS). CADiP also aims to offer the Department of Antiquities the opportunity to store and manage a huge amount of data in an efficient way. Finally it aims to save vulnerable paper records and archives from destruction. The scheme adopted for the purposes of CADiP is based on MySQL and ArcGIS software and it was designed following international forms of databases and previous applications concerning cultural material. For the supply, installation, implementation, training, operational support and maintenance of the hardware and the software system a contract was signed with a private company. CADiP focuses on digitizing: a) the Declared Ancient Monuments of the First Schedule (Ancient Monuments on State Land) and of the Second Schedule (Ancient Monuments on Private Land), according to the Archaeological Law of Cyprus, b) Movable Antiquities (exhibited and stored in State-run Archaeological and Ethnographic Museums and private collections, including missing/stolen antiquities) c) the Controlled Areas (the areas surrounding Ancient Monuments and by Law are protected by prohibiting the erection of any building in close distance to the Monument), d) the Areas under temporary requisition (the areas which the Department of Antiquities required by Law from its owners for a short period of time, in order to conduct archaeological research) and finally f) Surveyed Areas (the areas where Archaeological Surveys have been conducted). There are five thematic databases according to the five themes. In each thematic database digitized data forms are created for each entry, where archeological, historical, technical and administrative information is recorded and also there are saved digitized pictures, maps, graphics and bibliography. Up to now 1568 Ancient Monuments, 20216 Movable Antiquities and 3530 Surveyed Areas have been digitized. As digitization has been set as a priority by the Department of Antiquities further funding is being pursued for the continuation of the project and the acceleration of the digitization process since it is necessary to employ additional staff and to upgrade the existing software and server equipment.

**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.**

Although Cypriot legislation is explicit and firm, cases of illegal excavations continue to be reported in the government controlled areas of the Republic of Cyprus. Reports of looting are relatively frequent especially in specific areas that are rich in archaeological sites (especially tombs) but are more difficult to monitor (due to their secluded geographical position). The Cyprus Police, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, investigate reports of illegal activities relating to illegal excavations and possession of antiquities through on the spot inspections of reported areas. When antiquities are found undeclared in the possession of an individual, the authorities take the necessary legal action against the individuals and the objects are eventually handed over to the Department of Antiquities. In addition, cases of looting involving the use of metal detectors are still being reported. The Cyprus Police frequently participates in various international police operations in collaboration with Europol, Interpol, the World Customs Organization and UNESCO (eg. Pandora and Athena operations). The problem of clandestine excavations in Cyprus dates back to the 19th century when foreign diplomats were involved in amateur excavations throughout the island that led to a huge part of the island's cultural heritage to be sold and exported to countries all over the world, in private collections or in museums. The island has unfortunately witnessed a more recent large-scale destruction and looting of its heritage with the 1974 Turkish military invasion of Cyprus and the subsequent occupation of approximately one third of the island. Although it is particularly difficult for the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, to present an exact and comprehensive account of the magnitude of the looting and pillage in the occupied areas, however, relevant cases that have come to light, together with recent scientific publications that record the current situation in the occupied areas, substantiate that the destruction and looting continue unabated. Since 1974 museums in the areas not under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus have been looted as so have many private collections of antiquities. Churches have been vandalized; over 20,000 icons, numerous sacred vessels, vestments and manuscripts have been stolen and scores of wall paintings and mosaics have been broken up and sold abroad, while others have been entirely destroyed. Some of the churches have been demolished and others vandalized. Research has shown that over 550 churches and religious sites along with their cemeteries have been pillaged, looted and intentionally destroyed. Important archaeological sites remain unprotected and easily accessible to looters or are still being illegally excavated by foreign missions (in violation of Article 9 of the Second Protocol of the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999). Illegal excavations led by foreign or non-recognized missions overall have over the past years taken place or continue to take place at archaeological sites such as Salamis (by Ankara University), the Karpasia peninsula, Galinoporni (German universities of Tübingen and Freiberg), Gastria-Alaas and Akanthou-Arkosyko. The Department of Antiquities systematically monitors auctions of cultural objects, especially on the internet. When Cypriot antiquities are identified online they are filed and each one is checked against the archives kept on stolen or missing antiquities. Most of these objects have been stolen or are missing as a result of the Turkish invasion and occupation. Therefore, thousands of missing objects have been inventoried that were either in Museums in the occupied areas, such as the Famagusta District Museum, or the Keryneia Shipwreck Museum, or in Museum and foreign mission storerooms, or objects that were part of registered private collections in the occupied areas. Where the stated means of acquisition/ownership provenance of a Cypriot antiquity is problematic or where it is not stated at all, the competent authorities, via Interpol, request for the antiquity to be removed from the auction and proof of the conduct of due diligence is requested. Unfortunately, in many cases, the auction continues regardless. The appointment (following a Ministerial Council decision) in 2015 of a National Committee for the Combating of Looting and the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Heritage (with representatives from the Department of Antiquities, the Legal Services, the Cyprus Police, the Department of Customs and Excise, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Church of Cyprus has enhanced collaboration at a national level.

## 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.**

Information banners in Greek and English concerning the export of antiquities are placed at Cyprus' airports and ports. The banners state that it is forbidden to export antiquities without the permission of the Department of Antiquities and that antiquities imported into the Republic of Cyprus must be declared at customs at the point of entry to the country. The Department of Antiquities continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Education and Culture as far as educational programs held in state museums are concerned. At present, specially designed educational programs for children of primary school age are held at the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia and at the Archaeological Museums of the Lemesos, Lamaka and Pafos Districts, as well as at archaeological monuments and sites such as Choirokoitia, Kolossi and Kouklia- Palaipafos. These programs, among other things, aim to cultivate awareness among children on issues related to the appreciation and protection of cultural heritage. In addition, Archaeological Officers of the Department of Antiquities frequently visit elementary schools in order to present to the children, in an animated way, the profession of the Archaeologist and to raise their awareness regarding the serious damage that can be caused by looting and illegal export. The scientific excavation methods are presented with the use of real excavation tools and authentic sherds and the children are invited to help the archaeologist perform a mock 'excavation' in order to understand the importance of stratigraphy, context, proper recording and provenance. The Department of Antiquities has a leading part in activities specified by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) such as International Museums' Day (IMD) and the International Day for Monuments and Sites established by UNESCO. These events include special exhibitions of a thematic nature, lectures, artistic events and education programs for children. Such events attract a wide spectrum of the local population, especially young children and teenagers. Workshops and conferences are organised on a regular basis, focusing on the protection of cultural property. Research projects aiming towards the further protection of cultural heritage are also conducted. One such project was the Department of Antiquities' project titled "Saving Prehistoric Antiquities under Threat" (SPAUT). The project, which was co-financed by the Swiss Government (Swiss Federal Office of Culture BAK), involved the conservation, recording, digitization and study of the archaeological material from 12 prehistoric sites in the occupied areas of Cyprus. The sites were excavated prior to the 1974 Turkish invasion of the island in areas that are currently not under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the material is stored in the Cyprus Museum. The deliverables included the digitization of the material, the organization of a periodical exhibition, the organization of an international workshop on the subject of looting of cultural heritage and the publication of a volume of proceedings of the conference. The project was proposed and approved within the framework of the Bilateral Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Switzerland on the imposition of restrictions on the illegal import of cultural goods, set into force on the 15/4/2014. The international workshop, titled "Four Decades of Hiatus in Archaeological Research in Cyprus: Towards Restoring the Balance", took in 2016 in Nicosia. The workshop was accompanied by a periodical exhibition titled "Archaeology and Memory: Excavations in the Districts of Keryneia and Ammochostos" and a keynote lecture was given by Professor Jean-Robert Gisler titled "Insights into the new challenges in protecting cultural property". • The DoA website ([www.mcw.gov.cy/da](http://www.mcw.gov.cy/da)) is continuously being enriched with information concerning the island's cultural heritage, both in Greek and in English. Legislation is posted on the website, as well as other information, such as press releases of all archaeological missions, public consultations, information on funded projects, repatriations of cultural goods, events, exhibitions and much more. It is expected that in 2019 the Department's website will be upgraded following a fresher and more contemporary and user friendly design. • The DoA Facebook page is also very popular amongst the local population, tourists and researchers. Also, in March 2018, the DoA launched its Instagram page, which is also very popular and continuously receives excellent comments. Issues related to the protection of cultural heritage are frequently posted.

**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

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

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
X	To a considerable extent
	To some extent
	To no extent

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

	No specific training on this issue
	Training has occurred in the past, but is not ongoing
X	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.

Specialized training seminars and workshops are organised for members of the Cyprus Police and the Department of Customs and Excise, which focus on national and international legislation, ways of identifying cultural goods etc. The most recent training courses were: In November 2014 and April 2016 Archaeological Officers ran training programs for Police and Customs Officers on issues related to legislation, the identification of various categories of cultural goods and other archaeological issues. • On 31/10/2017 – 2/11/2017 an International Seminar on the Trafficking of Cultural Property/Antiquities Smuggling was organized in Larnaca, Cyprus, by the Cyprus Police, in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Seminar was supported by experts from INTERPOL’s General Secretariat, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Hellenic Police. • On the 25/1/2018 the Department of Customs and Excise, in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities, organized a Training Seminar for Customs officials, titled “Combatting the illicit trade of cultural goods and protecting cultural heritage”. • Cyprus participated in the UNESCO & EU capacity building activity, “Training the European judiciary and law enforcement officials on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property”, 26-28 November 2018 with one representative from the Legal Services and one from the Department of Customs and Excise. In addition the security staff (museum-, archaeological site- and monument-guards) undergoes specialized training related to risks and dangers, including theft and fire.

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

	No specific training on this issue
	Training has occurred in the past, but is not ongoing
X	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.**

Specialized training seminars and workshops are organised for members of the Cyprus Police and the Department of Customs and Excise, which focus on national and international legislation, ways of identifying cultural goods etc. The most recent training courses were: In November 2014 and April 2016 Archaeological Officers ran training programs for Police and Customs Officers on issues related to legislation, the identification of various categories of cultural goods and other archaeological issues. • On the 25/1/2018 the Department of Customs and Excise, in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities, organized a Training Seminar for Customs officials, titled “Combatting the illicit trade of cultural goods and protecting cultural heritage”. • Cyprus participated in the UNESCO & EU capacity building activity, “Training the European judiciary and law enforcement officials on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property”, 26-28 November 2018 with one representative from the Legal Services and one from the Department of Customs and Excise.

**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?**

X	All or almost all have adopted such a code of ethics
	Most have adopted such a code of ethics
	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.**

All government-run archaeological museums in the Republic of Cyprus are monitored by the Antiquities Law which to a great extent addresses the same issues as the ICOM Code of Ethics. The ICOM code of ethics are known to professionals concerned and in particular to museum directors and curators, most of which are also members of ICOM. The Department of Antiquities is in close contact with all relevant establishments on Cyprus who report to the Department of any acquisitions of cultural objects. It also has a regulatory role as far as the application of the ethical code by private museums. As the competent authority for the management of moveable cultural objects (export, acquisition etc.), it plays a significant role in advising museums on these issues. In addition the Department of Antiquities participates in the Committee for the Accreditation of private museums. The criteria for accreditation are included in the relevant law for the management of private museums and, unless these are met, the applicants are not accredited.

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
	Some follow such practices
	None/only a few follow such practices
X	Other (please specify) : According to the Antiquities' Law (Article 26): "No person shall deal in antiquities unless he is the holder of a dealer's license granted by the Director" [of the Department of Antiquities]. Such licenses are no longer granted by the Department therefore Cypriot antiquities cannot be part of an auction in Cyprus.

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

According to the Antiquities' Law (Article 26): "No person shall deal in antiquities unless he is the holder of a dealer's license granted by the Director" [of the Department of Antiquities]. Such licenses are no longer granted by the Department therefore Cypriot antiquities cannot be part of an auction in Cyprus.

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

With regards to antiquities, according to the Antiquities' Law (Article 26): "No person shall deal in antiquities unless he is the holder of a dealer's license granted by the Director" [of the Department of Antiquities]. Such licenses are no longer granted by the Department therefore Cypriot antiquities cannot be part of an auction in Cyprus. With regards to works of art, the ICOM code of ethics has been disseminated. Art dealers are sent letters and meetings are arranged in order for them to be informed on issues concerning the practice of due diligence, national and international legislation and other issues.

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?**

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.

Government of the Republic of Cyprus - United States of America: Memorandum of Understanding concerning the imposition of import Restrictions on archaeological objects including ecclesiastical, ritual and ethnological objects dated up to 1850 A.D., is renewed for an additional five-year period. The MoU, which entered into force in 2002, was renewed for two consecutive five-year periods, from 2007 to 2012 and from 2012 to 2017. In this latter period, an important development consisted of the inclusion of ritual and ethnological objects dating up to 1850, as well as of coins of the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods. The import of such objects into the USA is permitted only if the objects are accompanied with an export license, issued by the Republic of Cyprus. These same restrictions will be in force until 2022. The MoU's renewal, reflects the strong commitment of the United States to help safeguard the cultural heritage of Cyprus and offers the opportunity for ongoing cooperation, aiming to reduce the illicit trade of cultural objects. This MoU is also considered to strengthen the bilateral relations of the United States of America with Cyprus. Government of the Republic of Cyprus - Government of the Peoples' Republic of China: the Agreement on Preventing the Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Export of Cultural Property between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the People's Republic of China, which was initialed on the 8th of May 2008, was set into force following the internal procedures of the two countries on the 21st of May 2014. Government of the Republic of Cyprus – Government of the Russian Federation: Memorandum of Understanding for the Prevention of the Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Import and Export of Cultural Property between the Ministry of Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, October 7, 2010. Government of the Republic of Cyprus – Palestinian National Authority: Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Palestinian National Authority on Cooperation in the Fields of Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Museums, March 15, 2011. Government of the Republic of Cyprus – Government of the State of Israel: a memorandum of Cooperation between the Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Cyprus and the Antiquities Authority of the State of Israel, was signed on November 3, 2011, promoting the co-operation of the two countries in the field of cultural heritage, including the exchange of experts, experiences and information concerning the measures for the rescue and conservation of the cultural heritage and the illicit trade of stolen antiquities and cultural goods in general. Government of the Republic of Cyprus - State of Georgia: a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus and the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia was signed on the 4th of February 2014. Government of the Republic of Cyprus - Swiss Federal Council: the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Swiss Federal Council on the Import and Repatriation of Cultural property, which was initialed on the 24th of May 2011, was set into force following the internal procedures of the two countries on the 15th of February 2014. Government of the Republic of Cyprus - Government of the Republic of Bulgaria: a Memorandum of Understanding on the Prevention of Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property between the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works of Cyprus and the Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria was signed on the 22nd of April 2016. Government of the Republic of Cyprus - Arab Republic of Egypt: Bilateral Agreement on the Protection and Return of Stolen or Illicitly Imported, Exported, or Transferred Cultural Property, was signed in Nicosia on the 3rd of March 2017 and was published in the Cyprus Government Gazette on the 5th of April 2018, thus concluding internal procedures for setting the Agreement into force. Government of the Republic of Cyprus- Hellenic Republic - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: A trilateral Agreement on the Prevention of Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Import, Export or Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the Promotion of its Restitution as signed in Nicosia on the 16th of January 2018. The publication of the Agreement in the Cyprus Government Gazette is under way. Similar Memoranda and Agreements are being pursued with Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and others.

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	To a great extent
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			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**

A hoard of silver coins from Amathous (Cyprus) illicitly exported to Italy were returned on the strength of the 1970 Convention. On the 30th April 2018 the Director of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, travelled to Alexandria, Egypt and handed over to the General Director of the Alexandria National Museum (Ministry of Culture of Egypt) fourteen (14) cultural objects of Egyptian origin, which had been illegally exported from Egypt and found in Cyprus. The cultural objects are: one (1) alabaster vase dating to the reign of King Ramses II of the Nineteenth Dynasty, with inscriptions of the King's titles (Nesu Bity & Sa Re) and thirteen (13) faience amulets. The alabaster vase was found in the possession of an individual in Cyprus and the thirteen amulets had been bought on eBay and were seized by the Cyprus Customs authorities on their arrival in Cyprus, following their inspection by the Department of Antiquities. The competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus alerted the Egyptian authorities, who in turn confirmed that all the above objects were indeed Egyptian antiquities that had been illegally exported from Egypt. Both Egypt and Cyprus are State Parties to the 1970 Unesco Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and closely collaborate on issues related to the looting and illicit trafficking of cultural heritage. The competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus are on high alert with regards to cultural objects that originate from neighbouring, culture-rich countries and which appear at Cyprus' points of exit/entry without export licenses from their source countries. The authorities make all possible efforts to identify such objects and return them to their countries of origin.

**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?**

X	Yes
	No

**If yes, please specify**

At an EU level, as per the provisions of Directive 2014/60EU on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State the Cyprus authorities have appointed focal points through the use of the module "Return of cultural objects" in the Internal Market Information System (IMI). The personnel of the relevant authorities have undergone the necessary training and are already using the module of IMI. Also, EU Regulation 116/2009 on the export of cultural goods is accompanied with a list of authorities empowered to issue export licenses for cultural goods. At an international level, Interpol-Nicosia is the main facilitator for international cooperation for the Cypriot authorities, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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

At an EU level, as per the provisions of Directive 2014/60EU on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State the Cyprus authorities have appointed focal points through the use of the module "Return of cultural objects" in the Internal Market Information System (IMI). The personnel of the relevant authorities have undergone the necessary training and are already using the module of IMI. Also, EU Regulation 116/2009 on the export of cultural goods is accompanied with a list of authorities empowered to issue export licenses for cultural goods. At an international level, Interpol-Nicosia is the main facilitator for international cooperation for the Cypriot authorities, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Overall

### 46. Yearly statistics

#### Thefts

1st Year reporting		Number of objects
Additional information :		
2nd Year reporting		Number of objects
Additional information :		
3rd Year reporting		Number of objects
Additional information :		
4nd Year reporting	52	Number of objects
Additional information : 4/10/2018: 52 antiquities were reported stolen from the private collection of an individual in the village of Prastio (Lemesos District). During the inspection of the individual's premises, 7 unregistered antiquities were confiscated.		

#### Illegal Excavations

1st Year reporting	5	Number of objects
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**Additional information :** Note: The efforts of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to combat looting/pillaging and illicit trafficking are curtailed by the forcible division of the island. This division has a severe impact on the rich cultural heritage of the island. Consequently, the negative factors that encourage looting and destruction are unable to be effectively dealt with by the Government. Due to the continued Turkish occupation of the 36.2% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus since 1974, it is particularly difficult for the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, to present an exact and comprehensive account of the magnitude of the looting and pillage in the areas not under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. However, relevant cases that have come to light, together with recent scientific publications that record the current situation in the areas not under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, substantiate that the destruction and looting continue unabated. The most serious and internationally condemned systematic illegal excavation still taking place in the occupied areas is at the archaeological site of Salamis in the Ammochostos (Famagusta) District, one of the most important cities of ancient Cyprus. Intensive excavations led by the Department of Antiquities were carried out in the Salamis area from 1952 to 1974. With the Turkish invasion in the summer of 1974, all activities taking place at Salamis came to a halt. A tragic consequence of the invasion was the looting of the Department of Antiquities' storerooms where documents and material were kept. Also the French archaeological mission did not have access to its own storerooms where documents, drawings, photographs and archaeological material were kept. The illegal activities in the area have continued unabated. Since 1999 and in violation of all international conventions and recommendations, Ankara University in collaboration with the "Eastern Mediterranean University's Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Research Centre (AKVAM)" has been organizing systematic archaeological investigations at Salamis and is fully intent on continuing these illegal excavations. Test trenches have been opened in the whole area aiming to find an area that will immediately yield impressive finds. In recent years investigations have focused on an area to the west of the Gymnasium where a building of the Roman period has been uncovered, possibly a Roman villa with a bath complex. The authorities of the Republic of Cyprus have reported these illegal activities to UNESCO. Below are cases that relate only to the areas in the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. The number filled-in above refers to the number of cases and not of objects, since it is not known how many objects were found: - 8/1/2015: Illicit excavations were carried out at Kouklia-Teratsoudia in the Pafos District. - 22/5/2015: Illicit excavations were carried out on a plot of land where prehistoric wells have been excavated in the Pafos District. - 22/4/2015: Illicit excavations were carried out at Souskiou-Vathykakas (Chalcolithic cemetery) in the Pafos District. - 27/4/2015: Tombs were looted in Archimandrita-Mandres in the Pafos District. - 5/8/2015: Looting of tombs with the use of a mechanical digger in the village of Pentalia in the Pafos District.

2nd Year reporting      4      Number of objects

**Additional information :** Below are cases that relate only to the areas in the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. The number filled-in above refers to the number of cases and not of objects, since it is not known how many objects were found: February 2016: Looting of tombs of the Cypro-Archaic period with the use of a mechanical digger in the village of Nata in the Pafos District. 22/1/2016: Illicit excavations with the use of a mechanical digger in the localities of Teratsoudia, Laona, Hasan Aga and Hadjiabdoulla in Kouklia village in the Pafos District. 18/3/2016: Illicit excavations with the use of a mechanical digger at Kouklia-Lakkos tou Skarnou in the Pafos District. May 2016: Illicit excavations at Avdimou area September 2016: Illicit excavations at Kouklia

3rd Year reporting      4      Number of objects

**Additional information :** Below are cases that relate only to the areas in the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. The number filled-in above refers to the number of cases and not of objects, since it is not known how many objects were found: 21/08/17: Looting of tomb in Pentalia village (Pafos District) 4/9/2017: Two individuals were arrested and accused for the illegal possession and illegal use of metal detectors in the area of the north Amathus necropolis in the Lemesos (Limassol District). Antiquities made of metal, such as coins and weights were found on the individuals. 31/10/2017: Looting of tombs in the ancient cemetery of Kouklia-Lakkos tou Skarnou (Pafos District) 30/11/2017: Illegal excavations at Saramas village (Pafos District)

4nd Year reporting      4      Number of objects

**Additional information :** 27/3/2018: One antiquity (Cypro-Archaic jug) was confiscated at a shop in Lefkosia, following a police raid. 17/5/2018: 4 antiquities (clay vessels) were confiscated at a house in Lefkosia, following a police raid. 18/5/2018: 3 antiquities (Bronze Age clay vessels) were confiscated at a house in Lemesos, following police raid. 2/7/2018: The Cyprus Department of Customs and Excise retained 33 packages at Larnaka, mainly containing ancient coins, which were to be exported from Cyprus to other EU countries and to third countries (without the required export licenses). The case is under investigation. 12/07/18: 7 antiquities were confiscated at a house in Pafos, following police raid. 10/07/18: Confiscation of one antiquity (ancient lamp) from the house of an individual in Pafos following police raid. 12/07/18: Confiscation of seven antiquities (clay vessels) from the house of an individual in Pafos following police raid. 04/10/18: The Police began investigating a case involving the sale of 12 fake Attic ware clay vessels. 27/07/18: Confiscation of one antiquity (ancient lamp) from the house of an individual in Pafos following police raid.

## Seizures (cultural objects originating from own country)

1st Year reporting	12	Number of objects
<p><b>Additional information :</b> 4/4/2015: Three Cypro-Classical ceramic jugs were found in the possession of an individual in Lemesos (Limassol). 29/5/2015: Ancient architectural members were identified in the possession of an individual in Pafos. The case is under investigation. 19/6/2015: Five antiquities were stolen from a private collection in Pafos. The case is under investigation. 12/5/2015: The Lemesos (Limassol) Police notified the DoA that part of an ancient mill-stone was found in a private residence. The object was handed over to the DoA.</p>		
2nd Year reporting	74	Number of objects
<p><b>Additional information :</b> 14/1/2016: An Archaeological Officer of the DoA inspected a collection of objects at the Germasogeia Police Station (Lemesos [Limassol] District) that had been found and seized by the police following an inspection in an individual's vehicle in the Lemesos District. In total, 6 antiquities were identified: 5 fragments of terracotta figurines dating to the Cypro-Archaic period and a fragment from a stone figurine. 8/2/2016: During a search in an individual's residence in Pafos, the Police found a number of antiquities: 3 bowls of the Geometric and Archaic periods, 2 jugs of the Geometric period, 1 Bichrome Ware plate, 2 amphoriskos, 1 crater and 1 juglet all dating back to Archaic period, 1 kylix and 2 Hellenistic lamps and 2 Medieval jugs. 6/6/2016: During a search in 2 residences in Galataria village, Pafos District, and in 1 residence in Pegeia Municipality in the Pafos District, which belong to the same family members (father and son), the Police found a number of antiquities: 9 jugs, 3 cooking pots, 2 lagynoi, 2 amphorae, 2 columned craters, 1 imported transport amphora, and 1 unguentarium. 9/11/2016 An ancient amphora was seized at a residence in Anavargos village 4/12/2016 33 antiquities were seized during a poliuce operation in Lemesos</p>		
3rd Year reporting	7	Number of objects
<p><b>Additional information :</b> 7/12/2017: One antiquity (Roman column) was confiscated at a house in Kelaki village (Lemesos District) following a police raid. 20/12/2017: One antiquity (Roman column) was confiscated at a house in Kakopetria village (Lefkosia District) following a police raid. 26/2/2017 Five antiquities were seized at Neo Chorio village (Pafos Distric)</p>		
4nd Year reporting	4	Number of objects
<p><b>Additional information :</b> 27/3/2018: One antiquity (Cypro-Archaic jug) was confiscated at a shop in Lefkosia, following a police raid. 17/5/2018: 4 antiquities (clay vessels) were confiscated at a house in Lefkosia, following a police raid. 18/5/2018: 3 antiquities (Bronze Age clay vessels) were confiscated at a house in Lemesos, following police raid. 2/7/2018: The Cyprus Department of Customs and Excise retained 33 packages at Larnaka, mainly containing ancient coins, which were to be exported from Cyprus to other EU countries and to third countries (without the required export licenses). The case is under investigation. 12/07/18: 7 antiquities were confiscated at a house in Pafos, following police raid. 10/07/18: Confiscation of one antiquity (ancient lamp) from the house of an individual in Pafos following police raid. 12/07/18: Confiscation of seven antiquities (clay vessels) from the house of an individual in Pafos following police raid. 04/10/18: The Police began investigating a case involving the sale of 12 fake Attic ware clay vessels. 27/07/18: Confiscation of one antiquity (ancient lamp) from the house of an individual in Pafos following police raid.</p>		

## Seizures (cultural objects originating from another country)

1st Year reporting	2	Number of objects
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**Additional information :** On the 25th September 2015, the Cyprus Police searched the premises of an individual in the Larnaka District. As a result of the investigations 148 coins were found and detained for further investigations. Due to the variety of coins and their different origins (from many parts of the world), the Department of Antiquities invited an expert numismatologist to inspect them. Investigations are ongoing, although the preliminary results show that the coins date from the Archaic to the Byzantine period and that there is a possibility that a number of them are very well-executed fakes. On the 24/12/2015 the Odyssey Explorer ship (active in the exploration and excavation of shipwrecks) was investigated by the Customs authorities of the Republic of Cyprus at the Lemesos (Limassol) port. A number of cultural goods were identified on the ship, which were subsequently temporarily seized by the Department of Customs and Excise for further investigation.

2nd Year reporting      13      Number of objects

**Additional information :** In 2016 thirteen (13) faience amulets that were bought via Ebay were seized by the Cyprus Customs authorities on their arrival in Cyprus. The objects were inspected by the Department of Antiquities and were returned to Egypt in 2018.

3rd Year reporting      Number of objects

**Additional information :**

4nd Year reporting      1      Number of objects

**Additional information :** One (1) alabaster vase dating to the reign of King Ramses II of the Nineteenth Dynasty, with inscriptions of the King's titles (Nesu Bity & Sa Re) was seized in the premises of an individual. The object has since been repatriated (2018)

## Restitutions

1st Year reporting      0      Number of objects

**Additional information :**

2nd Year reporting      5      Number of objects

**Additional information :** Two 17th c. AD ecclesiastical icons from the Church of Agios Iakovos in Trikomo town in occupied Cyprus, were repatriated from Zurich in March 2016. The icons had been confiscated in Zurich in 2009 from a Russian collector. One icon depicts Jesus Christ Enthroned and the other shows the Virgin Mary, holding Christ with Saint John beside her. One 19th c. AD icon of Agios Tryfon, patron saint of the gardeners, which was painted in Cyprus by the well-known hagiographer John Cornaros, and a silver processional cross were traced in April 2016 at an auction house in the German city of Dusseldorf. The Church of Cyprus regained the two items through auction. One Cypro-Archaic (approximately 700 BC) terracotta figurine of a horse and rider/warrior was identified as a result of the Department of Antiquities' internet searches, on the website of a London-based antiquities dealer's gallery. Following a request by the Department of Antiquities and the Cyprus Police, the shop handed over the figurine to the London Metropolitan Police, which in turn, returned it to the Department of Antiquities in July 2016. The figurine was part of Mr Christakis Hadjiprodromou's registered private collection that was kept in his house in Ammochostos (Famagusta) prior to the Turkish invasion in 1974. As a result of the invasion by the Turkish army, Mr. Hadjiprodromou's residence was pillaged, and his collection was looted, its objects scattered around the world. One ancient Cypriot clay ring-vase (kernos - ceremonial vessel), dated to the Protogeometric period (1050-900 BC), was repatriated to Cyprus from the United Kingdom. The vessel was identified by the Department of Antiquities at a London-based antiquities dealer's online shop, as a result of the Departments' routine online investigations. Following a request by the Department of Antiquities and the Cyprus Police, the shop handed over the vessel to the London Metropolitan Police, which in turn, handed it over to the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in London, in October 2016. A Conservator of the Department of Antiquities supervised the packing of the antiquity in London and escorted it to Cyprus on 16 November 2016. The vessel was part of Mr. Christakis Hadjiprodromou's registered private collection that was kept in his house in Ammochostos (Famagusta) prior to the Turkish invasion in 1974. As a result of the invasion, Mr. Hadjiprodromou's residence was pillaged, and his collection was looted, its objects scattered around the world. Another antiquity (a clay horse-and-rider of the Cypro-Archaic period, approx. 700 BC) from the same collection was repatriated from London in July 2016.

3rd Year reporting      1      Number of objects

**Additional information :** The icon of Agios Georgios (Saint George) from the Church of Agios Georgios in the occupied village of Karavas was repatriated after its confiscation at an auction by the Swiss authorities in September 2017.

4th Year reporting 29

Number of objects

**Additional information :** On the 29th of March 2018 in Berlin two archaeological objects, which had been illegally exported from Cyprus after the Turkish invasion of 1974 were handed over to the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus in Germany, by Mr. Gónter Puhze and Mrs. Micaela Puhze owners of Galerie Gónter Puhze. The first object is a clay figurine of a warrior with shield which dates to the Cypro-Archaic period (7th century BC). The second object is a clay bowl of Red Polished Ware with incised decoration. The bowl dates to the Early Bronze Age (circa 2000 BC). On the 25/7/2018 11 Cypriot antiquities were repatriated to Cyprus. The antiquities were the following: 2 clay lamps of the Roman period, 2 clay juglets of the Cypro-Archaic period, 1 jug of the Late Bronze Age, 1 clay animal figurine, 1 lead horse accessory (from the archaeological site of Nea Pafos), one stone object with engravings, one flint flake (from the Neolithic site of Choirokoitia), one small mosaic fragment and one amphora of the Cypro-Archaic period. All the above objects were voluntarily handed over to the Cypriot authorities by citizens of the UK. The medallion of Agios Andreas (Saint Andrew the Apostle) (6th century) from Panagia Kanakaria in occupied Lythragkomi was repatriated in April 2018 from London, UK. This specific fragment was found in one of the apartments of the Turkish smuggler, Aydin Dikmen, in Munich, Germany, as proven by a photograph confiscated by the German Police in 1997. The fate of the fragment, which was channeled into the black market, was until recently unknown. The mosaic of Apostle Markos, which adorned the apse of the occupied church of Panagia Kanakaria in Lythragkomi, Famagusta District, was repatriated to Cyprus from the Netherlands. The mosaic was located in the Principality of Monaco by the Dutch private detective Arthur Brand, known for tracing major works of art, working with the police authorities of many countries. Information about the mosaic was originally provided to the Cypriot authorities in 2016 by AHEPA, a Greek - American organization in the USA. On the 30th April 2018 the Director of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, travelled to Alexandria, Egypt and handed over to the General Director of the Alexandria National Museum (Ministry of Culture of Egypt) fourteen (14) cultural objects of Egyptian origin, which had been illegally exported from Egypt and found in Cyprus. The cultural objects are: one (1) alabaster vase dating to the reign of King Ramses II of the Nineteenth Dynasty, with inscriptions of the King's titles (Nesu Bity & Sa Re) and thirteen (13) faience amulets. The alabaster vase was found in the possession of an individual in Cyprus and the thirteen amulets had been bought on eBay and were seized by the Cyprus Customs authorities on their arrival in Cyprus, following their inspection by the Department of Antiquities. The competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus alerted the Egyptian authorities, who in turn confirmed that all the above objects were indeed Egyptian antiquities that had been illegally exported from Egypt. Both Egypt and Cyprus are State Parties to the 1970 Unesco Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and closely collaborate on issues related to the looting and illicit trafficking of cultural heritage. The competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus are on high alert with regards to cultural objects that originate from neighbouring, culture-rich countries and which appear at Cyprus' points of exit/entry without export licenses from their source countries. The authorities make all possible efforts to identify such objects

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):				

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.).**

1. The forcible division of Cyprus results in the inability of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to apply legal and other measures in the areas that are not under its effective control. The Government is not in a position to control neither looting nor illicit trafficking of cultural objects in the areas not under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. 2. The national legislations and practices of other states pose difficulties in the return proceedings. 3. The cost of the relevant legal proceedings is often extremely high.

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.).**

□

## 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 (INTERPOL, UNESCO, ICOM)		X		
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 UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws is an extremely useful tool in order for the legal framework of each state to be known. The ICOM Code of Ethics provides excellent guidelines and acts as an additional tool for private museums to comply with standards of practice.

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

Yes

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

Best practices for exercising due diligence

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.**

- UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict: Cyprus is an elected member of the Committee, with a four- year term up until 2019. - Committee of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property: Cyprus is a member of the Bureau of the Committee and very involved in its proceedings. - Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation: Cyprus is a member of the above Committee and is very closely involved in the work of the Committee. - The Department of Antiquities of Cyprus was represented by Curator of Antiquities Dr. Despo Pilides at the Unesco Conference in the context of the “Engaging the European art market in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property” project, 20-21 March 2018. - One representative for the Cyprus Legal Services and one from the Department of Customs and Excise took part in the UNESCO and EU capacity building activity, "Training the European judiciary and law enforcement officials on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property", 26-28 November 2018.

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.**

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

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

The Guidelines act as a useful tool for future police change and cooperation with other member states.

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

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