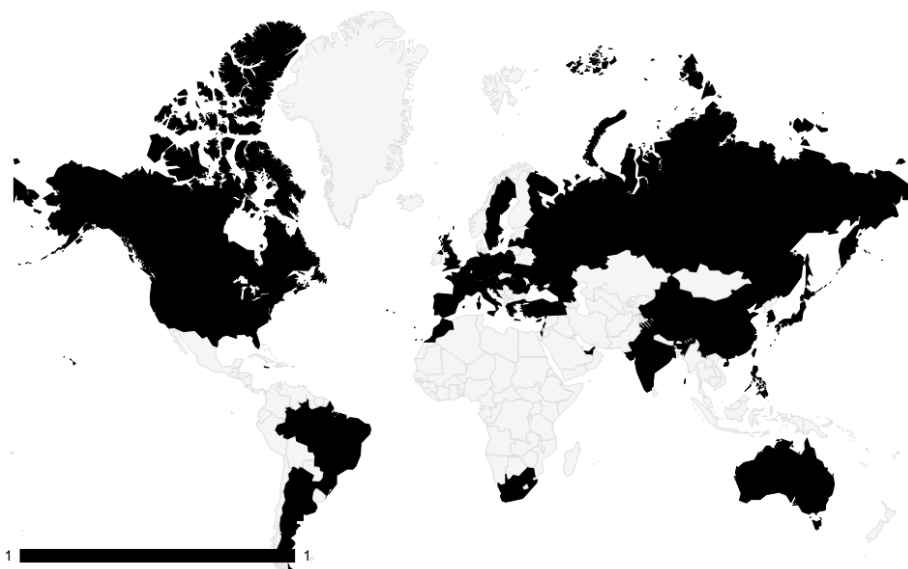


Civil Society in Action for Ukraine's Endangered Heritage

Summary document of the speakers and chat

This event took place on Thursday 31 March, 12:00-14:00 on Zoom



22 speakers and 230 people attended from 45 countries



This online webinar is co-organized by [OurWorldHeritage](#), [Europa Nostra](#) and [Global Heritage Fund](#), in close collaboration with [Heritage Emergency Response Initiative \(HERI\)](#) in Ukraine. This summary document is compiled based on speakers' input and comments in the chat by Maaïke Goedkoop, with help of Debra Norris. A public report is (soon) available on the websites of the organizers of this event.

SPEAKERS AND DISCUSSION

- No one in Ukraine believed the war would start and so the cultural sector was not prepared.
- Entire culture and identity of Ukraine is currently under threat. Rich historical and cultural heritage that presents Ukraine to the world community. Cultural heritage sites are destroyed, museums are currently being looted. Direct impact of bombing will make it impossible to save these iconic buildings and their painted interiors. Historical and religious sites, monuments, museums, dramatic theater and memorials get damaged by rockets. There is an official webpage from the Ministry of Culture that documents loss [\[2\]](#). Museums and cultural communities are improving in their emergency response with better coordinated activities [\[1\]](#).
- Many professional colleagues have left Ukraine yet many others remain despite the war. Protection and conservation needed. Reconstruction will require another dimension with many engaged. There is a need for safe havens in Ukraine. Support professionals to continue their work on-the-ground or work in the host country. What to do with cultural institutions if occupants force museum employees to leave...? They need international guidance. Many colleagues are under shelling, without internet connection. Need humanitarian help as well. Money for food, generators, medicine, and others. The impact of smaller gifts is significant. A greater investment is critical.
- Basic needs are protective and packaging materials. Methodological approaches too. Damage assessment and risk assessment required. And approach to conservation and restoration.
- Coordination is the most important challenge for cultural heritage response. Most basic challenges involve coordination between the cultural associations and the government/military. Now much more coordinated and active. Local initiatives as well. A Red List must be created and hubs for bringing supplies into the country.
- Call for awareness: this is not a conflict; this is a war. It is absolutely necessary to reconsider holding the UNESCO meeting in Russia [\[43\]](#) [\[44\]](#) [\[45\]](#) [\[46\]](#).
- 'Please continue to keep talking about this war' – there is a concern that civil society will get used to this war and stop speaking about it, while people continue to suffer. *(please remember that this counts for numerous other conflicts and wars on this planet)*
- ICCROM has shared their handbooks translated into Ukrainian [\[6\]](#). Heritage for Peace [\[15\]](#) helping with training. ICON has developed basecamp as well for guidance and emergency response [\[11\]](#). *(please see the entire list of [EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVES](#) below)*
- Artists provide contribution to the cultural heritage and music is an instrument of peace. They need humanitarian and professional help. Centre Européen de Musique (CEM) established a chain of solidarity [\[20\]](#) between Ukrainian, Russian and European musicians. Music is an essential bridge for the future of human history. Ukrainian musicians in exile are received with open arms by private and public institutions, joining in this chain of solidarity.
- Need to plan for restoration, and many sites need our help. Some may need to be rebuilt. Support from the whole world is important, from states and governments and civil society. More structured approach is needed. Prepare for the post-war reconstruction. We must improve the exchange of information. Protection and conservation needed. Reconstruction will require another dimension with many engaged.
- Mayors in European cities should be our allies.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVES

[1]

The Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (HERI) in Ukraine

www.facebook.com/Штаб-порятунку-спадщини-Heritage-Emergency-Response-Initiative-109558158344811+G26

www.maidanmuseum.org/en/node/2121

[2]

Ministry of Culture of Ukraine - list of the damaged cultural objects

www.mkip.notion.site/mkip/7be52d2803994651a23a220a8ed85f1c?v=6ea517f19a8944f9a902a50156656eea

[3]

Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine - documentation of war crimes against humanity and cultural heritage sites www.culturecrimes.mkip.gov.ua

[4]

UNESCO

www.unesco.org/en/articles/call-unesco-and-partners-concerning-risk-illicit-trafficking-ukrainian-cultural-property

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ukraine-unesco-mobilizes-support-learning-continuity>

[5]

Network of European Museum Organizations (NEMO) - collecting and monitoring support activities and initiatives organized by museums for Ukrainian colleagues and citizens.

www.ne-mo.org/advocacy/our-advocacy-work/museums-support-ukraine

[6]

ICCROM - offers consultation sessions and systematic thinking into creating priorities to assess the damage and long term. Including questions like what to do if the building is half standing. Can heritage professionals work with toxic materials – how to safeguard their own life and protect heritage? What is the long-term strategy and how do we use heritage as a force for reconciliation? What about explosive and ballistic damage? They are making their emergency response guidelines available in the local language. In coordination with all partners: Blue Shield [15], ICOMOS / ICOMOS-IFLA [9] and ICOM [23].

www.iccrom.org/publication/first-aid-cultural-heritage-times-crisis-handbook

www.iccrom.org/publication/endangered-heritage-emergency-evacuation-heritage-collections

www.iccrom.org/publication/path-peacebuilding-assessment-tool-heritage-recovery-and-rehabilitation-this-one-is-to-make-conflict-sensitive-heritage-recovery

[7]

Blue Sky / Ukrainian Conservation Forum Initiative preserves our nation's cultural heritage by building conservation knowledge and expertise in Ukraine. Department of Conservation of Works of Art, National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, Kyiv, Ukraine. If you would like to get in contact with Blue Sky, email secretariat@ourworldheritage.org.

[8]

National Heritage Institute of Poland - coordination point

A few weeks ago, a coordination point was launched in our Institut, where specific cultural institutions from Ukraine (currently over 50) can report their needs and we provide them with help obtained from Polish and European organizations. With a system of deliveries and contacts, it works better everyday. Polish Center to safeguard Cultural Heritage in Poland contact: ukraina@nid.pl.

[9]

European Cultural Foundation - letter to EU cultural ministers

www.culturalfoundation.eu/stories/urgent-plea-for-eu-to-demonstrate-a-culture-of-solidarity-with-cultural-actors-from-ukraine

[10]

ICOMOS International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) is working on a list of initiatives on preservation.

www.icomos.org/en

www.landscapes.icomos.org

[11]

The Institute of Conservation (ICON) - overview of initiatives, happy to use their newly created Basecamp teams to 'crowdsource' advice from object/collections conservators connected to Icon.

www.icon.org.uk/resource/support-for-ukraine-conserving-cultural-heritage

[12]

Victoria and Albert Museum - Culture in Crisis Programme

www.cultureincrisis.org

[13]

City of Sanctuary United Kingdom - A movement of welcome across the UK. From community groups to councils, schools to libraries, these vibrant networks provide support, dignity and welcome to refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

www.cityofsanctuary.org / <https://data.cityofsanctuary.org/universities/list>

[14]

Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage (ARCH) is working to create education materials about Ukrainian cultural heritage including folk tales etc. for German and Austrian schools, in order for refugee children to feel familiar, and for the other children to learn about Ukraine. If you want to participate please contact us: info@archinternational.org.

[15]

Heritage for Peace almost completed a short training on how to protect, respond and recover historic buildings threatened by fire.

[16]

Blue Shield are currently collating advice briefs for protection and evacuation, including movable and immovable heritage. This includes the work we are doing on explosive and ballistic damage to immovable heritage. There are also conversations about recording of damage for judicial processes. Email lisa.mol@uwe.ac.uk if you want more info or contacts to the right person.

[17]

Bamberg World Heritage City (Germany)

www.welterbe.bamberg.de/en/aktuelles/events-en/unesco-world-heritage-in-ukraine

[18]

Blue Shield International is doing a lot in coordination with different international institutions and coordinating the sending of materials to Ukraine.

www.theblueshield.org

[19]

World Heritage Watch has mobilized 25 Museums throughout Germany and neighboring countries who donate packaging materials. There will be more than 10 truck loads delivered to Lviv in the near future.

[20]

Centre Européen de Musique - chain of solidarity for Ukrainian musicians

www.cemusique.org/en/charte-solidarite-ukraine

www.cemusique.org/en/chaine-solidarite-ukraine-europe

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

[21]

Europa Nostra / Global Heritage Fund

www.europanostra.org/ukraine-crisis

[22]

Aliph Foundation

Contributed \$2M USD to cultural heritage preservation in Ukraine – sites, monuments, libraries, museums, and archives. \$1.3 M to support 60+ museums – fire extinguishers, transport of equipment from Geneva, artifact storage in the west of the country for protection, working with Universities to monitor heritage sites, and an emergency restoration program with conservation laboratories.

www.aliph-foundation.org

[23]

Organization of World Heritage Cities (OVPM)

www.ovpm.org/2022/03/10/owhc-initiative-for-ukraine-cultural-heritage

[24]

International Council of Museums (ICOM) - ICOM Call for Donations to Support Museums and Museum Professionals in Ukraine

www.icom.museum/en/news/icom-call-for-donations-to-support-museums-and-museum-professionals-in-ukraine

[25]

Canada has committed \$4.5 million to UNESCO to support the safeguarding of the heritage and culture of Ukraine. This donation should be coordinated with the plans mentioned here:

www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/03/24/prime-minister-concludes-successful-visit-belgium-and-announces

[26]

Nordiska museet foundation (Sweden) raised about 100 thousand euro to help Ukrainian museums:

www.nordiskamuseet.se/artiklar/ekonomisk-insamling-att-radda-ukrainas-kulturarv?fbclid=IwAR2o-uis00ts83ZofsvnOj1NSJugruJ4ZipB1IKfzDG8xPsUrqs66KdlZCw

Information in English about the start of the work, March 3:

www.mynewsdesk.com/se/nordiska_museet/pressreleases/nordic-museums-launch-fund-to-save-ukrainian-cultural-heritage-3166110

[27]

UNESCO

<https://www.unesco.org/en/ukraine-war>

[28]

World Monuments Fund's (WMF) Ukraine Heritage Response Fund

www.wmf.org/ukraine-heritage-response-fund

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS IN UKRAINE

[28]

Prince Claus Fund - Cultural Emergency Response programme (CER)

www.princeclausfund.org/cultural-emergency-response

www.princeclausfund.org/open-calls/save-heritage-now

[29]

European Cultural Foundation - Culture of Solidarity Fund / Ukraine special edition

www.culturalfoundation.eu/stories/culture-of-solidarity-fund-ukraine-edition/

INSTITUTES STATING THEIR PRESENCE IN THE CHAT BOX:

ICOMOS UK ■ Blue Shield Georgia ■ Villa Decius Krakow ■ ICOMOS Israel ■ ARCH International (USA) ■ ICOMOS Ukraine ■ ICONEM ■ World Heritage Watch ■ Victoria and Albert (UK) ■ World Heritage Regensburg (Germany) ■ Heritage for Peace (Spain) ■ National Museum of the History of Ukraine ■ Institute of Conservation ■ Center for Religion and Heritage (Netherlands) ■ The institute of Conservation - ICON ■ Scan in Action (Switzerland) ■ Archi.Media Trust (Italy) ■ Department of Art Conservation, University of Delaware ■ Red Arch Cultural Heritage Law & Policy Research (USA) ■ Heritage Studies Department, University of Porto (Portugal) ■ European Heritage Volunteers ■ Estonian Heritage Society ■ General Directorate for Cultural Heritage (Portugal) ■ City of Warsaw ■ OWHC Regional Secretariat Eastern and Central Europe in Warsaw ■ International National Trusts Organization - INTO ■ Poland Rotary Club Zamosc Ordynacki ■ UCL (UK) ■ Colgate University, Hamilton (USA)

REMARKS IN THE CHAT BOX:

[30]

"Ukrainian colleagues: keep the sources about the current war. Artifacts and photos have to be kept, but also examples of folklore, jokes and other examples of intangible cultural heritage. For instance, in Kharkiv we distinctly see it and try to trace it as much as possible"

[31]

"Kharkiv has a lot of architectural "young heritage" of the 20th century. Much was in the process of determining its legal protective status. Due to the ongoing hostilities, **it is now difficult for us to even calculate what we have lost.** And **we need technical assistance now to understand how to quickly conserve heritage sites so that they are not destroyed in the process of restoring the city's infrastructure.**"

[32]

"... **Many of our colleagues were forced to leave their cities - Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv.** Many of them left Ukraine. But **we are all in close contact thanks to the Internet.**"

[33]

"Collections cannot travel abroad without authorities approval, the government should be engaged directly. This is a relevant topic to discuss on the highest level."

[34]

"As well as the threat to world heritage sites we should also note the **destruction of places of worship, monuments and vernacular structures, such as the historic timber framed buildings that are so characteristic of Ukraine.** The continuing conflict poses a threat to objects and places that are representative of the whole of Ukrainian society and which embody Ukraine's distinctive and previous culture. Many of these have not yet been fully recorded or studied."

[35]

"Which sites are most at risk? Probably all. **But the biggest threat goes to wooden churches.** As you know, several churches have already been destroyed in eastern Ukraine."

[36]

"...Probably the **biggest necessity for Ukrainian cities will be support from specialists in the area of restoration of historical buildings and objects.** It could be seminars and consultations of the main specialists in this area, transfer of the actual technologies and materials."

[37]

"**It is very important to know which are the real needs we can meet now and in the near future,** when there will be the need to reconstruct structures and organizations."

[38]

"Today we cannot count on funding from the Ukrainian state. After all, all state funds go to defend against the Russian attack. Therefore, **we hope for international support in the preservation and reconstruction of monuments.** To this end, ICOMOS Ukraine is in close coordination with all active centers of heritage defenders in Ukraine."

[39]

"**International attention for a crisis usually lasts 2 years** unless another crisis draws attention."

[40]

"Before the international heritage community decides what is needed, **we should leave the programming to our colleagues in Ukraine. We can, however, support them.**"

[41]

"**Fire extinguisher advice:** "In the galleries we have water mist and water fire extinguishers (plain, not 'water plus') in agreement with our Scientific and Curatorial department, as they deemed that it would have the least negative impact on any type of paint used on canvas, and the painting could still be recovered by Conservation Department afterwards. Some of the paints are of organic type (made from natural colorants) so they are very fragile and also old. The best would be water mist as it causes the least damage to the paintings due super fine water spray and it has broad firefighting capabilities. We also have CO2 extinguishers in the galleries but they are there for electrical fires only, as the gas discharged under pressure and 'frost' effect could cause more damage to the paintings than the water mist. However if 'needs is must' Co2 could be used on glazed paintings (any type of paint), as the damage would be more controlled. I would also like to mention training, as our Security officers and Art Handling team are trained on art salvage (annual refresher training) and how to use extinguishers to cause least damage to the art. That also plays a big part in our case."

[42]

www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/boris-edwards-a-ukrainian-refugee-artist-fleeing-to-malta.943734

[43]

"**ICOMOS Ukraine has asked to move the session of the World Heritage Committee from Kazan to another location.** Will it be Lviv? Maybe - although Lviv is also under fire. Rockets fall at a distance of 1 km from the historic center. Thanks to volunteers and international assistance, we started the physical protection of monuments in the center of Lviv on the third day of the war. The work continues."

[44]

"Only the 21 member states of the WHC can decide a change of location and of the chair, who was appointed last year in China. **Paris might be a realistic fall back:**

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45COM.>"

[45]

“Moving the WHC 45COM from Kazan appears to be quite difficult. **The World Heritage Committee must take this decision by a 2/3 majority and we should all put pressure on the 21 members to vote for this.** Then removing the Chair is another Question. The new host country should declare the Russian president, who is elected ad personam, a persona non grata and deny him a visa. The other Option is that a simple majority of Committee members boycott the session and then there will be no quorum for any decision.”

[46]

Europa Nostra conveyed an urgent appeal to all 21 members of the World Heritage Committee concerning the chairmanship and location of the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee.

www.europanostra.org/europa-nostra-2022-session-of-the-world-heritage-committee-cannot-be-chaired-by-russia-and-cannot-take-place-in-kazan

(FYI: the 21 Member States of the World Heritage Committee (WHC 45COM):

Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Zambia. www.whc.unesco.org/en/committee)

OPEN QUESTIONS IN THE CHAT BOX:

- “I would like to hear from our Ukrainian colleagues whether there is a need - and a possibility - to evacuate certain cultural heritage objects abroad to save it from being looted by Russian Forces.”
- “Can there be a way for us to remain in touch with each other and to coordinate our small and large possible help and contributions?”
- “Have there been opportunities for Ukrainian scholars through the CARA fellowship programme?”
- “What about the bearers of the intangible cultural heritage, including the ukrainian elements inscribed on the lists of the 2003 Convention?”
- “I will completely understand if the information is going to be kept private for now, but is there any possibility of sharing knowledge of sites that have been robbed, who was involved in the theft, etc.?”
- “When the war ends there will be a rush of international architects, planners and engineers wanting to do projects in Ukraine. As we see from the past this is often uncoordinated. Do you think that us in cultural heritage conservation can support training these external professionals so skills are correctly applied, mistakes are minimized and authenticity retained?”

