A word from the Secretary of the 1970 Convention

Cultural heritage needs our protection – today more than ever – as we witness armed conflicts in different parts of the world.

Within the framework of its mandate, UNESCO is taking action to support cultural heritage professionals and assess the impact of conflicts so as to reinforce the protection of cultural sites. UNESCO and its partners call upon professionals and the public involved in the trade of cultural property to refrain from acquiring or taking part in the import, export or transfer of ownership of cultural property when they have reason to believe that the objects have been stolen, illicitly alienated, clandestinely excavated or illegally exported.

With vigilance and commitment, every one of us can contribute to the protection of culture.

In this newsletter, you will discover some recent initiatives and achievements in the effort to fight the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Krista Pikkat
Adopted in 2017, the Council of Europe Convention on Offences Relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention) is the first international treaty dealing with the criminalisation of the illicit trafficking of cultural property. Its entry into force, following the ratification by 5 countries, will strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice responses to all criminal offences relating to the illicit trafficking of cultural property.
UNESCO-ICCROM
Emergency Evacuation of Heritage Collections manual in Ukrainian

Thanks to the joint efforts of UNESCO, ICCROM and the Maiden Museum (Ukraine), the UNESCO-ICCROM manual on the emergency evacuation of heritage collections is now available in Ukrainian. This publication offers a field-tested, simple workflow for the emergency evacuation of heritage collections. 2,000 copies will be printed and distributed to areas with no or poor internet connection.
9,408 cultural artefacts seized across the world

Coordinated by Europol, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, operation Pandora VI brought together law enforcement authorities of 28 countries and resulted in 52 arrests and seizures of 9,408 artefacts, including archaeological objects, furniture, coins, paintings, musical instruments, and statuettes, from June to September 2021.
Media campaign “Buying art with knowledge” raises awareness about licit and illicit trade of cultural property
The video series produced by the Dutch Commission for UNESCO aims to inform the wider public and potential art buyers on the negative impact of illicit trafficking and provides tips and resources on how to buy art responsibly.

Save the date
18 April 2022
Celebration of the International Day for Monuments and Sites

16 - 17 May 2022

18 May 2022
Celebration of the International Museum Day.

18 - 20 May 2022
23rd session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP).

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