A word from the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

After last year’s 50th anniversary celebrations of the 1970 Convention, UNESCO began 2022 with a series of compelling activities aimed at broadening the engagement of key stakeholders in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property. Notably, in January we brought together experts from the art market, academia and the financial sector with representatives of the Council of the European Union to discuss challenges and ways forward in this fight.

In the lead-up to the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development - MONDIACULT 2022, UNESCO is reinvesting in global policy dialogue in the field of culture, building on its mandate and expertise to foster multilateral cooperation, including in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Ernesto Ottone R.
Assistant Director-General for Culture
UNESCO at the Louvre Conference on European Cooperation Against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property

On 1 February 2022, UNESCO participated in the “Conference for the reinforcement of European cooperation against the illicit traffic of cultural property”, hosted by France at the Louvre Museum, within the framework of its Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to discuss ways to raise awareness and to enhance the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property at EU level.

UNESCO/EU Workshop on the financial sector’s role in fighting illicit trafficking of cultural property

On 27 January 2022, UNESCO brought together over 300 participants to the online UNESCO/EU workshop on the role of the financial sector in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property. Benefitting from the support of the European Union, the workshop featured leading experts and professionals in the field to discuss the current state of play and appropriate tools for combating money laundering related to illicit trafficking of cultural property.
Consultation of the Art Market on the Revision of the International Code of Ethics

As part of the revision of the *International Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property*, UNESCO organised an online dialogue with the art market sector on 17 and 25 January 2022. In March 2022, the results of this consultation will be presented to the working group established at the 22nd session of the ICPRCP mandated to reflect on the revision of the Code.
Returning the Loot: How to Tackle the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property in South Asia

From 15 to 16 December 2021, the UNESCO New Delhi Office organized a special capacity-building workshop to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property in South Asia.
More than 600 artefacts were returned by the Norwegian Culture Minister, Abid Raja, to the competent authorities of eight countries: Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine and the United States of America on 23 June 2021.

Publication

Now in Serbian: Toolkit for European judiciary and law enforcement – Fighting the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property

This toolkit, published in the framework of the previous UNESCO-EU project in 2018, is available in English, French, Spanish and now in Serbian.
18 April 2022
Celebration of the International Day for Monuments and Sites.

18 May 2022
Celebration of International Museum Day.

3rd Week of May 2022

3rd Week of 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) at UNESCO-HQ (hybrid meeting).

28 - 30 September 2022
UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, MONDIACULT 2022, hosted by the Government of Mexico.

Produced by
Secretariat of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property