

UNESCO 1970 Convention - Periodic Reporting Form 2019

Respondent Information

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Position :	attache
Organization/Agency :	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia - Sector for Multilateral Cooperation - UN Department - Division for UNESCO
Country :	Serbia

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 Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

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).

Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural (Paris, 1970) ("Official Gazette of the SFRY– International Treaties", number 50/73), Law on Cultural Property ("RS Official Gazette", numbers 71/94, 52/11-other law, 99/11-other law), Law on Old and Rare Library Materials ("RS Official Gazette", number 52/11), Customs Law ("RS Official Gazette", numbers 18/10, 111/12), Law on Foreign Trade ("RS Official Gazette", numbers 36/09, 36/11 – other law, 88/11), Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia („RS Official Gazette“ numbers 85/05, 88/05 - corrigendum, 107/05 - corrigendum, 72/09, 111/09), Law on Seizure of Proceeds from Crime („RS Official Gazette“, numbers 32/13 and 94/16).

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

5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good
2	Satisfactory
1	Poor

4	Clear definition of cultural property
4	State ownership of undiscovered cultural heritage
3	Regulations on trade of cultural property
3	Export controls
3	Export certificates
2	Certificate of authenticity
2	Import controls
3	Establishment of national services
2	National inventory of cultural property
1	Inventory requirements for museums, public institutions, private collections
2	Protection of archaeological sites and regulation of archaeological excavations
1	Public education and awareness raising
2	Measures to prevent museums and similar institutions from acquiring illegally exported cultural property
2	Prohibition of import of cultural property stolen from a museum or religious/secular institution
3	Regulation of the diplomatic pouch
2	Provisions for the return of cultural objects stolen from a museum or other public institution
2	Sanctions (criminal and/or administrative and/or civil) of illicit activities related to destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural property
	Requirement of register of sales for antique dealers, auction houses, dealers of

1	cultural heritage and art galleries
2	Protection of underwater cultural heritage
1	Regulations regarding the use of metal detectors
1	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)**

Law on Cultural Property ("RS Official Gazette", numbers 71/94, 52/11-other law, 99/11-other law), Law on Old and Rare Library Materials ("RS Official Gazette", number 52/11), Customs Law ("RS Official Gazette", numbers 18/10, 111/12), Law on Foreign Trade ("RS Official Gazette", numbers 36/09, 36/11 – other law, 88/11), Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia („RS Official Gazette“ numbers 85/05, 88/05 - corrigendum, 107/05 - corrigendum, 72/09, 111/09), Law on Seizure of Proceeds from Crime („RS Official Gazette“, numbers 32/13 and 94/16).

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

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

	Yes
X	No

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

	Yes
X	No

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

	Yes
X	No

Implementation and operative framework

Institutional Framework

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

X	Yes
	No

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

The Ministry of Culture and Media performs, inter alia, the operations of state administration in the area of safeguarding the cultural heritage: follows up and analyzes the situation prevailing in the area of protection and preservation of the immovable, movable and intangible cultural heritage, endowments and foundations; ensures the funds necessary for its operation and provides support to the work of the institutions for safeguarding the cultural properties; supervises the protection of cultural heritage, in particular the heritage on the UNESCO World Heritage List; monitors implementation of the Programs of safeguarding the cultural heritage in Kosovo and Metohija, as well as the cultural heritage located abroad (the Hilandar Monastery, Serbian House at Corfu, the Zebrnjak Cemetery, etc); inter-ministerial coordination is carried out in preventing the illicit trafficking in art-historical works and cultural properties (with the Ministry of Interior, Interpol, Custom Administration, etc); monitors implementation of the international conventions and agreements in the field of safeguarding of cultural properties; issues export licenses for movable cultural properties; issues licences for the performance of archeological excavations and explorations.

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).

X	Magistrates and/or judges
X	Police, gendarmerie, and/or Department of Interior
X	Public prosecutor
X	Customs
	None
	Other (please specify):

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

There is no specialized department for the protection of cultural property against illicit trafficking in the Customs Administration of The Republic of Serbia. The protection of cultural property is a part of overall protection of export and import of good carried out by Customs offices and Enforcement Division.

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

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

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

Upon the request of the Ministry of Interior or Customs Administration attached to the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Culture and Information addresses, for the needs of checking or for temporary provision of the place for storing art-historical objects suspected to originate from a criminal offence (theft and illicit trafficking), to the Central institutions dealing with safeguarding of cultural properties. Depending on the type of the art-historical works, the Central institutions are: The National Museum of Belgrade, Modern Art Museum of Belgrade, The Archives of Serbia, Yugoslav Film Archive, and the National Library of Serbia. The Customs Administration cooperates with the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Institute of the Protection of Cultural Monuments, the National Library as well as several services with the Ministry of Interior. Through the Ministry of Interior, Serbian Customs also maintains regular cooperation with the Public Prosecutor Office and the Special Prosecutor for Organized Crime.

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

	Yes, we have our own national or/and regional database that is not linked with the INTERPOL database
	Yes, we have our own national or/and regional database that is linked with the INTERPOL database
X	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.**

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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?**

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	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.**

Museums have inventories, but there are gaps when religious artifacts are concerned.

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.**

Museums have inventories, but there are gaps when religious artifacts are concerned.

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.**

The biggest challenge is safeguarding from looting and illegal excavation of large archeological sites, icon and other religious artifacts in monasteries and churches, and private collections.

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?**

	Yes
X	No

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

□

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

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

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

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

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

	To a great extent
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
	Training occurs periodically
	In-depth, specialized training for officers working on this issue
	Assistance is required from UNESCO and its partners
X	Other /

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

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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.**

Serbian Customs officers participate in training exercises and workshops on a variety of topics related to the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property. In November 2017, such a workshop was organized by the UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, as well as by the Italian police. In May 2018, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Directorate for International Operational Police Cooperation and INTERPOL a workshop was held on topic "Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Property". Also, in 2006, the Serbian Customs Administration developed "Guidelines for Identifying and Assessing Antiques and Rarities", a publication which contains detailed content and rich photographic material. This handbook offers basic guidelines for establishing the approximate values of antiques and rarities, and describes several methods used to move them illegally across borders. It covers paper antiques, old books, engravings, geographic antiques, antique furniture, jewelry and precious decorative objects, gemstones, clocks and watches, coins, paintings, antique icons and various other antiques.

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.**

They are obliged to conduct in accordance with the Code of Ethics, in galleries, museums, and all public collections in Serbia.

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

	All or almost all follow such practices
	Most follow such practices
X	Some follow such practices
	None/only a few follow such practices
	Other (please specify) :

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

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

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

	Yes
X	No

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

	Yes
X	No

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.**

Signed bilateral agreements in the area of culture that also involve the safeguarding of cultural heritage: - Program of Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Albania for the 2017-2021 Period. Signed on 22 February 2017. In force. - Program of Cooperation in the Area of Culture between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the DPR of Algeria for the Years 2016, 2017 and 2018. Signed on 17 May 2016. In force. - Program in the Area of Culture, Science and Education between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Austria for the 2015-2019 Period. Signed on 12 May 2015. In force. - Memorandum of Understanding in the Area of Culture between the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Hellenic Republic for the 2017-2021 Period. Signed on 13 July 2017. In force. - Program of Cooperation in the Area of Culture, Science, Education, Youth and Sports between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the 2016-2019 Period. Signed on 24 October 2016. In force. - Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of Culture between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the State of Qatar. Signed on 7 November 2016. In force. - Program on Cooperation in the Area of Culture and Arts between the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China signed for the 2017-2020 period. Signed on 18 June 2016. In force. - Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Mutual Foundation of Cultural Centers. Signed in 2014. In force. - Memorandum of Understanding between the Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia on Friendly Exchanges and Cooperation. Signed in June 2016. In force. - Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture and Media of Republic of Serbia and State Administration for Cultural Heritage of the People's Republic of China on Exchanges and Cooperation in the Area of Cultural Heritage. Signed on 23 May 2017. In force. - Program of Cooperation in the Area of Culture between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the State of Kuwait for the 2017-2019 period. Signed in June 2017. In force. - Program on Cooperation in the Areas of Education, Science and Culture between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Hungary for the Period between 2018 and 2020. Signed on 9 February 2018. In force. - Program on Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia for the 2015-2019 period. Signed in 2015. In force. - Program between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on Cooperation in the Area of Culture, Higher Education, Scientific Researches, Education, Communications, Media, Youth and Sports for the Years 2018, 2019 and 2020. Signed on 14 May 2018. In force. - Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia and Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic Srpska for the 2017-2021 period. Signed in 2017. In force. - Program of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia for the 2017-2021 period. Signed on 24 October 2016. In force. - Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in Implementing the Restoration of the Brace Krsmanovic steam (Turkish) bath in Belgrade. Signed on 09 October 2017. In force. - Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in Implementing the restoration of the Bajrakli Mosque in Belgrade. Signed on 09 October 2017. in force.

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

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

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

The example of restitution to the Republic of Turkey of the archeological-numismatic material found at the border crossing Batrovci. The archeological-numismatic objects were seized on 12 December 2004 at the border crossing Batrovci (in total, 1485 numismatic and 379 archeological objects) that were temporarily stored by the Customs Administration at the National Museum of Belgrade. They were inspected by authorized Turkish experts (Mr. Melik Ayaz, Head of Department at the General Directorate of Cultural Property and Museums of the Turkish Ministry of Culture, and Mr. Turan Gokyldirm, a numismatic expert from the General Directorate of Archaeological Museums of Istanbul), and by domestic experts on the part of the National Museum of Belgrade (Dr Miloje Vasic, scientific adviser, Bojana Boric-Breskovic, M.A, museum adviser at the National Museum of Belgrade, Mirjana Glumac, senior curator at the National Museum of Belgrade). A report on this concrete operation was drawn up at the National Museum, which Report stated, inter alia, that the subject material «highly resembles the archeological material found in the territory of western Turkey», and that there is no impediment for the material's restitution to the Republic of Turkey, which was claiming the same. In accordance with the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property we hold that from the point of view of the competences of the Ministry of Culture there is no obstacle to returning the archeological-numismatic material seized at the border crossing Batrovci to the Republic of Turkey that is claiming the said material. The Customs Administration attached to the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs agree with the mentioned restitution, and the Government of the Republic of Serbia was proposed to pass the relevant document concerning the mentioned material's restitution.

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

There is focal point in the Ministry of Culture and Media to facilitate international cooperation in this field.

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

Bearing in mind that the Republic of Serbia does not have a system established, but a focal point, there is no opportunity for promotion of such a system.

Overall

46. **Yearly statistics**

Thefts

1st Year reporting	0	Number of objects
Additional information :		
2nd Year reporting	0	Number of objects
Additional information :		
3rd Year reporting	0	Number of objects

Additional information :		
4nd Year reporting	0	Number of objects
Additional information :		

Illegal Excavations

1st Year reporting	0	Number of objects
Additional information :		
2nd Year reporting	0	Number of objects
Additional information :		
3rd Year reporting	0	Number of objects
Additional information :		
4nd Year reporting	614	Number of objects
<p>Additional information : In March 2018, during the export inspection of postal items, on the customs post "Posta" - Belgrade, customs officers found antique metal bowl (imitation of a water can) around whose upper edge, eight metal coins were glued together with an adhesive tape. In April 2018, during the control of the consignment in export from the Republic of Serbia, at the customs office "Post" - Belgrade, customs officers found an antique ring, a buckle and a pendant. In December 2018, during the export inspection of postal items, at the customs post office "Post" - Belgrade, customs officers found a large quantity of antique coins of irregular shape. According to the records of the Directorate for the Management of Confiscated Property at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, in 2018 the following was seized: by the verdict of the Basic Court in Pozarevac no. K.457 / 13-88, 434 copies of Roman money from the 4th and 5th centuries, 168 copies of Roman cleansed money from the 3rd century.</p>		

Seizures (cultural objects originating from own country)

1st Year reporting	1663	Number of objects
<p>Additional information : During the 2015, the Customs Administration of Serbia has revealed the attempt of smuggling of icons and engravings (3 pieces), one old oil on canvas painted by an unknown author, 1599 pieces of antique metal coins, three figurines, fourteen pieces of antique weapons such as rifles, pistols, knives, swords etc, 43 antique clocks, lamps, cutlery, watches and old decorative objects.</p>		
2nd Year reporting	5	Number of objects
<p>Additional information : Customs officers of the Serbian Customs Administration seized during the 2016 three icons, one bible and pieces of old metal coins. In February 2016, during the control of the passenger car at the Border crossing point Horgos (border with Hungary), customs officers found an undeclared old Bible wrapped in a plastic bag and hidden in the back of the car. The offender was travelling from Serbia to Hungary.</p>		
3rd Year reporting	379	Number of objects
<p>Additional information : In April 2017, carrying out the control of passenger cars at the Border crossing point Horgos (border with Hungary), customs officers discovered the attempt of smuggling of 157 pieces of a variety of paper antiques, old books, old envelopes, postal stamps, old documents, maps and books originating from Serbia. The offender was a Hungarian citizen. In July 2017, again at the border crossing point Horgos, customs officers have found around 222 pieces of antique knives, antique coins, chiseled stone slabs, wooden combs and hairpins, oval bowls etc, hidden in a luggage compartment of a bus travelling to Linz, Austria.</p>		
4nd Year reporting	614	Number of objects

Additional information : In March 2018, during the export inspection of postal items, on the customs post "Posta" - Belgrade, customs officers found antique metal bowl (imitation of a water can) around whose upper edge, eight metal coins were glued together with an adhesive tape. In April 2018, during the control of the consignment in export from the Republic of Serbia, at the customs office "Post" - Belgrade, customs officers found an antique ring, a buckle and a pendant. In December 2018, during the export inspection of postal items, at the customs post office "Post" - Belgrade, customs officers found a large quantity of antique coins of irregular shape. According to the records of the Directorate for the Management of Confiscated Property at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, in 2018 the following was seized: by the verdict of the Basic Court in Pozarevac no. K.457 / 13-88, 434 copies of Roman money from the 4th and 5th centuries, 168 copies of Roman cleansed money from the 3rd century.

Seizures (cultural objects originating from another country)

1st Year reporting	124	Number of objects
<p>Additional information : At Gradina border crossing point (border with Bulgaria) Customs officers uncovered two Orthodox icons hidden among luggage in the trailer of a vehicle en route to Western Europe. The icons were hidden in a trailer of a van driven by a Bulgarian citizen travelling to Portugal. During the same year the officers of the Customs Administration of Serbia have prevented the smuggling of eleven pieces of oil on canvas (nature, still nature etc) painted by the unknown or authors like W. Kuhn, Jan Korthals, J. Aberl, Trelony and Megyery, as well as smuggling of 19 pieces of antique metal coins. In May 2015, at the Border crossing point Kelebija (border with Hungary), during the control of the passenger car driven by a Turkish nationality travelling to Austria, customs officers have discovered an attempt, of smuggling of 87 pieces of antique metal coins in different sizes and and irregular shapes and 5 antique metal figurines. The goods were wrapped in paper tissues, packed in plastic bags and hidden inside the back seat booth.</p>		
2nd Year reporting	0	Number of objects
<p>Additional information :</p>		
3rd Year reporting	12	Number of objects
<p>Additional information : In the first quarter of the 2017, at the border crossing point Kelebija (border with Hungary), customs officers found a valuable painting and circa ten pieces of old weapons while carrying out the control of a passenger car driven by a British couple of Turkish origin. It was at the same border crossing point that, an oil on canvas painting titled "In der Campagna, Via Roma" was discovered in a bus travelling from Serbia to Switzerland. In July 2017, at the Horgos border crossing point, the customs officers of the Customs Administration of Serbia stopped tin- attempt of smuggling of the two valuable 17th and 18th century Gospels. The Gospels were hidden in a bus by Greek citizen travelling from Bulgaria to Austria.</p>		
4nd Year reporting	2438	Number of objects
<p>Additional information : In January 2018, at the Gradina border crossing point (with Bulgaria), the customs officers of the Serbian Customs Administration have prevented the attempt of smuggling of a significant amount of antique metal coins and old parchment scrolls written in a script resembling Arabic. The cultural heritage items were discovered during the control of a passenger car travelling to Germany. Later this year, customs officers at the Batrovci border crossing point (border with Croatia) carried out the seizure of 2.235 antique metal coins packed in newspaper and plastic bags, one brass figurine of Roman legionary and another metal figurine. The pieces were hidden under the driver's seat and under the back seat of the vehicle. In December 2018, the customs officers have seized thirteen very valuable watches at the Horgos border crossing point (border with Hungary), one of which was a "Patek Philippe" from 1921, made in 18-carat gold. In the Sector for International Legal Aid (Ministry of Justice) was received and returned to the applicant, for correction, the requests of the Republic of Iraq for the restitution of objects seized by the judgment of the Misdemeanor Court in Pirot - Department in Dimitrovgrad I-05 Pr.49 / 18 of 5.1.2018, 34 parchment of text written in an unknown letter and 156 metal forged coins.</p>		

Restitutions

1st Year reporting	169	Number of objects
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Additional information : Federal Administration for Culture of the Swiss Confederation, as the institution competent for restitution of cultural properties has restituted to the Republic of Serbia 150 bronze Roman coins (II-IV centuries) that were found in Switzerland, identified during the police investigation to originate from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The Republic of Austria has initiated the restitution of 19 bronze coins established by the police investigation to have been illegally excavated near Petrovac na Mlavi, which had been seized from a Serbian national in Austria.

2nd Year reporting 0 Number of objects

Additional information :

3rd Year reporting 550 Number of objects

Additional information : Federal Administration for Culture of the Swiss Confederation, as the institution competent for restitution of cultural properties has restituted to the Republic of Serbia 550 coins seized in Switzerland.

4nd Year reporting 0 Number of objects

Additional information :

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.).**

- Lack of clearly defined / legally stipulated procedures for restitution of cultural properties; - Lack of a database of stolen and disappeared cultural properties; - Lack of direct communication with the colleagues in other states; - Costs of court proceedings.

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.).**

It is most often the lack of evidence for claims.

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.**

While the tools are helpful they are not all implemented in national procedures. We plan working on better implementation of the above mentioned tools.

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 ?

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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.

In Rome, Italy, a delegation of the Republic of Serbia participated together with a delegation of Montenegro in the period between 19 and 24 November 2017, in the Workshop for Capacity Building for Fighting Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Properties, organized in cooperation of the regional UNESCO Office for Science and Culture in Europe, with the seat in Venice, and the Italian Police – Carabinieri, Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Department. The participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Media, Ministry of Interior and Customs Administration contributed to a better coordination in the field of safeguarding the cultural property against theft and illicit trafficking, to identification of the existing issues, and to the determination of the guidelines for future acting: - fostering of institutional and material capacities and permanent education of all participants in the safeguarding of cultural properties (from curators to the police, to customs officers, to public prosecutors and judges), (Ministry of Culture and Media, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance - Customs Administration, Ministry of Justice). - Need for joint acting of all authorities and institutions (Ministry of Culture and Media, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance - Customs Administration, Ministry of Justice and Prosecutor's Office) at all levels (local, regional, national and international) in the prevention of this type of crime. - Establishment of a standing Government Inter-Ministerial Task Force that would propose efficiently the solutions to the issues relevant for the safeguarding of cultural heritage (from the draw-up of an action plan, to regulations' amendments, to establishment of databases, to coordination and assistance in the cases of thefts, illegal trafficking, damage and destruction of cultural properties). (Ministry of Culture and Media, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance - Customs Administration, Ministry of Justice). - Establishment of an institution (agency within it) for national cultural heritage, and of an Inspection service attached to it for the safeguarding of cultural heritage, with the necessary powers (Ministry of Culture and Media). - Elaboration of a National database of cultural property. A separate base could be the one for digital cataloguing of cultural properties owned by the churches (which would also include, apart from other data about the subject, digital photos, precise data about the place of location of the objects) (Ministry of Culture and Media). - Preparation of a digital map of the terrains, with geographic coordinates of the localities and precise data about the distribution and concentration of the cultural heritage that could be publicly available to a certain level. The map could be multi-useful, particularly in the presentation of Estimated Dangers of Natural Disasters and other Accidents, and/or Plans for Evacuation of Cultural Property in such situations (Ministry of Culture and Media, Cadastre). - Expert teams in cooperation with other authorities (Ministry of Interior) would do the terrain prospection aided by contemporaneous technical means (taking photos with drones, connection to GIS system assisted by GPS, etc.) (Ministry of Culture and Media, Cadastre). - Establishment of a digital database of stolen art objects and of inclusion in international safeguarding system of cultural heritage (PSYCHE), as well as its public disclosure (Ministry of Culture and Media, Ministry of Interior). - It is necessary to authorize for the customs and police needs at border crossings (or to regulate by the law amendment) a museum relevant for providing expert assistance in the identification and appraisal of an object when illegal trafficking of cultural property is suspected (Ministry of Culture and Media).

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.**

Supporting UNESCO Venice office to implement regional and national programs and initiatives that focuses on fighting against illicit trafficking of cultural property, especially on implementation of national databases for stolen and missing cultural property.

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

Lack of national database of stolen and missing cultural property. The Ministry of culture and Information would request an assistance in establishing such database.

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

Operational Guidelines were used for better definitions of articles in the drafting of the new Law of Cultural Property,

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

The Republic Serbia is very glad that European Union recognized the importance of the UNESCO project devoted to fighting illicit trafficking of cultural property in the Western Balkans, and we are looking forward to successful implementation of the project in the future, which will especially focus on the creation of the national database of stolen and missing cultural property.