



**REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

***NATIONAL REPORT***

***on the implementation of the Convention on the Means of  
Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and  
Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property***

Skopje, June 2015

*The National Report on the implementation of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property is submitted in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention.*

*This Report is the fourth periodical report (for the period 2011-2015) which the Republic of Macedonia hereby submits as member state to the 1970 Convention.*

*The submission of this Report meets the obligation referred to in 32 C/Resolution 38, adopted by the 32nd session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2003, which sets the periodicity for reporting at a four-year interval.*

*The National Report was prepared on the basis of the available data and assessments of the competent authorities and professional services, having in mind the guidelines of UNESCO, contained in the circular letter CL/4102 Annex I dated 23 March 2015.*

I. **Information on the implementation of the UNESCO Convention of 1970 (with reference to its provisions)**

1. **Ratification of the Convention**

(a) Has this Convention already been ratified?

On the basis of succession, upon previous depositing of the Notification Act, for the Republic of Macedonia, the *Convention* is in force since 30 April 1997. The Notification Act was submitted in accordance with a Conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on assuming the conventions by the Republic of Macedonia pertaining to the area under UNESCO competence, ratified by the former SFR Yugoslavia, No 23-17/26 dated 15 June 1995.

The Republic of Macedonia has with the accession to the 1970 Convention, that is, with the succession notification, formally and legally confirmed its readiness, in accordance with the national legislation and the accepted international norms, to develop, expand and improve its system for protection of cultural heritage, as well as, in terms of the Convention, to realise the cooperation with other countries and the international organisations. In that respect, the Republic of Macedonia has obliged itself to protect the cultural property against all types of threats and, in particular, to prevent the illicit trade and thefts, of both own and foreign cultural heritage, as well as to share the responsibility with the other countries on the future of certain cultural properties.

2. **Implementation in the national legal system and in the organization of services**

(a) Give the references of the principal national regulations adopted in order to implement the 1970 Convention?

In accordance with the 1970 Convention, a ***National Cultural Heritage Council*** was established, as coordinative body of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, for monitoring, realisation and improvement of the protection and usage of cultural heritage. The ***National Council***, inter alia, coordinates the application of the 1970 Convention and other ratified international agreements, as well as the application of the action plan for prevention of crimes against cultural heritage.

Article 97 paragraph 2 item 2 of the Law, envisages the establishment and keeping up to date of the ***National inventory of protected property whose export would constitute an appreciable impoverishment of the cultural heritage of the Republic of Macedonia***. The keeping of the Inventory, as special record envisaged with an international agreement, is under competence of the Cultural Heritage Protection Office (Article 145 paragraph 1 item 6 of the Law), by which the obligation for creation of a legal basis for keeping of the subject national inventory (Article 5 item (b) of the Convention) is hereby complied with.

Articles 96 and 97 of the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage and the Rulebook on the format and contents of the forms of licenses and certificates for export and movement of cultural property abroad regulate the rules for *temporary movement of protected property and export of cultural property abroad*, thus fully complying with the obligation referred to in Article 6 of the

Convention.

Article 53 of the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage contains the provision prohibiting the *import of cultural heritage stolen from museums, religious and other similar public facilities or institutions from the territory of another country*; than, with the provision according to which the movable cultural heritage which is not subject to the regime of a general import ban, within the meaning of article 53 of the Law, *may be imported in accordance with the foreign trade regulations (Article 99) and it is obligatory to present the export license during the import process of the cultural properties, if such license is required according to the regulations of the country of import (Article 99) thereby complying with the obligation referred to in Article 7 item (b) sub-item (1) of the Convention.*

(b) A definition of “cultural property” agreeing with the definition proposed by the 1970 Convention is important in order to increase the effectiveness of international cooperation. State what definition is used by the national laws of the country concerned.

The definition of the term “cultural property” used in the Republic of Macedonia is included in Article 142 paragraph 2 of the Law on Ownership and Other Real Rights from 2001, which reads as follows:

“Cultural property in terms of this Law shall be an item of general cultural importance or of public interest and as such is under legal regime for the purposes of its protection and usage (cultural monument, museum material, library material, archive data, natural rarities, etc.)”

(c) Have specialized units been established in order to prevent and combat trafficking and ensure international cooperation for the protection of cultural heritage? Within the Heritage Department? In other government departments (police, customs)?

In the Cultural Heritage Protection Office, body within the Ministry of Culture, in the Department for Prevention and Inspection Supervision of Cultural Heritage, performing activities relating to inspection supervision over the implementation of regulations for protection of cultural heritage and prevention from illicit activities against cultural heritage, or cultural heritage safety activities and its protection, or defence and rescue in case of armed conflicts and natural disasters, there is: a *Unit for Prevention of Cultural Heritage and Unit for Inspection Supervision for Cultural Heritage Protection.*

The Customs Administration has no specialised unit for prevention and combating of trafficking and ensuring the international cooperation for protection of cultural heritage; however, in accordance with the organisational structure of the Customs Administration, the Department for Non-tariff Measures and IPR in the Sector for Excise and Non-tariff Measures, is responsible for the legislation pertaining to all restrictions, bans and limitations on import, export and transit of various types of goods, which also includes the international conventions prescribed and signed by many countries (duly ratified and applied by the Republic of Macedonia) so as to monitor and prevent illicit traffic of particular types of goods. The import and export control is under

competence of the internal and border customs branch offices, as well as under the Sector for Control and Investigation which, pursuant with its competences defined in the Customs Law and the Criminal Code, undertakes activities for prevention and detection of illicit trafficking with cultural properties, conducts investigation procedures and files criminal charges on detected criminal acts in the field of illicit trafficking with cultural properties, exchanges information with the institutions with competences in the same area (Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cultural Heritage Protection Office), through the designated contact persons, and if required, holds meetings and coordinates activities.

In the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Public Security Bureau (PSB), Department for Suppression of Organised and Serious Crime (DSOSC), there is no specialised unit; however, measures are being undertaken towards suppression of organised criminal groups performing criminal acts against the cultural heritage at national level. At local and regional level, activities are being undertaken by the crime police. Following the description and registry of work tasks, the criminal acts against cultural heritage are entered in the list of criminal acts handled by DSOSC. In addition, during 2015, the preparation of the strategic crime threat assessment has commenced, which also includes crime threat assessment in relation to cultural heritage. All conclusions and recommendations are reviewed by the management and guidelines are provided for the crime tactical actions at local, regional and national level. All information on the crime against cultural heritage are directed towards the Central Intelligence and Analysis Unit, as well as to DSOSC regarding the criminal groups.

- (d) Describe briefly the administrative coordination of the activities of these specialized units, especially with the police and customs authorities.

The ***Unit for Prevention of Cultural Heritage*** in the Cultural Heritage Protection Office, performs inspection and activities relating to the prevention and protection against illicit excavations, deliberate damaging and ruining, thefts, appropriation, illicit trafficking, smuggling, usurpation and other illicit activities against cultural heritage, preparatory measures for cultural heritage protection against consequences arising from armed conflicts events and natural disasters, preservation, valuation and rescue of cultural heritage in case of military and emergency situations and corrective measures for rehabilitation of the situation following the cessation of antagonistic activities, or the natural disasters; coordination of the preparation and harmonisation of the plans for preventive protection of cultural heritage against illicit activities and for emergency actions in case of illicit activities, control of the efficiency of the safety protection measures contained therein and inspection supervision and control over the implementation of such plans; performing of control of the cultural heritage safety protection; issuing of professional guidelines for implementation of the cultural heritage safety protection; defining of emergency measures for safety protection of the endangered cultural heritage and special safety protection measures for the cultural heritage of particular importance; keeping of special records on the confiscated movable goods and their professional processing; cooperation with the crime policy, customs authorities, public prosecution offices, inspection and other competent authorities and

services; participation in investigation, criminal and other court procedures in reference with the illicit activities against cultural heritage; keeping of the National inventory of protected property with securing of general protection immunity in case of armed conflicts; issuing of professional guidelines and monitoring, directing and control over the implementation of the required preparatory measures for cultural heritage protection in case of armed conflict and natural disasters; conducting of a first instance administrative procedure for subjects for use of international cultural heritage signs, defining of emergency and other preparatory and corrective protection measures in case of armed conflict and natural disasters.

The ***Unit for Inspection Supervision for Cultural Heritage Protection*** performs inspection supervision activities over the implementation of the cultural heritage protection regulations on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, as follows: drafting of studies, analysis, reports and similar materials on the implementation of the cultural heritage protection regulations; monitoring, research, study and analysis of occurrences and relations of interest for the proper implementation of the cultural heritage protection regulations and strengthening of the legality in the operations of the entities for cultural heritage protection; control of the situation of the protected properties and their preservation, maintenance and usage, as well as performing of archaeological, conservatory and other research, realisation of the measures for direct protection and implementation of the prescribed measures; performing of control of the recordkeeping, inventory and other public books on protected properties and keeping, availability and usage of the cultural heritage documentation, as well as control of the registries and documents on the origin of movable properties; filing criminal and misdemeanour charges and proposals for withdrawal of licenses or issued licenses, or authorisations or proposals for withdrawal of previously granted authorisation; conducting a first instance administrative procedure and performing of other inspection supervision works as prescribed by law.

The Public Security Bureau in the Ministry of Internal Affairs cooperates with the Cultural Heritage Protection Office and the Customs Administration through mutual information and exchange of data on the knowledge of committed criminal acts and exchange of data on persons involved in the criminal activities. This exchange is realised through written information, and most frequently through direct contacts between the police officers and employees of the Cultural Heritage Protection Office and the Customs Administration.

(e) Are working meetings held to enable police officers, customs officials and ministerial representatives to meet and coordinate their activities?

The Cultural Heritage Protection Office has working meetings with the police and customs officials aimed towards undertaking of cultural heritage protection measures pursuant to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, such as:

- carrying out of coordinated activities during the implementation of actions for interception of hidden treasure seekers and of other persons executing illicit excavations and illicit export or import of cultural properties;
- having operational meetings regarding the use and advancement of the

EXIM Customs system; participation in the Task Force for monitoring, analysis, and advancement of the business climate in the field “Cross-border trade”, in accordance with the 2013 Doing Business Report;

- proposing acts and measures for realisation, development and advancement of the cultural heritage safety protection, and coordination of the preparation of the draft National Action Plan on prevention of crime against cultural heritage;
- realisation of projects pertaining to the cultural heritage safety protection, such as the project “Looking after the cultural heritage”;

Within the Public Security Bureau, during 2014, a coordinative body was established for follow up of the cultural heritage crime situation, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Culture, the Customs Administration and the Macedonian Orthodox Church. The Task Force is managed by police advisors at national level.

### 3. Inventories and identification

- (a) State briefly the extent to which inventories provide for the risks of misappropriation and theft

Pursuant with the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, the Cultural Heritage Protection Office keeps a National Cultural Heritage Register.

The institutions for protection of movable cultural heritage, in accordance with their competences, keep the following records:

- Pursuant to the 2004 Law on Museums, the museums are keeping **museum records** including *Entry book of museum material, Book of inventory of museum items, Exit book of museum material and museum items, Files of museum items, Catalogue of museum items and other types of museum records* and museum documentation containing data on the museum items required for their professional processing, identification, manner and condition in which the same were acquired, occurred changes, processing methods, etc.;
- Pursuant to the 2004 Law on Libraries, the libraries are keeping **records of the library fund** including *entry records, inventory book, main catalogue of the library fund and other type of records* and the **library documentation** containing data on the library property and library materials required for their professional processing, identification, manner and condition in which the same were acquired, occurred changes, processing methods, etc.;

Pursuant to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, the following protection inventories are envisaged:

1. cultural heritage and properties for which it is reasonably presumed that they present cultural heritage, and
2. movable properties whose country of origin is the Republic of Macedonia, and are located abroad on any basis and regardless of the time when the same were taken, if they present an interest in terms of their restitution in the country (hereinafter referred to as: dispersed cultural heritage) and movable property which is part of the cultural heritage of another country and is located on the

territory of the Republic.

The institutions for cultural heritage protection, in accordance with their competences, keep **main and master** protection records of cultural heritage and property which are, by reason, subject to presumption that they present cultural heritage. The latest amendments to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage (published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No 199 dated 30.12.2014) envisage for the Cultural Heritage Protection Office, besides of the *Central protection records and the special records defined with the ratified international agreements*, to also keep a *cadastre of archaeological heritage (archaeological cadastre)* for the archaeological sites. For the purposes of establishing the records for the archaeological cadastre, currently ongoing is the procedure for amendments and supplementing of the Rulebook on the contents and manner of keeping protection records of the cultural heritage and properties which are, by reason, subject to presumption that they present cultural heritage, of the dispersed and foreign cultural heritage, as well as the manner for realisation of their audits (adopted in 2008).

- (b) Specify the degree of precision, at the national level, of the definition of “cultural property” covered by international conventions (see above 1.2(b)). State whether “national treasures” are identified in an official, tentative or exhaustive list.

The national definition of the term “cultural property” only includes the *material properties* of the particular type (culture monument, museum material, library material, archive documents, natural rarities, etc.). The term “cultural property” also includes properties not representing *cultural heritage*. This refers to *natural rarities*, that is, *the natural heritage* as its contents.

The definition for “cultural property”, given in the Convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property, supplemented by the list of categories of properties, listed individually so as to further explain the subject term, refers to movable properties, and only to those subject to *export, import and transfer of ownership*.

- (c) To what extent is the Object ID standard used? Is the standard adapted to the State’s needs?

The Object ID standard has been adapted by the Public Security Bureau according to the latest standard operating procedures adopted at the end of 2014, valid for all police officers, which means that all police officers when collecting information on the object or informs of a stolen cultural property shall be obliged to meet the Object ID given references.

- (d) Are there systems to combat theft and to train museum staff and have specific measures been adopted for libraries, archival and manuscript repositories, and any specialized units established to monitor them?

Museums realise the cultural heritage security protection measures through technical protection systems (video surveillance system and monitoring system, system for burglaries and thefts), as well as means and equipment for physical



protection of facilities, systems for reporting movements in the museums, physical security of museums-guard service, cooperation with local police stations.

#### **4. Archaeological excavations**

- (a) Summarize the basic principles of the regulations on archaeological excavations and on the monitoring of excavations in force in the country.

In the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, the archaeological research issue is given a special section with solutions representing harmonisation with the ratified international conventions.

Accordingly, archaeological research shall be carried out on the basis of a research license issued by the Office. The Office submits a copy of the issued license to the public institution for protection of immovable cultural heritage on which territory the archaeological research shall take place.

The license for archaeological research and excavation identifies: the license holder, expert person in charge of archaeological researches, territory on which the archaeological research can be carried out, the direction, type and scope of works, time within which the works are to be executed and the conditions under which the archaeological research can be performed.

The holder of the archaeological research license can be a national legal or natural entity which meets the conditions for professional qualifications for execution of the relevant type of archaeological research and meets the other conditions to obtain the license.

International organisations in the field of protection, foreign scientific institutions and specific foreign workers in the field of archaeology can participate in the archaeological research only if the works are executed in cooperation with the legal entities (Scientific institution registered for performing works in the field of archaeology; Public institution for protection in the field of museum or monumental activity; Other legal entity which is in permanent employment relation or has at least one authorised explorer who meets the conditions for expert person in charge of archaeological research and scientific worker or independent explorer with status of expert person in charge of archaeological researches) under conditions defined with an agreement concluded between them.

The license for archaeological research can be issued only if the applicant has submitted:

1. Proof that the one can be holder of a license in terms of professional qualifications for execution of the relevant type of archaeological research and meets the other conditions to obtain the license;
2. Programme for archaeological research, with measures for protection of the site and discoveries;
3. Data on experts participating in the research;
4. Specification of technical means for performing the research;
5. Proof for secured funds for the research and for implementation of the protection measures.

If the license holder or the expert person in charge performs the archaeological research contrary to the issued license, the Office can, with a decision, temporarily stop the works and define a timeframe for implementation of the conditions for their extension.

If the license holder or the expert person in charge shall fail to meet the conditions for extension of the archaeological research within the timeframe defined by the Office for meeting of the conditions for extension of the archaeological research, as well as in case of direct danger posed on the excavations, the Office shall, with a decision, withdraw the issued license.

Metal detectors and other technical means suitable for detection at archaeological sites, or items of archaeological importance, can be used during archaeological research only if the Office has provided the owner of such equipment with the relevant authorisation.

The authorisation for use of metal-detectors and other technical means suitable for detection at archaeological sites during archaeological research shall be issued by the Office upon receiving the previous consent of the Minister of Culture.

The Office can, having in mind the nature of the discovered site and the works being executed, establish with a decision for the execution of works to continue under archaeological supervision of the competent public institution for protection or adopt a decision for temporary discontinuation of works (lasting not longer than 30 days) and define the execution of protection excavations and explorations, as well as to undertake other protection measures. The inspection supervision over the archaeological research, for which a license was issued, shall be performed by the Office through cultural heritage inspectors. The license holder shall be obliged, within three months following the research completion, to submit to the Office a report on the archaeological research, the protection measures for the archaeological site and the findings, and to hand over the movable findings to the museum as defined in Article 61 of the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage. Unlicensed archaeological excavations shall constitute a misdemeanour offence and shall be subject to fines. If the illicit excavation shall include damages or destroying of the monuments of culture, such activity shall constitute a criminal act.

- (b) Is there a recurrent problem of illegal excavations? If so, what are the reasons and when did it begin? What steps have been taken to combat this scourge?

The **illegal excavations** represent a serious problem in the Republic of Macedonia; the archaeological localities suffer the most from this issue, whereas the taken antiquities immediately become part of the illicit trafficking network.

For the purposes of ensuring more efficient legal and other instruments for fight against illegal excavations, pursuant to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, inter alia, the following measures are envisaged and undertaken:

- Currently ongoing is the procedure for adoption of a **national action plan for prevention of crime against cultural heritage** (as act of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia) (Article 103);

- defining of an obligation for the protection institutions and specific holders of cultural heritage to prepare and adopt: **(a) plan for preventive protection of cultural heritage against illegal activities; (b) plan for emergency activity in case of illegal activities** (Article 104). Some of the National institutions for protection of cultural heritage have adopted such plans;
- the Minister of Culture has designated **authorised official persons for cultural heritage security**, organised as special service within the Cultural Heritage Protection Office (Article 105);
- **prescribed ban for use of metal detectors and other equipment for detection, execution, assisting or encouraging of the illegal excavations** or removal of elements of the archaeological heritage, as well as **establishing of a license regime for use of metal detectors during legal excavations** (Article 63);
- issuing of **special guidelines** by the Cultural Heritage Protection Office for practical realisation of the cultural heritage security measures (Article 102);
- **establishing of reserved archaeological zones and establishing of the relevant stringent protection regime for the same** (Article 31 and 42).

The prevention of illegal excavations also includes the measures already being undertaken: **(a) intensifying of the procedure establishing the protection of archaeological localities, as well as establishing of the archaeological cadastre records; (b) earmarking of budget funds for archaeological research at archaeological localities and endangered sites and localities; (c) implementation of coordinated activities by the department for organised crime for interception of hidden treasure seekers and of other persons performing illegal excavations, as well as discovering of the ordering parties and confiscation of excavations of archaeological importance; (d) securing of higher level of diligence of courts regarding the criminal cases for illegal excavations**, etc. These measures are already producing certain results. The perpetrators for a significant number of cases have already been discovered during the reporting period, and the court procedures for them are ongoing or are completed.

## 5. Monitoring of the export and import of cultural property

- (a) Give an estimate of the scale of the illicit export or import of cultural property. Are up- to-date statistics compiled on the theft of cultural property?

The data indicating that in the period 2010-2014, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia has detected 6 attempts for illicit trade in cultural properties, of which 2 attempts in 2012, 3 attempts in 2013, and 1 attempt in 2014, can serve as an estimate for the illicit export of cultural properties; during the mentioned attempts, the following was confiscated:

- 256 coins, 2 lead seals, 2 pendants, 1 tankard and 1 ceramic bowl originating from the 2 century b.c. to 12 century a.d., representing properties under temporary protection,
- 143 coins and 55 different artefacts representing archaeological objects under temporary protection,
- 2 silver pocket watches with silver chains, 1 medal with inscription "1809-1918", 6 silver Turkish coins, 1 silver cigarette-case, 5 documents written in Arabic letters, 5 documents with Albanian letters, and 6 old postal stamps with Arabic letters, representing a cultural monument and archive materials with noted library value,
- 40 coins of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century b.c., and 8 coins from 17<sup>th</sup> century to 1930, representing a cultural monument of the Republic of Macedonia,
- 1 silver coin - tetradrachm from the period 336-323 b.c. of the period of Alexander the Great with status of temporary protected property,
- 5 metal old coins and 1 old metal cross, representing a cultural monument and part of the cultural-historical heritage of the Republic of Macedonia, and
- 29 silver and bronze coins representing cultural heritage of the Republic of Macedonia.

The Customs Administration has filed 6 criminal charges against 7 natural entities for the discovered attempts for illegal export of cultural properties, of which one criminal charge against unknown perpetrator. 5 foreign citizens and 1 Macedonian citizen were identified as the offenders.

The collection and generation of data on stolen cultural properties in the Public Security Bureau is more difficult mainly due to the lack of a special database for generation of data on stolen cultural properties. Nevertheless, the data on reported criminal acts are being collected, however, not in all segments which would provide the full picture on the situation with the cultural properties illicit trafficking. During 2015, a special project shall be established within the Public Security Bureau which shall be directed towards researching of the phenomenology of the crime problem through establishment of a standardised statistical questionnaire which shall provide for regular updating of data related to stolen cultural properties and committed criminal acts against the cultural heritage.

- (b) Is the illicit export of cultural property a recurring problem? If so, for which reasons (lack of financial and human resources, shortcomings in the legal supervision framework, etc.)?

The illicit export of cultural property is a recurring problem. If, during the regular customs control, it is discovered that it is export of unregistered cultural property, the common answer refers to the insufficient knowledge of the legal regulations for export of cultural property applied in the Republic of Macedonia.

Needless to say that illegal export of cultural property is a recurring problem and that the same covers larger scales that it appears according to the previously indicated statistical data (this can also be concluded from the frequent thefts of icons and artefacts) mainly due to the profitability of this type

of crime, as well as due to the social and economic situation both in the country and in the region.

(c) What are the main rules (administrative and legal) for monitoring the export and import of cultural property (existence of an export certificate, public information about the rules in force)? What categories of cultural property are covered by the rules?

The Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage regulates the import and export of cultural property as follows:

- introduced **prohibition for export of cultural heritage of special importance**, as higher category under special protection regime (Article 52);
- introduced prohibition for import of stolen cultural heritage, that is, cultural heritage stolen from museums, religious and other similar public facilities or institutions on the territory of another country cannot be imported (Article 53);
- Pursuant to Article 96 of the Law, the movable cultural heritage and other protected movable property, **including the national treasure**, can be temporary taken abroad for the purposes of their exhibition, conservation, expertise and in other justifiable cases, on the basis of **license**, unless otherwise prescribed with this or other law.

The **license** for relocation of the protected movable property is issued by the Office, upon previously obtained opinion by the competent main institution for protection, that is, the national institution for protection of activities where there is no main institution.

The **license** for relocation of the protected movable property shall be issued on the basis of a written request **on a prescribed form** indicating the justified reasons for temporary relocation of the property abroad.

The **license** for relocation of the protected movable property **shall be issued on a prescribed form, as follows:**

1. **Standard relocation license**, for individual item or group of items, valid within the timeframe set in the license, but not longer than 12 months as of the date of issuing;
  2. **Special open relocation license**, for multiple relocations of a particular item whose owner or another holder shall use or shall exhibit such item, with a validity timeframe of five years, at the most, as of the date of issuing, and
  3. **General open relocation license**, for items which are part of a public collection, with a validity timeframe of five years, at the most, as of the issuing date.
- Pursuant to Article 96 of the Law, the movable cultural heritage which is not subject of the general export prohibition regime as stated in Article 52 of this Law, as well as other protected movable property, **excluding the national treasures**, can be exported only on the basis of a **license** of the Office, upon previously obtained opinion by the competent main institution for protection, or the national protection institution for activity where there is no main institution. **The license for export of protected property is issued on a prescribed form and is valid for twelve months, at the most, as of the date of issuing. If the timeframe shall**

**expire without it being used, the license holder shall be obliged to return it to the issuing authority.**

- Pursuant to Article 97 of the Law, the antiquities, **movable cultural heritage, defined as having the archaeological, historical, artistic or other cultural or scientific value for the Republic of Macedonia** and artistic or other collection items not having the status of protected property according to the provisions of this law, whose export is not under the free export regime in terms of the regulations for foreign-trade operations, can be exported on the basis of a **certificate** issued by the Office, upon a previously obtained opinion by the competent public institution for protection. The dealer in antiquities, art or other collection items and other legal and natural entities performing sale of antiquities, art or other collection items shall be obliged to secure the export certificate for the properties subject to sale. During the sale of these properties, the dealer in antiquities, art or other collection items shall be obliged to present the export certificate for movable property to the buyer and inform him that the property can be exported abroad only on the basis of the export certificate for antiquities and art or other collection items not having the status of protected property in accordance with the provisions of this law.
- The Cultural Heritage Protection Office can pronounce **a prohibition for export of unprotected property**, if a resolution for temporary protection is adopted (Article 97);
- The Office can also grant the export of the protected property registered in the **National inventory**, if justified reasons exist (Article 97);
- The Office shall be obliged to **inform the public** of: (a) movable cultural heritage **whose export is under the general prohibition regime**; (b) **for protected property entered in the National inventory** (important for the export); (c) **for each individual prohibition for export of specific property** (Article 97);
- Pursuant to Article 98 of the Law, for each adopted decision prohibiting the export or the **issued license**, or certificate for relocation or export, the Office shall be obliged to forthwith inform the authority in charge of the customs control activities. Together with the issued act, the entire file with photo-documentation on the movable property whose relocation or export is permitted or prohibited (harmonised with the European Union Regulation 3911/91) shall be submitted to the customs authority.
- Pursuant to Article 99 of the Law, movable cultural heritage not under the general import regime in terms of Article 53 of this law, can be imported in accordance with the regulations for foreign trade operations. If an export license is required according to the regulations of the country of import of the movable cultural heritage, that license shall be presented during import. The importer shall be obliged to report the imported property to the competent protection institution within eight days as of the import.
- As of 2009, the Cultural Heritage Protection Office commenced issuing licenses for relocation of protected property and certificates for export of unprotected property through the single window system for licenses for import, export and transit of goods and tariff quotas – EXIM of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia. EXIM enables the

electronic submission of applications for licenses for import, export and transit by the business community, as well as electronic license issuing by the competent institutions. The applicants can use the system to follow the status of processing of their applications up to their final issuing.

Licenses and certificates for relocation and export from Articles 96 and 97 of the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage shall be issued and used in accordance with this Law and the regulations of the European Union.

In 2008, the following bylaw was adopted – Rulebook on the format and contents of the forms of licenses and certificates for relocation and export of cultural property abroad and the manner of issuing licenses and certificates. This Rulebook prescribes the format and contents of the forms of licenses and certificates for relocation and export of cultural property abroad and the manner of issuing of licenses and certificates. Currently ongoing is the procedure for amending and supplementing of this Rulebook, during which the same shall be harmonised with the Commission Implementing Regulation No 1081/2012 of 9 November 2012, for the purposes of Council Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 on the export of cultural goods (codification).

For the purposes of implementing the above-stated legislation in the customs procedures, the Customs Administration has adopted new Guidelines for application of the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage regulating the subject, competences and procedures being implemented by the organisational units of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia during export or temporary relocation of goods and passenger trade in items and goods of cultural heritage.

The Guidelines for application of the Law on Protection of Cultural heritage shall regulate in more details the following procedures:

- Procedure during export or temporary relocation of items and cultural property by legal entities,
- Procedure during export or temporary relocation of items and cultural property by natural entities, and
- Procedure for return of exported or temporary relocated items and cultural property.

(d) Do the rules provide for the restitution of illicitly imported cultural property?

The issue relating to restitution of movable cultural heritage is regulated in accordance with the European normative experiences and the application of the 1995 Convention on Return of Stolen or Illegally Export Cultural Objects and the Directive 93/7/EEC on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a member state. Accordingly, the Law on Protection of

Cultural Heritage, and in accordance with the ratified international agreements, the Ministry of Culture is defined as a central coordination authority for return of the movable cultural heritage:

1. Stolen and/or illegally exported from the territory of the Republic, and
2. Stolen and/or illegally exported from the territory of another country, and is located on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia.

(f) If the country has succeeded in securing the restitution of a stolen cultural object, describe the circumstances and state whether that involved legal proceedings, arbitration or alternative dispute resolution.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in an investigation conducted by the police of the Republic of Albania at the end of 2013, during which, in the identification procedure, 20 icons originating from the Republic of Macedonia were identified. Three of the identified icons were published in the database on stolen cultural property of INTERPOL. Activities for coordination and initiating of a restitution procedure are ongoing.

## **6. System for trade-in, acquisition, ownership and transfer of cultural property**

- (a) Give a brief description of the cultural goods market in the country (financial volume of the market, number and turnover of auction houses including via the Internet).

The Public Security Bureau commenced activities pertaining to the project access in research of crime related to cultural heritage. The objective is to secure operational and strategic information enabling the assessment of crime threats and actions of organised criminal groups and illicit trade in cultural properties, building of a methodology and indicators enabling facilitated assessment of the value of the illegal and legal market. At this point, it is difficult to assess the value of the black market which is most frequently connected with the neighbouring countries of the Republic of Macedonia.

- (b) What are the main rules governing trade in cultural goods? Are control measures in place for such trade (maintenance of a police register), in particular through the Internet (for example, reference to the basic measures proposed by UNESCO, INTERPOL and ICOM)?

Article 94 of the Law on Protection of Cultural heritage regulates the issue regarding the control of trade in antiquities according to which each dealer in antiquities, art or other collection items is obliged to keep a registry on the origin of items, with main data on the person from which the item was procured, description and sale price, as well as data on the buyer.



The dealer in antiquities shall be obliged: (a) to inform the competent public institution for protection of each procured item prior to its release into sale; (b) to secure a document forfeiting the pre-emption right if the property is protected; (c) to present and issue a proper document on ownership of the protected property; (d) to inform the buyer of the possibility for prohibition of export of the purchased property; (e) to inform the competent state administration authorities and the public institutions for protection, as well as the interested collectors, gallery owners, auctioneers and antiquaries, on the creation and circulation of copies of the protected properties.

In 2010, the Rulebook on the contents and manner of keeping the register on the origin of movable cultural heritage subject to trade, manner of performing control over the keeping of the register and the forms being used was adopted. This Rulebook prescribes the contents and the manner of keeping the register on the origin of movable cultural heritage, other antiquities, art items and collection items (hereinafter referred to as: items) subject to trade, the form of the register and form of the ownership document, the manner of control over the keeping of the register and other specific issues arising from the trade in movable cultural heritage, other antiquities, art items and collection items.

- (c) Do measures exist to control the acquisition of cultural property (for example, mechanisms to prevent museums and similar institutions from acquiring cultural property exported illegally from another State)?

Pursuant to the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, museums and similar institutions undertake measures to control the acquisition of cultural property, as follows:

- perform obligatory control of the origin of cultural property during purchase or other manner of acquisition of such property by third persons (Article 92/1);
- apply the prohibition to enter into inventories and other public records the movable cultural heritage whose origin is not verified and for which there is suspicion that it originates from illegal or uncontrolled excavations, thefts, illicit export and import or from other unlawful activities, excluding the records on the needs for safety of cultural heritage (Article 92/3);

- (d) Specify the existing legal system concerning ownership of cultural property:

- Is the principle of inalienability applied to cultural items in national collections and objects originating in heritage sites?

The principle of inalienability is applied to cultural items in national collections and objects originating in heritage sites, as follows:

- It shall not be allowed for anyone to seize an excavated item or another found item representing cultural heritage or property under temporary protection (Article 50 /(2);

- It is prohibited to alienate a state cultural heritage of particular importance (Article 51);
- If during the execution of construction, agricultural or other activities, an archaeological site or items of archaeological importance are found, the person performing the works shall be obliged to immediately, and within three days at the latest (Article 65/(1):
  1. report the discovery to the competent public institution for protection or to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. If the report is submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, it shall submit it to the competent public institution, Article (129/(2)) of this Law;
  2. keep the discovered items on the place and in the condition in which the same were found.
- If the items were excavated or taken out for the purposes of their better protection or due to the circumstances, the person performing the works shall be obliged (Article 65/(2) and 129/(2)):
  1. to hand over the discovered items during their reporting or to perform the previous during the identification in terms of Article 66 of this Law, and shall undertake measures required so as to prevent the items from deterioration, damage or alienation up their respective hand over, and
  2. to hand over all relevant data regarding the place and position of items during the excavation and respective circumstances.
- What is the status of yet unfound cultural objects, of cultural items found by chance and archaeological artefacts found during legal or illegal excavations?

In accordance with Article 30 of the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, immovable and movable properties for which there is reasonable presumption that the same represent cultural heritage and whose protection is established in a manner defined with Articles 38 and 39 of this Law, have the status of temporary protected properties.

Temporary protected property, pursuant to Article 38 of the Law, shall mean:

(a) Archaeological discoveries, such as: movable, up to their hand over to the competent public institution for protection, and immovable, up to the adoption of the decision for temporary protection (Article 39); (b) movable property acquired by the competent public institution for protection, up to their recording in the inventory book; and (c) property for which there is ongoing procedure for establishment of protection, up to the adoption of the protection act.

Accordingly, the yet unfound cultural objects, the cultural items found by chance and the archaeological artefacts found during legal or illegal excavations, have the status of property under temporary protection. The duration of the temporary protection for the movable property is six months or two years for the archaeological site and one year for other immovable property, as of the date of adoption of the temporary protection decision.

- What are the rules governing the search of provenance?

During purchase or otherwise acquiring by a third person of movable cultural heritage and other protected or movable property which should be protected in accordance with the provisions of this Law, the institutions for protection and other holders of public and private collections shall be obliged to verify the provenance. If the institutions for protection and other holders of public and private collections shall not be able to perform other controls, the least they could do is to request a *statement* from the offering party on the legality of the transaction, that is, that the property being offered does not originate from secret excavations, thefts or other criminal acts. Such statement shall be notary verified and shall be given with clear understanding that in case of different outcome, it shall result into material and criminal liability.

For each suspicious offer for purchase, the entities referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be obliged to immediately inform the Office and the authorities for internal affairs.

The search of provenance is in accordance with the ratified international conventions and international standards contained in the UNESCO recommendations. In addition, it is in accordance with the Code of Professional Deontology, or the Code of Museum Ethics (item 3.2).

## **II. Code of ethics, awareness raising and education**

### **Ethical standards**

- (a) Are the UNESCO International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property and that of ICOM for museums known to the professionals concerned (in particular, curators, antique dealers, merchants and collectors)? How is their observance checked?

The ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums is translated into Macedonian language by the publisher Macedonian National Committee of the International Council of Museums (MNC ICOM) in 2003 and distributed to all museum institutions. To show the compliance with this Code, we hereby indicate that all presentations of the museum professionals (counselling, forums, workshops on the topics relating to the cultural heritage situation) quote the provisions, principles, standards and other professional guidelines included in the Code content.

### **Awareness raising and education**

- (c) Briefly describe activities carried out to raise the awareness of the authorities and educate the public, children in particular, regarding the serious damage that can be caused by illegal excavations, theft of cultural property and illegal export. How far can UNESCO contribute to these activities?

The fight against illegal trade in cultural heritage is of high importance on the political agenda of all countries of Southeast Europe which have ratified the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the

Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, ratified by Macedonia in 1997 through succession. In 2011, the Regional UNESCO Bureau in Venice, with the support and participation of the National Commissions and the Ministries of Culture of the countries of Southeast Europe, among which the Republic of Macedonia, issued a 15-minute video on the sensitiveness of the fight against illegal trade in cultural property. Thanks to the support of the Austrian federal government, the video was translated into all languages of the countries of Southeast Europe, including the Macedonian language, and was, as agreed with UNESCO, distributed to all competent institutions and broadcasted on the national televisions.

The protection of cultural heritage is also realised through the awareness raising on the importance of cultural heritage and the dangers to which it is exposed and the need for its protection; therefore, the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage envisages the normative solutions regarding the **public awareness raising**, that is, ***the development of protection awareness***, as well as the building of a relevant ***information system for cultural heritage***.

*The raising and development of protection awareness*, pursuant to Article 113 of the Law, is carried out through:

- (a) public institutions in the field of education, upbringing, science, culture and information, which envisage in their curricula and work plans contents enabling the acquiring of knowledge and building of proper and active attitudes towards cultural heritage in terms of values, uniqueness and importance of the cultural heritage as integral part of the cultural identity and source of inspiration and creativity for the current and future generations; dangers to which it is exposed, due to illegal activities, armed conflicts, natural disasters and physical deterioration accelerated by the environment and nature pollution;

(b) The Cultural Heritage Protection Office has established a National Cultural Heritage Information System of the Republic of Macedonia containing a base of relevant data on the cultural heritage and publicly available and accurate information on the cultural heritage; through its website, it distributes and encourages the knowledge of national and international regulations for protection of cultural heritage and ensures the relevant publicity of each case of damaging, destroying or other form of illegal activities against cultural heritage.

In addition, the Republic of Macedonia already has an established practice to publicise, through the public media, each case of illegal excavations, illegal export, theft or other forms of unlawful activities regarding cultural heritage.

The Macedonian National Committee of ICOM designates a primary position in the selection of efficient strategic solutions to the disciplinary implementation of all standards of the profession, thus contributing to the professional development and application of ideas and principles of the museum practice, for promotion and affirmation of the awareness on the importance of the cultural and natural heritage.

The Memorandum of Cooperation between the ICOM national committees, ICOMOS and Blue Shield, realises joint programmes for current topics, mainly regarding the situation and protection of the cultural and natural heritage, purchase policy, etc.

The Macedonian National Committee is member of the alliance ICOM SEE

(Southeast Europe) ICOM EUROPA, and with the active role in the programme activities related to preventive protection, the situations are assessed and accordingly changed.

For the purposes of fulfilling and envisaging the role of the institution which is an important actor in the collection, preservation, building of the identity of a particular environment, or having a function of an information source, the museums in the Republic of Macedonia are realising the interaction with their visitors as part of realising of the *educational role*. It is an important process in the development of the humans and the society in its entirety providing the possibility for people to affirm their creative potentials, to acquire knowledge of importance for their professional profiling, as well as knowledge which become part of their general culture and enable them to recognise and objectively value the social occurrences which they face. The objectives of the educational programmes are multiple; however, we shall indicate the primary ones pertaining to the introduction to, and development of, the awareness for preservation of cultural heritage. The cooperation with the educational institutions and realisation of part of the curricula contents in the museums involves the engagement of various profiles of experts: educators, psychologists, instructors, teachers, defectologists, sociologists, conservators, and others. Implementation of educational programmes results into considerable acceptance and confirmation in practice. These results were the basis for the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to review and adopt the Information on the need for establishment of an Education Centre as an organisational unit within the National Institution Museum of Macedonia. The mission of the Education Centre is based on the concept creation and realisation of programmes in the field of museum education which shall meet the needs and interests of the visitors, regardless of their age, education, qualifications or ethnic background. The Education Centre is an institution which shall look after the education of museum professionals – educators; and an institution which ensures the advancement of the methodology for successful realisation of the museum education, organisation of museum workshops; defining of the methodology of the educational process through direct cooperation of the educational institutions and the Education Centre.

**Main programmes:** Centre which connects the education, the practical, and the scientific-research work. *Museum educational activity and practical work in the museums:* Organisation of theoretical museum education and practical work in the museums aimed towards education and informing of the museum professionals and museum visitors. *Research activity (with interdisciplinary approach to research):* Development and realisation of museum educational programmes in the field of cultural and natural heritage through scientific research.

In order to create possibilities for interaction and dialogue for the children and the youth in Macedonian schools regarding topics of common interest, such as our joint, cultural and natural heritage, UNESCO has, within the common UN programme “Enhancing Inter-Ethnic Community Dialogue and Collaboration”, approved by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in 2009, conducted the global UNESCO educational project “World Heritage in Young Hands” (WHYH) – as project activity existing in the high schools or as free lessons for the vocational secondary schools in the country. MNC ICOM

was actively involved in this project. Within the frames of the activities, cooperation was established with the Centre for Vocational Education and Training (CSOO) for preparation of the programme for free classes in the vocational secondary schools under the title "World Heritage in Young Hands".

### **III. Cooperation with other international and regional agencies**

#### **Police**

- (a) What is the state of national cooperation with INTERPOL? What specialized police services can heritage officials call on for enquiries, legal proceedings and punitive measures?

The cooperation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and INTERPOL is carried out through the National Central Bureau (NCB) – INTERPOL Skopje. An inspector within the NCB is in charge of the issues relating to the crime against cultural heritage. He/she, through mutual coordination with the competent operating units in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, coordinates the activities and requirements which need any type of response.

- (b) If a cultural object is stolen, is the INTERPOL database on stolen objects checked? Is information on the persons implicated in the theft of cultural property transmitted to INTERPOL?

The NCB INTERPOL – Skopje inspector has access to the database, as well as the representative of the Unit for suppression of organised and serious crime. For one of the greatest investigations conducted in the Republic of Macedonia, which reported 29 persons, data were submitted on the identity of such persons and other relevant crime intelligence information.

- (c) Do members of police services follow a specific training programme?

In the period 2010 - 2014, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Public Security Bureau, with the assistance of international institutions and organisations, carried out several regional trainings dedicated to the realisation of investigations for resolution of criminal acts against cultural heritage, participated at regional and international conferences on which the issue of building strategies for prevention and suppression of criminal activities was discussed. The following trainings can be mentioned:

- Regional trainings organised in Skopje with the assistance of MoIA, FBI and SELEC Centre in Bucharest. The trainings were attended by representatives of the countries of Southeast Europe.

- Regional training carried out in Sofia with the assistance of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Bulgaria and the US State Department.

- Training carried out in October 2014 with the assistance of the Regional UNESCO Bureau in Venice and the Government of Italy for 10 high representatives of the institutions for law enforcement (representatives of the Ministry of Culture, Cultural Heritage Protection Office, Customs and Ministry of Internal Affairs).

- (d) Do criminal law provisions allow for the punishment of fraud and theft related to cultural property? Are judges specialized in this field?

The Criminal Code prescribes penalties for criminal acts against cultural heritage and natural rarities, as follows:

- destroying or destruction of goods under temporary protection or cultural heritage or natural rarities (Article 264);
- taking goods under temporary protection or cultural heritage or natural rarities (Article 265);
- export abroad of goods under temporary protection or cultural heritage or natural rarities (Article 266);
- transfer of cultural heritage of special importance in state ownership (Article 266-a);
- ban on import of stolen cultural heritage (Article 266-b);
- destruction or covering up of unprocessed archive materials (Article 267).

## **Customs**

- (f) What is the status of cooperation with the World Customs Organization and which specialized customs services can assist heritage officials in preventing the illicit export of cultural property?

The Customs Administration cooperates with the World Customs Organisation through exchange of information, reporting of discovered cases of illicit trade in cultural property in the CEN base, participation in international operations, such as the ODYSSEUS operation, conducted in the period 05.05.2014 to 06.06.2014, organised by RILO WE and the Customs Administration of Italy, and participation in the ARCHEO Project as a communication tool for exchange of information on confiscated and stolen cultural property.

In addition, there is established cooperation and continuous exchange of information on discovered cases of illicit trade in cultural property with the countries of the region within the SELEC organisation (Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre), through the liaison officer of the Republic of Macedonia in Bucharest, Romania.

- (g) Do members of the customs administration follow a specific training programme?

In the past 4 years, customs officials have participated at the following trainings and seminars in the field of protection of cultural heritage:

- Seminar for prevention of illicit trade in cultural property, held on 13.10.2011 in Skopje, organised by the Cultural Heritage Protection Office and UNESCO,
- Regional meeting for Capacity building and public awareness raising for fight against illicit trade in cultural ownership, held in the period 19-21.11.2012 in Gaziantep, Turkey,

- Regional seminar for protection of cultural heritage in Southeast Europe, held on 05 and 06.06.2014 in Belgrade, Serbia,
- Seminar on illicit trade in cultural heritage, held 13-14.10.2014 in Rome, Italy.

(h) Is the UNESCO-WCO Model Export Certificate for Cultural Objects used?

The licenses and certificates for relocation and export of cultural property abroad, by using the EXIM system, are issued by the Cultural Heritage Protection Office in accordance with the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage and the Rulebook on the format and contents of the forms of licenses and certificates for relocation and export of cultural property abroad and the manner of issuing such licenses and certificates.

### **European Union**

Have particular measures been adopted to apply the Council of the European Communities Directive 93/7/EEC of 15 March 1993 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State.

Article 100 b of the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage envisages the ***Return of unlawfully removed cultural objects from the member state of the European Union located at the territory of the Republic of Macedonia*** according to which, in paragraph 2 item 2 of the same Article, the Member State of the European Union can, in a procedure prescribed by this law, request the return of unlawfully removed property located on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, which:

Belongs to one of the types of properties defined in the Annex to the Council Directive 93/7/EEC of 15 March 1993 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State or does not belong to it but represents an integral part of:

- a public collection managed by the museums, libraries or archives of the Member State, and
- inventories of religious communities of the Member State.

### **IV. Emergency situations and heritage at risk**

- (a) What is the strategy in place in your country to face emergency situations for heritage in case of natural disaster or conflict?

The Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage regulates the undertaking of ***Preparatory measures for protection in case of armed conflicts and natural disasters*** (Article 107) according to which, authorities and public institutions for protection, as well as the holders of protected property, are obliged to undertake the required preparatory measures for protection of the cultural heritage against unforeseeable consequences from armed conflicts and natural disasters, as follows: (a) securing the documentation on protected property and its keeping at various and safe places; (b) preparation for evacuation of the protected movable property, including the integral parts of the



protected immovable properties envisaged for disassembly; (c) planning of emergency measures for fire protection; (d) planning of emergency measures for protection against demolition; (e) procurement of materials and equipment for implementation of the relevant in situ protection; (f) designation of the protection personnel, in particular the professional and other operational teams, and (g) planning of safety protection measures in case of armed conflicts and natural disasters, as well as peacetime preparations: (a) for marking of the protected property with the international symbol; and (b) for organisation of a special or emergency transport of protected property, under international control, on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia or another country. The required preparatory measures for protection of the cultural heritage in case of armed conflicts and natural disasters are undertaken in accordance with the regulations and documents for defence, or for protection against natural disasters, the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage and the regulations stemming from that Law.

- (b) More particularly, what are the measures undertaken to implement UNSC Resolution 2199 (paragraph 17, 12 February 2015) for the protection of Syrian and Iraqi cultural heritage?

Regarding the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 2199 on protection of the Syrian and Iraqi cultural heritage, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia has submitted the information acquired through the ARCHEO application to all border crossings, which inform the customs officers regarding the events in the Middle East and the mass thefts of cultural treasures, with photos of the stolen artefacts and guidelines for control of vehicles and persons coming from that region.

## **V. Other legislative, legal and administrative measures taken by the State**

### **1. Accession to the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects**

- (a) Has this Convention been ratified, in addition to that of 1970?

The Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects was adopted at the special diplomatic conference held in Rome, 1995, and was entered into force on 1 July 1998. The Republic of Macedonia has ratified this Convention with the Law adopted on 26 October 2005, published on 9 November 2005 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia – International Agreements", No 96/5).

### **2. Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation**

Describe the extent to which the State concerned is following the work of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee (observer, member, State concerned by a case under discussion, etc.).

Macedonian representatives are following the work of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee as observers.

### 3. UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws

Indicate action taken to organize the contribution to the UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws and to check whether it contains all historical and existing laws and regulations, including successive amendments.

Through the National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Macedonia, all valid laws in the field of protection of cultural heritage duly translated into English language have been properly submitted.