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Delegations will find attached document EEAS(2023) 740.

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# EEAS(2023) 740

## EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Integrated Approach for Security and Peace (ISP)

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## CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	3
INTRODUCTION .....	5
1. EU SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE IN UKRAINE .....	6
2. CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF CSDP .....	9
3. THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY .....	13
4. SUSTAINABLE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE .....	15
5. COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS .....	35
6. WAY FORWARD .....	36

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present report on the implementation of the "Concept on Cultural Heritage in Conflicts and Crises. A Component for Peace and Security in European Union's External Action", covers the period June 2022 - May 2023. It uses the same methodology and follows a structure similar to the 2022 report.

The document starts by presenting the situation in Ukraine and the actions undertaken by the EU in support for Ukrainian cultural heritage: provision of emergency protection materials and equipment, help with 3-D documentation and emergency inventories, promotion of Ukrainian cultural heritage in Europe, exchange of good practices on fighting illicit trafficking and investigation and prosecution of cultural heritage crimes, support for cultural heritage professionals, etc.

The report analyses then how the topic of cultural heritage has continued to be integrated in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). As such, it looks at the political framework and the EU Policy on training for CSDP, as well as at field actions undertaken by both civilian and military missions. In this context, it is worth mentioning that besides EUAM Iraq, which has a specific task on tackling trafficking and destruction of cultural goods, several other civilian CSDP missions (e.g. EUAM Ukraine, EUBAM Libya, EUBAM Rafah, EUMM Georgia) have helped host states to strengthen their capacities to preserve and protect cultural heritage, performing such actions within their existing mandates and operational plans.

Fighting against illicit trafficking of cultural property is a way to foster security and help the stabilisation process in conflicts and crises. As Chapter III indicates, some CSDP missions are located in source and/or transit countries for illegally excavated/traded cultural objects, therefore their actions for preventing looting and fighting against illicit trafficking of cultural heritage plays an important role. This fits also into EU's overall approach, presented by the recently adopted the EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods<sup>1</sup>, which provides an overarching framework for the EU and MS to advance prevention, detection and criminal justice response to cultural property trafficking and related crimes.

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods (16107/22).

The EU recognises cultural heritage as a vector for peace, reconciliation, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development. Given this, Chapter IV of the report presents a series of relevant EU projects where cultural heritage is an integral element in sustainable development and positive societal transformation of countries all around the globe. These actions are developed in coordination with or implemented by partners such as UNESCO, UNDP, EUNIC, Goethe Institute, Institut Francais, local and regional NGOs. The EU also supports relevant international organizations in this field, recognizing that protection of cultural heritage is a global endeavour that needs extensive cooperation with different partners.

The final part of the report looks at the further needs for addressing cultural heritage in the context of EU external actions, suggesting that in the framework of combating crimes related to cultural heritage, the EU Delegations and CSDP Missions could provide technical assistance to host states, also through the TAIEX and TWINNING instruments; could support the implementation of provisions contained in relevant international conventions; and could enable peer-to-peer exchanges among states.

## INTRODUCTION

Recognising the importance of coordination and synergies between the EU and its Member States (MS) for maximizing the impact of our actions in support for cultural heritage in conflicts and crises, and in line with the EU Integrated Approach, the present report informs MS on the progress made in the implementation of the “Concept on cultural heritage in conflicts and crises. A component for peace and security in European Union’s external action”.

The 21 June 2021 Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on EU Approach to Cultural Heritage in Conflicts and Crises<sup>2</sup> invited the EEAS and the European Commission to report to the Political and Security Committee (PSC), on a regular basis, on the progress made in the implementation of the measures proposed and of the main elements set out in the Concept on cultural heritage in conflicts and crises. The first annual progress report was presented to MS in September 2022 (on 5 September 2022, in CIVCOM, and on 20 September 2022 in PSC).

The 2022 Report provided a comprehensive overview covering both the CSDP and the EU’s broader approach to cultural heritage in contexts of conflicts and crises with an analysis based on data collected from the EEAS, the European Commission Services, the EU Delegations and the EU CSDP missions. This methodology has been maintained for the current report as well.

The 2023 progress report on the implementation of the EU Concept on cultural heritage in conflicts and crises assesses the period June 2022 – May 2023. At the recommendation of MS, it extends the part addressing the CSDP, incorporating also data from military missions. In addition, in the final section, “*Way Forward*”, the report aims at providing the EU Delegations and the CSDP Missions and Operation with a series of suggestions on how to further operationalise the Concept, the Council Conclusions and in general the European policies on cultural heritage in conflicts and crises.

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<sup>2</sup> Council Conclusions on EU Approach to Cultural Heritage in conflicts and crises ([9837/21](#))

### 1. EU SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN UKRAINE

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has spiralled into a fully-fledged humanitarian catastrophe. As it continues, the number of destroyed or severely damaged cultural heritage landmarks, such as monuments, museums, art collections, libraries and archives, only increases. According to the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment carried out by the World Bank in coordination with the EU and the Ukrainian Government, from 24 February 2022 until 24 February 2023, the damage costs from identified cultural heritage assets were estimated at \$2.6 billion, the total needs for the recovery and reconstruction, including delivery restoration amounting to \$6.9 billion over the next 10 years<sup>3</sup>. The protection and stabilisation of cultural heritage sites that have already been or are at risk of being damaged requires an immediate support. This is to prevent further deterioration of already damaged sites and limit new damages and thefts.

As part of the support to Ukraine and in the spirit of the Integrated Approach to external conflicts and crises, the EU has engaged an immediate response for the physical protection of tangible cultural heritage and support for Ukrainian artists, the EU Delegation in Kyiv repurposing the ongoing projects in order to respond to emergency needs. In addition, dedicated actions under the Rapid Response pillar of NDICI-Global Europe financing instrument were undertaken.

Already on 15 March 2022, the EU has brought forward the project “Acting to preserve Ukrainian Heritage”, implemented by the ALIPH Foundation. The aim of this project is to provide emergency protection materials and equipment for the protection of monuments, buildings and collections; support the 3-D documentation, emergency inventory, storage and, where needed, in-country evacuation of cultural heritage goods; as well as to provide support for Ukrainian cultural heritage professionals. So far, over 160 museums, libraries and archives, and almost 400 cultural heritage professionals from Ukraine have benefited from this project. For these actions, the EU allocated EUR 2 million under the Rapid Response pillar of NDICI-Global Europe.

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<sup>3</sup> “Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, February 2022 – February 2023”, page 58, available at: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099184503212328877/pdf/P1801740d1177f03c0ab180057556615497.pdf>

The EU has supported also the promotion of Ukrainian culture in Europe. Between July-September 2022, the EEAS “adopted”<sup>4</sup> the exhibition “Unfolding Landscapes” representing major artworks of 42 Ukrainian artists. This exhibition had been opened in Denmark before the Russian war of aggression and was supposed to be shipped back to Ukraine in May 2022. As in the context of war this was not possible, the EU supported its relocation to Brussels, at the Royal Museum of Art and History. This was the first stop of a large European tour of the exhibition.

In late 2023 the European Commission will sign a grant supporting the efforts of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) to deliver capacity building to Ukrainian cultural heritage professionals through training sessions. The aim of the grant is to upskill Ukrainian professionals to protect Ukrainian cultural heritage from risks, to conduct proper needs assessment, as well as to prepare reconstruction, with quality principles on intervention on cultural heritage.

Given the threats of looting and trafficking but also the need for investigation and accountability for crimes committed against Ukrainian cultural heritage, in May 2023, the EU CSDP Advisory Mission in Ukraine organised, in Lviv, a two-day high-level conference “Cultural Heritage Crime – In Wartime and Beyond”, which brought together international and Ukrainian experts from Law Enforcement Agencies, judicial area and cultural heritage sector. The aim of the event was to facilitate the development of the best models of cooperation between the three professional areas involved in recovery, investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against Ukrainian cultural heritage by the Russian militaries.

At the same time, the EU is preparing medium and long term actions regarding reconstruction, restoration or revitalisation of Ukrainian tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Based on the Council Resolution on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026,<sup>5</sup> the European Commission has established an expert sub-group on safeguarding cultural heritage in Ukraine. It comprises 26 experts (including six of Ukrainian nationality) and will focus on exchanges of experience and good practices in the field of the damage prevention,

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<sup>4</sup> “Unfolding landscapes – art exhibition”, 13 July 2022, available at: [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/unfolding-landscapes-art-exhibition\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/unfolding-landscapes-art-exhibition_en)

<sup>5</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOC\\_2022\\_466\\_R\\_0001](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOC_2022_466_R_0001)

preparedness and recovery of cultural heritage. The sub-group will advise and assist the European Commission in the process of recovery of Ukrainian cultural heritage. The first meeting of the sub-group took place on 12 June, and the second will take place in September.

In addition, the Creative Europe programme is funding the “U-RE-HERIT” project that provides capacity building support and training to Ukrainian architects and cultural heritage professionals to contribute to the post-war recovery of their country. Last but not least, the European Commission is helping Ukrainian cultural organisations store digitized models of their collections on safe servers located within the EU. This is done through the project 4CH – Save the Ukraine Monuments.

### 2. CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF CSDP

The EU has integrated the topic of cultural heritage into the political framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The Strategic Compass for Security and Defence reiterates that the EU “will continue to contribute to the protection of cultural heritage, including through our CSDP missions and operations”, and the revised 2023 civilian CSDP Compact highlights the need to increase efforts to preserve and protect cultural heritage<sup>6</sup>. In addition, the dedicated mini-concept for civilian CSDP missions offers guidance on addressing security challenges related to the preservation and protection of cultural heritage<sup>7</sup>.

The EU has also incorporated cultural heritage into conflict analyses and in the the EU Policy on Training for CSDP<sup>8</sup>. In this context, the topic of cultural heritage protection has become part of pre-deployment training organised by the European Security and Defence College for Civilian CSDP and dedicated training for specific positions in Missions and Operations are currently prepared.

Tasks related to cultural heritage can be performed within the existing mandates and operational plans of CSDP missions, without specific references. As such, several civilian missions (e.g. EUAM Iraq, EUAM Ukraine, EUBAM Libya, EUBAM Rafah, EUMM Georgia) help host States to strengthen their capacities to preserve and protect cultural heritage.

The mandate of **EUAM Iraq** includes among its tasks the fighting organised crime and tackling trafficking and destruction of cultural goods. Since its establishment, the mission has been advising Iraqi authorities on cultural heritage protection and building their capacity through international cooperation. With a dedicated advisor for the protection of cultural heritage, EUAM has enhanced its relationship with the most relevant actors in the area of protection of Iraqi cultural heritage. As such, in coordination with UNESCO, the mission has

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<sup>6</sup> Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the establishment of a Civilian CSDP Compact ([9588/23](#))

<sup>7</sup> Civilian CSDP Compact - Mini-concept on possible civilian CSDP efforts to address security challenges linked to the preservation and protection of cultural heritage (12499/22).

<sup>8</sup> Implementing Guidelines for the EU Policy on Training for CSDP ([11437/22](#))

supported the Minister of Culture to launch a cultural heritage protection awareness campaign for Iraqi students: “Future generations will protect our past”<sup>9</sup>. Moreover, it has advised the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the Office of National Security Advisor (ONSA), the Ministry of Culture and other relevant counterparts on their capability development to counter trafficking of cultural heritage goods.

In the context of absence of an Iraqi national catalogue of cultural heritage, incomplete inventories of many museums collections, and inexistence of a national database of stolen cultural property, in December 2022, EUAM started the second phase of the ‘Pilot Database for Cultural Heritage Protection in Iraq’ (CHP Phase II), financed by the German government. The project offers a modular technological solution, compatible with existing international systems such as the INTERPOL database.

The **EUAM Ukraine** supports national authorities through advice on improving criminal investigations and enhancement of Integrated Border Management. In the context of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the mission has also provided support, as mentioned above, for the protection of cultural heritage. In order to equip the Ukrainian national authorities with tools to better address the crimes in this sector, EUAM organised, on 18-19 May 2023, in Lviv the international conference "Cultural Heritage Crime – In Wartime and Beyond", which brought together international and Ukrainian experts from law enforcement, judicial and cultural heritage sectors, with the aim of sharing good practices on combating crimes related to cultural heritage. This event was only a first step of a more in-depth action by the mission in its engagement in protection of cultural heritage in conflicts and crises.

**EUMM Georgia** has continued streamlining aspects related to cultural heritage in its monitoring activities. The cultural heritage has been included in the internal Mission documents (the Mission Implementation Plan and Mission Information Collection Plan) and the EUMM Human Rights Action Plan 2022 incorporates the goals to promote new initiatives and approach to advance cultural heritage monitoring.

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<sup>9</sup> Awareness of Cultural Heritage (2022-2023) Budget: EUR 20.000, Implementing Partner: EUAM Iraq.

EUMM Georgia monitors (including through an extensive use of satellite imagery and open source information) and reports on cultural heritage risks in breakaway regions, as well as challenges in terms of access to cultural heritage sites by the conflict-affected communities. In its capacity as a co-facilitator of Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM),<sup>10</sup> the mission actively promotes the protection of conflict-related cultural heritage of great significance to the communities affected by conflict. This is advocated also in the external communication of the mission, including during the European Heritage Days.

The Mission promotes also cultural heritage as cross-cutting issue in its Confidence Building Facility initiatives, seeking to build on mutual understanding and respect for cultural values of the conflict-affected communities on both sides of the Administrative Boundary Lines (ABLs). In 2022, three controlled crossing points at the South Ossetian ABL were temporarily opened for regular cross-ABL traffic around Orthodox Easter and Lomisoba religious celebrations.

At the request of the Libyan Ministry of Interior for support for the protection of archaeological sites, **EUBAM Libya** facilitated, in May 2022, the first training of law enforcement units on this topic, in collaboration with TAIEX and the Italian Carabinieri Command for Protection of cultural Heritage. The aim of the workshop was to share peer-to-peer expertise regarding field intervention for the protection of cultural heritage between the Italian Carabinieri and the Department of Tourism Police and Protection of Antiquities established under the Ministry of Interior of Libya.

In the framework of its tasks on building up the Palestinian capacity, improving cooperation between the different border agencies, monitoring the operations at the Rafah Crossing Point and liaising between the Palestinian, Israeli, and Egyptian Authorities in all aspects regarding the management of the crossing, **EUBAM Rafah** has also facilitated trainings in the field of cultural heritage protection for the Palestinian Authorities General Administration for Borders and Crossings (GABC). They were conducted by the Italian Carabinieri Command

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<sup>10</sup> The Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) meetings were established in 2009. They are co-chaired by the EU Monitoring Mission Georgia and the OSCE. Two formats exist – one for Abkhazia, held in the town of Gali, and one for South Ossetia, near the village of Ergneti. The meetings take place usually on a monthly basis.

for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, in the framework of the Bilateral Italian Training Mission MIADIT Palestine.

In the military CSDP, the protection of cultural heritage is mentioned in a limited number of mission plans. It is also part of the legal training of two missions: **EUMAM Ukraine ST-C** and **EUTM Somalia**, which includes the protection of cultural heritage in the mandatory Human Rights training module for Somali National Armed Forces.

The cultural advisors (CULAD) represent an important asset for widening the scope of activities carried out by the missions in this domain. An illustrative example in this regard comes from **EUTM Mali**, where the visits and participation of CULAD and other personnel of the mission to cultural events increased the awareness of the necessity of cultural heritage protection training both for local authorities and the staff of the mission.

**3. THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY**

Looting of cultural heritage and illicit trafficking of cultural property represent major security concerns. Such actions can constitute a way to access funds for the financing of criminal or terrorist activities and are often linked with money laundering. Fighting against illicit trafficking of cultural property is thus a way to foster security and help the stabilisation process in conflicts and crises. As some CSDP missions are located in source and/or transit countries for illegally excavated/traded cultural objects, preventing looting and fighting against illicit trafficking of cultural heritage priorities have been included among their priorities (e.g. EUAM Iraq).

In December 2022, the European Commission adopted the EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods<sup>11</sup>, which provides an overarching framework for the EU and MS to advance prevention, detection and criminal justice response to cultural property trafficking and related crimes – and thus to protect cultural heritage from criminal harm. The action plan focuses on trafficking of cultural goods - including theft, robbery, forgery, looting - and connected crimes such as smuggling, document forgery or corruption. It also addresses related crimes based on attractiveness/vulnerabilities of the specific features of cultural goods or the markets where they are traded for committing these crimes. Such crimes include money laundering or sanctions evasion, even if these crimes are committed with legally acquired cultural property.

An effective fight against cultural goods trafficking requires action beyond the EU's borders. Therefore, the EU external action focuses on measures in source, transit and destination countries outside the EU, including those in conflicts and crises.

Fighting illegal trade in cultural property is also included among the EU's priorities for the fight against serious and organised crime for EMPACT (the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) 2022-2025, specifically in the Operational Action Plan on Organised Property Crime, in which several operational actions are aimed at disrupting criminal networks involved in organised crimes regarding cultural property.

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<sup>11</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods (16107/22).

A great majority of EU Delegations which provided input for this annual report stated that despite indications that crime against cultural heritage is signalled in their respective host states<sup>12</sup>, the statistics on it are limited<sup>13</sup>, as well as the databases of stolen objects<sup>14</sup> and specialized law enforcement<sup>15</sup>. Furthermore, there is scarce monitoring on illegal archaeological excavations<sup>16</sup>.

A series of actions can be devised, in accordance with EU available tools (such as TAIEX and TWINNING), in order to address this challenges and increase the global response to traffic in cultural property. Protecting cultural heritage in a broader sense helps to foster peace and development, and therefore increases the security in the long term, while fighting trafficking in cultural property can have an immediate impact on the security of the European Union and its MS. In this regard, fighting crimes related to cultural heritage represents the paradigm of the importance of the internal-external security nexus: helping third countries in combating internal criminal trends foster security within the European Union.

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<sup>12</sup> 61% of the replies from Delegations indicated that there is information about illegal activities threatening cultural heritage.

<sup>13</sup> 25% of the Delegations have knowledge of existing statistics on crimes regarding cultural heritage.

<sup>14</sup> 24% of the replies indicated the existence of dedicated databases on stolen cultural property.

<sup>15</sup> 26% of the replies indicated the existence of police units specialized in crimes against cultural heritage.

<sup>16</sup> 31% of the replies indicated the existence of a system to keep track of illegal archaeological excavations.

#### 4. SUSTAINABLE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The EU recognises cultural heritage as a vector for peace, reconciliation, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development. The dedicated EU Concept and Council Conclusions provide key principles and an operational approach for EU strategic engagement throughout the entire conflict cycle: from preventive actions to safeguarding measures and recovery processes. They are fully integrated in the Council resolution on the EU work plan for culture 2023–2026<sup>17</sup>, in which not only the intrinsic value of culture and cultural heritage in contributing to strengthening European identity is recognised, but also the role of culture as an integral element in sustainable development and positive societal transformation as well as its role in the EU's external relations and cooperation with other international bodies.

In order to better understand the impact of our external actions in the field of cultural heritage, the EU Delegations (EUEDEs) across the globe have been involved in a survey that was aimed at acquiring information regarding actual and future possible engagement of the EU in this field. In this regard a wide majority of EUEDEs participating to the survey indicated that the involvement of the European Union in projects supporting cultural heritage (both tangible and intangible) is extensive, and that there is more space for implementation of actions in this domain<sup>18</sup>.

Over the reported period, the EU together with implementing partners has continued, started and planned new projects aiming at protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage all around the world.

##### **In sub-Saharan Africa:**

- Angola

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<sup>17</sup> Council Resolution on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026 (2022/C 466/01)

<sup>18</sup> 79,3% of the participating Delegations indicated that their host states would need support in the field of cultural heritage, either tangible or intangible.

*Recovery, Enhancement and Dissemination of the Tchokwe Musical Heritage* (2019-2023), Budget: EUR 35,000, Implementing Partners: Dundo Regional Museum, Jesuit Refugee Service.

The project's main objective is to generate cultural, economic and social development through the recovery, preservation and transmission of the Tchokwe Musical Heritage. It contributes to Dundo's Regional Museum work on digitisation of musical archives; provides support to the musicians and artisans of instrument specifically used to play Tchokwe's music ('kisanji'); and helps Dundo's Ethnographical Museum in its awareness raising and educational role, in view of attracting general public interest and tourism to the Lunda-Norte region.

- Burkina Faso

*Identitaire (film)* (March – October 2023), Budget: EUR 59,447, Implementing Partner: Loyale Production.

The aim of the project is to contribute to the protection of movable heritage through audio-visual awareness. *Identitaire* is a series that explores cultural heritage in Africa and its importance in preserving African identity and values. The series focuses on the trafficking of art objects, which threatens the African cultural heritage.

*Ouaga Street Art Tour, 1<sup>ère</sup> édition : une mise en valeur artistique du patrimoine urbain et humain des quartiers de Ouagadougou* (February – August 2023), Budget: EUR 35,363, Implementing Partner: Urban Faso.

This project seeks to produce a series of murals in graffiti and drawing in 12 districts of Ouagadougou. The content of these frescoes will highlight the historical memory and culture of Burkina Faso based on strong identity references linked to each district.

*Production of a 3D animated series «Burkina Faso : Un pays , un peuple , une culture plurielle et diverse»* (February 2023 – March 2024), Budget: EUR 39,763 Implementing Partner: PIT PRODUCTION.

The aim of the project is to produce a multifunctional audio-visual medium that will ensure the cultural education of youth and the promotion of cultural heritage as a way of contributing to social cohesion and living together in Burkina Faso. There will be produced

five episodes of the cartoon series MALAIKA: 1. *Les fresques murales de Tiébélé*; 2. *La lutte en pays SAN*; 3. *Le Nabasga de Zorgho*; 4. *DAFRA et ses silures sacrés*; 5. *Le sable du Gulmu*. The project plans to establish a partnerships with CANAL+, BF1 TV channels for the broadcast.

- Cameroon

*Cameroonian Cultural Network* (January 2023 - December 2023), Budget EUR 69,111. Implementing Partners: CLAC (Centre de lecture et d'animation culturelle de Yaoundé), Goethe-Institut Kamerun, Institut Français du Cameroun, Centre International pour le Patrimoine Culturel et Artistique (CIPCA).

Cameroonian Cultural Network aims to develop the cultural and creative industries by creating jobs in Cameroon and building a value chain to make the work of professionals in the sector decent. It intends to revitalize the artistic and cultural scene in Cameroon and strengthen the development of a distribution system to facilitate access to various artistic and cultural productions. In particular, the project develops a digital and physical platform for a strong network for artists, and to facilitate the distribution of their artistic productions.

- Chad

*Programme d'appui à la gestion concertée des aires protégées et écosystèmes fragiles du Tchad (APEF)* (2017 - 2026), Budget: EUR 34,7 million (EUR 33 million EU contribution), Implementing Partners: African Parks Network (APN), SOS Sahel International France (SOSSIF) and Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature (UICN).

Among the objectives of the project are the promotion of local culture through local crafts and valorisation of historical heritage. A scientific Department of Archaeology set up within the the Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi (RNCE) has inventoried a total of 343 registered archaeological sites. The majority of the sites listed are in very poor conservation status. The best preserved sites are rock art sites located in caves or sheltered by overhanging rock in areas that are difficult to access.

- Eritrea

*Digital Technologies and Cultural Heritage Preservation in Eritrea: a Framework for an Improved Action* (2019-2023), Budget: EUR 300,000, Implementing Partner: Università di Pavia.

The project aims to foster and improve the quality of Digital Cultural Heritage Initiatives (DCHI) in Eritrea (training, mentoring, awareness raising and preparing the National Archive and Library Policy of Eritrea). So far, 13 mini digital libraries have been uploaded with relevant educational materials, academic journals and references as well as entertainment materials by Research and Documentation Center (RDC) digital library team. Around 800 books and 30 periodicals have been digitized; a series of small workshop aimed at encouraging young Eritrean scholars to publish on academic journals have been organised.

- Gambia

*Her Map Gambia* (September 2020 - August 2024), Budget: EUR 500,000, Implementing Partner: Initiative for Heritage Conservation.

The goal of the project is to strengthen civil society organizations (CSOs) as partners and stakeholders in promoting social development, inclusive and sustainable growth in the cultural and creative industries and develop the business skills of heritage and cultural managers in order to achieve greater community solidarity and reduce irregular migration.

Decision makers, employees, tourism professionals and trainers, public opinion leaders, and public authority representatives in all six local government areas of The Gambia outside Greater Banjul have been trained in Cultural Heritage Management (100 people).

*Promoting Investments in Culture, Creative Arts and Sports to Enhance Resilience against Climate Change in Local Communities* (May 2020 - May 2023), Budget: EUR 500,000, Implementing Partner: Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI).

This action pursues a threefold objective: 1) to support the production of innovative handicrafts and promote fair labour conditions; 2) to promote traditional wrestling as intangible cultural heritage with the creation of a network of wrestling training clubs and use wrestling as a tool to create solidarity amongst communities; and 3) to develop a new regulatory environment to promote arts, culture and sports.

Craftsmen, vendors and wrestlers have been trained on topics related to their activities, as well as on entrepreneurship/finance, online marketing, climate change and intellectual

property rights. The project has also supported the passing of the new Intellectual Property Bill in Parliament and has undertaken awareness seminars amongst arts and culture stakeholders.

- Liberia

*Spotlight Initiative – Liberia Country Programme* (2019 – 2023), Budget: EUR 24.1 million (EU contribution: EUR 20.8 million), Implementing Partners: "UN Women" UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, OHCHR.

The project aims at replacing the traditional "bush schools" of Sande secret societies, where Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is practiced, with different structures called Vocational and Heritage Centres (VHCs). These centres aim to provide a platform for dialogue and skills training for women and girls to abandon the practice of FGM. The VHCs will offer alternative livelihood opportunities to former practitioners through climate-smart agriculture, business development, and skill training. The centres will also provide formal primary education and mainstream the transmission of Liberian socio-cultural heritage by traditional practitioners, allowing for "initiation without mutilation". 300 zoes (female traditional practitioners) are now able to sustain themselves and their families through newly acquired skills.

- Mali

*Djigui#(Espoir) – Promotion d'une culture malienne engagée, levier de développement des territoires vulnérables* (December 2022 – May 2026), Budget: EUR 177,000, Implementing Partners: Seed, Street Movie.

The project promotes culture as a lever for social, societal and economic development, with the overall objective of strengthening the creative industries in precarious neighbourhoods by supporting the younger generations of Malians in their role as catalysts for change. It has three main goals: (1) to enhance the value of youth as creators of cultural and social innovations, and to support their integration into a network committed to the development of Malian territories; (2) to support young women in their access to formal and informal creative industries and activities, and to enable their economic and social emancipation; (3) to support the emergence of a local cultural dynamic promoting citizen dialogue and collective expression, through access to culture.

*Brassage interculturel, artistique et sportif des jeunes des régions de Tombouctou et Taoudéni pour la paix et la cohésion sociale* (March 2023 – February 2026), Budget: EUR 299,718, Implementing Partner: Association Festival vivre ensemble.

The objectives of the project are to offer the youth of the two regions a range of activities that promote the development of safe and neutral spaces for intercultural dialogue and capacity building by promoting active citizenship and inter-community relations; and to demonstrate the importance of art and cultural values in social development for better living together through the creation and dissemination of live performances (such as theater and music) produced by young people aimed at the community in its entirety.

*TANMINAKTE - Renforcer la cohésion sociale et le vivre ensemble par la promotion du patrimoine culturel immatériel de Tombouctou* (December 2022 – May 2026), Budget: EUR 200,000, Implementing Partners: Association Malienne pour la Survie au Sahel and Association Festival vivre ensemble.

The objectives of the project are to help young girls and boys “aged 15 to 35” to use various forms of cultural expression to play an active role in promoting social cohesion; and to increase the visibility and promotion of cultural initiatives that promote living together and dialogue between young people and adults, as key for social transformation.

- Somalia

*Leveraging Puntland's Cultural and Sports Heritage in Enhancing Community Resilience and State Building* (2020 –2024), Budget: EUR 400,000, Implementing Partner: KAALO.

The overall objective of the project is to promote gender and youth inclusion in peace and state building in Puntland through culture, arts and sports. The project has created opportunities for strengthening Puntland's Culture, Art and Sports sector given its role in advocacy messaging and public communication on key issues affecting society. In support of sustainable talent management, 200 cultural artists and athletes have so far gained advocacy and human rights management skills.

*Berbera Cultural Centre* (2020 –2023), Budget: EUR 400,000, Implementing Partner: Redsea Online Culture Foundation.

The overall objective is to support the development of a cohesive and inclusive society through culture and heritage. The construction of the Berbera Cultural centre is yet to start. However, trainings in theatrical production, art exhibitions, heritage preservation and poetry competitions have taken place.

- Sudan<sup>19</sup>

*Sudan and Europe-Creative Connections* (2019 - September 2022), Budget: EUR 350,000, Implementing Partner: EUNIC cluster through Goethe Institut.

The main objectives of the project are to reinforce the promotion and sustainable development of culture in Sudan and to strengthen the cultural relationship between Sudan and the EU. It also aims to improve understanding of the value of cultural heritage of Sudan through creation of steering committee and executive team composed of international and local students of archaeology. The project will identify suitable content for youth between the ages 18 – 25 to learn about the artefacts of National Museum of Sudan through audio guide technology.

*Culture for Youth and cohesion* (2023-2026), Budget: EUR 5 million, Implementing Partners: Goethe Institute and Institut Francais.

The aim of the project is to support youth as actors of change in the democratisation and peace process through art and culture as vector of freedom of expression, social cohesion, identity fostering, civic empowerment as well as socio-economic opportunities.

- South Sudan

*Enhancing Civil Society Through Evidence-Based Analysis of Conflict Dynamics and Human Rights Challenges, Promoting Local Women Voices in Research Development and Heritage Preservation in South Sudan* (2020 - 2023), Budget: EUR 1.2 million, Implementing Partner: Rift Valley Institute.

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<sup>19</sup> Information on Sudan predates the conflict started on 15 April 2023.

The project supports the preservation of the South Sudan National Archives as one of its components. A key partner for this work is the Ministry of Culture. The Greater Upper Nile and Greater Equatoria are well represented in the archival collection through previous work and the current project is now bringing documents from Greater Bahr El-Ghazal into the collection. There are also other collections in the country that are to be assessed and archived.

- Tanzania

*European Spaces for Cultures / UMOJA project* (January 2022 – October 2022), Budget: EUR 60.000, Implementing Partners: EUNIC and local partners (CSOs and Public Authorities).

The aim of the project is to create accessible spaces and bring together audiences and artists from East Africa and Europe, enhancing cross cultural collaboration and innovation thus fostering peaceful society. The residency program, the major outcome of the project, has contributed to enhancing cultural exchange between East African and European artists. UMOJA project has brought together Tanzanian artists, cultural institutions and the National Arts Council around a joint project, contributing to better mutual understanding.

*Creative Youth for Social Cohesion* (2023-2026), Budget: EUR 1.4 million, Implementing Partners: Goethe Institute and CEDEA.

The project aims at strengthening the role of culture in the promotion of human rights artistic freedom, democratization, good governance and more peaceful societies, by valorising youth and culture in their contribution to social cohesion at local level - in particular in areas target of vocational education and recruitment of vocational education groups.

- Tanzania, Kenia and Mozambique

*Kujenga Amani: Building peace on the Swahili Coast* (April 2023 – March 2026), Budget: EUR 4 million, Implementing Partners: Comitato Europeo per la Formazione e l'Agricoltura (CEFA), Agency for Peacebuilding, Associacao Mulher Lei E Desenvolvimento (MULEIDE), Muslims Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP), Sambasports Youth Agenda CBO (SSYA), The Global Religions for Children Foundation Tanzania (GRCF), WE WORLD, Conselho Nacional Do Voluntario (CNV), Peace Change

Initiative, Stretchers Youth Organisation, Tanzania 4H Organisation and Tanzania Building Future Organisation (TABAFU).

The initiative focuses on four regions of the Swahili Coast (Tanga and Mtwara regions in Tanzania; Mombasa and Kwale Counties in Kenya; and Cabo Delgado province in Mozambique), cradle of the Swahili culture, with the aim of facilitating dialogue and peaceful cohabitation. The project will provide opportunities and safe spaces for dialogue among youth, religious and traditional leaders, media actors, authorities and security providers. Also, where appropriate, there will be explored solutions to supporting youth-led peacebuilding efforts and promoting of the Swahili creative arts as a way to reduce the potential for conflict between groups, while revitalizing the traditional bonds of solidarity within the populations of the Swahili Coast.

In **the Middle East and North Africa region**, the implementation of ongoing projects continued and new projects were started in:

- Egypt

*Life goes on in the City of the Dead* (2022-2025), Budget: EUR 900,000, Implementing Partner: ARCHINOS LLC.

It builds up on the results of the project “Cultural Heritage for the living in the “City of the Dead” (2017-2022) and continues to focus on preservation of Mamluk heritage and development and promotion of local crafts. Craft objects are now produced and sold by local women trained by the previous project and public cultural events are organised in the restored buildings.

*Boosting Heritage Tourism in Islamic Cairo* (2022-2024), Budget EUR 600,000, Implementing Partner: AGA KHAN FOUNDATION.

The project has contributed to the rehabilitation and conservation of the Al-Maridani Mosque in Islamic Cairo. It will also focus on expanding the tourist route around the mosque and contribute to the increase of economic activity.

- Iraq

*Job creation in the rehabilitation of old cities of Mosul and Basra* (2019-2024), Budget: EUR 20 million, Implementing Partner: UNESCO.

Part of the project “Reviving the Spirit of Mosul and Basra”, it promotes social cohesion, job creation and reconciliation through the restoration and reconstruction of historic urban landscapes. This project will also contribute to economic recovery as well as to social cohesion through creation of decent jobs in re-construction of historical urban centres of Mosul and Basra as well as support small and medium enterprises active in various sectors and the cultural and creative industries.

*Support to livelihood through cultural heritage development in Kurdistan region* (2019-2023), Budget: EUR 4.5 million, Implementing Partner: UNESCO.

The project has supported livelihoods through cultural heritage development, created jobs and promoted the sustainable development of heritage assets in the region. It is contributing to the revitalization of Erbil Citadel and the Charsteen Cave in Dohuk, with the involvement of Syrian refugees, vulnerable host communities and displaced Iraqis working on the sites.

*Education and cultural heritage - BANUU Project* (2020-2023), Budget EUR 1.1 million, Implementing Partner: University of Bologna.

The objective of the project is the designing of new pathways for employability and entrepreneurship of Iraqi students in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.

*European Iraqi Poetry Festival* (December 2022), Budget EUR 5,000, Implementing Partner: INANA Network for Women in Iraq.

The project seeks to provide support to women and youth through poetry as a tool for peace. The first edition of the festival took place during three days in symbolic places in Baghdad.

- Israel

*Safeguarding the Indigenous Heritage in public spaces* (2020-December 2022), Budget: EUR 307,497, Implementing Partners: Emek Shaveh (lead) and the Arab Culture Association (ACA).

The aim of the project is to combat discrimination against the Arab communities in the public space of Israel, demand the historical heritage rights and foster an Israeli historical landscape

that fully represents its multifaceted heritage. The specific objectives are – *inter alia* - to raise awareness of the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of minority groups in Israel and to challenge discriminatory policies when it comes to heritage sites in the public space.

- Jordan

*Support to livelihoods through cultural heritage development in Jordan (2019-2023)*, Budget: EUR 6.5 million, Implementing Partner: UNESCO.

The main objective is to create decent job opportunities through the employment of intensive methods applied to the safeguarding of cultural heritage in the northern districts of Jordan and Iraq. In Jordan, the programme targets almost 2,500 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians, working on six heritage sites in Northern Jordan.

*Supporting the Royal Department for Environment Protection and Tourism (RDEPT) in enforcing environmental and tourism laws effectively in Jordan (2022-2023)*, Budget: EUR 1 million, Implementing Partners: Italian Carabinieri, the Metropolitan City of Florence and EUTALIA.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the institutional framework and capacities of the recently formed Royal Department for Environment Protection and Tourism (RDEPT) in order to enable it to protect the natural and cultural heritage of Jordan. The project aims at enhancing capacities of the RDEPT capacities in the field of cultural heritage protection by increasing its investigating capacities, capacities to secure heritage sites and archaeological areas.

- Lebanon

*Recovery of Housing and Culture & Creative Industries for Beirut (2021-2025)*, Budget: EUR 13 million, Implementing Partners: UN Habitat with support from UNHCR and UNESCO.

Focusing on a people-centred approach, the project aims to bridge the immediate humanitarian response and the medium-term recovery and reconstruction efforts to put Lebanon on a path of sustainable development. The main components are the support for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage residential buildings and access to sustainable housing

solutions for vulnerable households directly affected by the Port of Beirut explosion; and the support for culture and creative industries recovery.

*Liban Cinema* (2022-2024), Budget: EUR 150,000, Implementing Partner: Liban Cinema.

The aim of the project is to support the Lebanese intangible cultural heritage of cinema producers as key actors of the film industry through access to funding and entrepreneurship skills to better cope with the current highly challenging context in Lebanon.

*Project to support operations in Lebanon on Cultural Heritage – PROTECT-HERITAGE* (2022-2023), Budget: EUR 845,892, Implementing Partners: Italian Carabinieri, B&S Europe, Netherlands Police (NPN), ICONEM, Agenzia delle Dogane (Italian Customs) and Osservatorio sulla Sicurezza e Difesa CBRNe (OSDIFE).

The project's overall goal is to contribute to fight against trafficking of stolen and looted cultural property coming from outside the EU into the EU art market. The project aims to boost operational cooperation between EU law enforcement authorities and partner country agencies.

- Libya

*EULEAD II - Libya Expertise, Analysis and Deployment (LEAD), Phases II and III* (2020-2023), Budget: EUR 8 million, Implementing Partner: BUSINESS AND STRATEGIES IN EUROPE - B&S.

The aim of the project is to contribute to overall improvement of human security in Libya as a basis for necessary political reconciliation, confidence-building, and reform. It encompasses capacity building activities for the Tourism Police and staff of the Department of Antiquities, development of Risks Assessment Matrix for the Touristic Police and provision of installation of CCTV system and floodlights on Sabratha archaeological site.

*Strengthening Local Capacity for Resilience and Recovery phase 3 (SLCRR Top-up)* (2022-2023), Budget EUR 207,236, Implementing Partner: UNDP.

The project focuses on the rehabilitation and social valorisation of Al-Akhyar Palace Building. After the rehabilitation works, the castle will host social cohesion events and vocational training activities run by the municipality and CSOs.

- The Occupied Palestinian Territory

*Cultural rights for inclusive and equitable Palestinian development process (2021-2024)*, Budget: EUR 998,419, Implementing Partner: Rozana Association for the Development of Architectural Heritage.

The aim of the project is to place cultural rights at the heart of Palestinian development policies and to ensure an inclusive and equitable development process. The planned activities include enhancing the capacities of cultural and touristic civil society organisations to raise public awareness, documenting violations and impacting decision-making for inclusive cultural rights at local and national levels.

*Palestinian Cultural Radio (2021-2024)*, Budget: EUR 499,996, Implementing Partner: Goethe-Institute e.V.

The project aims to promote Palestinian cultural expression and national identity as well as to contribute to overcoming the geographical and social fragmentation of Palestinian civil society. Specifically, it will enhance the development of independent and critical cultural audio content and audio journalism in remote and marginalised communities in Palestine.

*Stories of Palestine - Palestinian communities promote their culture (2020-2023)*, Budget: EUR 500,000 Implementing Partner: Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V.

The aim of the project is to strengthen adult education centres in Palestinian rural areas in fostering cultural education and action. Specifically, eight community-based adult education centres will enhance their capacities in the provision of cultural actions that promote local cultural heritage. The focus will be on active civic engagement of local women, men and youth with special attention on values of tolerance and respect of cultural diversity. Moreover, the targeted communities will enhance their engagement in artistic expression through increased opportunities for quality cultural education and action.

*A community living museum for Palestinian youth (2020-2023)*, Budget EUR 927,000, Implementing Partner: Associazione di Terra Santa.

The project will preserve and promote the archaeological and artistic heritage of Christianity. A comprehensive educational programme for Palestinian Jerusalemites youth and families

will be developed and promoted to help them understand the value of the Palestinian history and culture. It will also increase the awareness of cultural heritage preservation and its importance for the socio-economic growth of local communities.

- Tunisia

*Patrimoine 3000* (2019-2024), Budget: EUR 16.5 million, Implementing Partners Expertise France and French Ministry of Culture.

This project aims at supporting the development of cultural heritage and is part of the Tounes Wijhetouna (“Tunisia: Our Destination”) which supports the diversification of tourism, the development of handicrafts and the promotion of cultural heritage. The expected results are:

- Renovation of about ten remarkable buildings through a Public/Private Partnership approach;
- Supporting private investments in relation to the renovation and exploitation of heritage buildings;
- Rehabilitation and promotion of the Carthage museum, as well as a technical support (management, visitors reception, museography, scenography);
- Design and implementation of a heritage interpretation centre highlighting the Carthage site to the public.

- Yemen

*Cash for Work Phase II: Supporting youth economic resilience in Yemen through job creation in heritage rehabilitation and creative industries* (2022-2024), Budget: EUR 20 million, Implementing Partner: UNESCO.

This project is a continuation of the Cash for Work intervention, which builds upon the existing resources and models (damage assessment reports, urban rehabilitation guidelines). With this new phase, the geographical scope of the project is expanded to two new governorates (Sa’ada and Socotra). The overall aim of the action is to contribute to improving livelihood opportunities for women and youth in Yemen through creation of employment opportunities in heritage rehabilitation and cultural industries.

The project provides economic relief to local women and youth communities through cash-for-work schemes that distribute wages to at least 6.000 vulnerable low-income youth employed in rehabilitation within urban and rural areas across different Governorates. It

supports also sustainable cultural entrepreneurship that builds the professional capacities of CSOs, provide employment opportunities for 800 youth and engage more than 2000 young culture practitioners in cultural activities while reinforcing social cohesion and dialogue. And finally, the project raises awareness on the untapped role of youth for heritage protection and employment in creative industries as a confidence building measure for peace building.

*Yemen Creative Hubs* (April 2022 – March 2024), Budget: EUR 600,000, Implementing Partner: Goethe Institut.

The Specific Objective of the project is to enhance the capacity and performance of civil society actors in using arts and culture to boost the resilience of communities in fragile context and strengthen peace building process in Yemen. The main activity of the project is the inauguration of three hubs in Sana'a, Mukalla and Aden. They are intended not only as a space where people go to use the facilities or to attend trainings and events, but also offer an alternative to the battlefield. Moreover qualification and financing opportunities for individual cultural workers and cultural organizations in Yemen will be offered.

In **Asia**, the EU has been implementing projects in:

- Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan

*Silk Roads Heritage Corridors in Afghanistan, Central Asia and Iran* (2018 –2024), Budget: EUR 4.4 million, Implementing Partner: UNESCO.

The aim is to promote the contribution of culture to sustainable development, notably through heritage-based tourism development. The activities aim to contribute to improving livelihoods of the communities in the region, including youth and women, through capacity-building and the creation of opportunities for income-generation and jobs; rehabilitation of historical sites and technical assistance to local communities.

In Afghanistan, the project conducted community-based inventorying and other safeguarding activities of intangible cultural heritage, until 2021. At the moment, development support, including to cultural heritage, to Afghanistan remains frozen since the fall of the constitutionally elected Government in August 2021, in line with the EU's 5 benchmarks on Afghanistan.

In Uzbekistan a madrassa was rehabilitated and the Bogbonli Mosque in Khiva was conserved. In Kyrgyzstan the Second Buddhist temple in Krasnaya Rechka was restored and

conserved. In Iran the restoration of four domes of Yengi Eman Caravansary was completed. In Kazakhstan conservation work of Citadel Shakhristan at Kulan site is planned to be launched. Seven Management Plans (MP) for the cultural sites on the World Heritage (WH) and Tentative Lists of Kyrgyzstan and four MPs for the sites of Tajikistan were finalized and are to be submitted to the relevant national authorities for their consideration and approval.

- Burma/Myanmar

*Culture4Peace (C4P)* (2020-2023), Budget: EUR 1.7 million, Implementing Partner: Helvetas.

The objective of the project is to enhance trust and mutual understanding regardless of faith, ethnicity, age or gender by empowering local CSOs and their umbrella organizations to use arts, cultural activities and social projects to create and manage safe, neutral and facilitated spaces for dialogue and joint action. The project involves young men and women or opinion leaders in the promotion of pluralism and social inclusion.

To further capacity development, Helvetas has worked with local partners and the Artists Board (which was established under the project) to develop the Culture for Peace Pluralism Toolbox, which guides CSOs in creating safe, neutral and facilitated spaces for dialogue through arts and culture.

- Philippines

*Civil society, women and youth promoting culture of peace in Mindanao*, (February 2023 – January 2026), Budget: EUR 1 million, Implementing Partners: CARE Nederland (lead coordinator), Oxfam Pilipinas, Community Organizers Multiversity, Inc., Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development, Inc., Nisa Ul Haqq fi Bangsamoro Inc.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to reducing drivers of chronic conflict and violence in Moro and Lumad communities, through the strengthened capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs), and youth and women's groups in Mindanao through: gender-sensitive and inclusive cultural peacebuilding actions and partnerships; documentation of positive peace narratives and preservation of cultural peacebuilding expressions and practices within community structures and in advocacy spaces; improved understanding and recognition of conflict drivers and injustices among conflict-affected Moro and Lumad

communities through the contextualisation of peace education in formal and non-formal education curricula.

- Sri Lanka

*Preservation of traditional creative handloom industry* (December 2021 – June 2022), Budget: EUR 32,000, Implementing Partner: Cultural Relation Platform (led by Goethe Institut).

The project aims at contributing to the preservation of one of Sri Lanka's traditional creative industries and intangible heritage, which has been fragilised during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Education and awareness-raising on intangible cultural heritage* (2022 – July 2022), Budget: EUR 10,000, Implementing Partner: Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.

The project aims, through the medium of art, to sensitise audiences, in particular the young to contemporary political and social issues in Sri Lanka.

In **Europe**, projects aimed at protection of cultural heritage have been developed in the Western Balkans region and the Eastern Partnership countries, Ukraine included (in addition to the emergency actions for the protection of cultural heritage mentioned in Part I).

- Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus<sup>20</sup>, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine)

*EU4Culture* (2021-2024), Budget: EUR 7.9 million, Implementing Partners: Goethe-Institute (lead), the Danish Culture Institute, Czech Centres and the Institut Français.

The EU4Culture project aims to contribute to making culture an engine for growth and social development across the six countries of Eastern Partnership (EaP) region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. It supports the enhancement of the role of the cultural sector as driver of economic development. Through its interregional approach, the project promotes intercultural dialogue and knowledge exchange across the EaP partner countries. EU4Culture contributes to improving local governance in the culture sector through support for regulatory processes and participative

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<sup>20</sup> As of 28 June 2021, Belarus has suspended its participation in the Eastern Partnership.

policy dialogue. The project places culture, the creative industries and cultural heritage sites at its core. These all carry a huge potential for sustainable policies with a broad effect.

- South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Republic of Moldova

*EU4Dialogue* (2021 – 2025), Budget: EUR 15 million, Implementing Partners: UNDP, DAAD, Goethe Institut, CAMPUS France, Latvian National Library.

The objective of the project is to facilitate exchange through education and culture across the divides. This includes exploring the opportunities to increase the use of cultural heritage sites and cultural spaces for confidence building measures through activities such as study visits to EU countries, webinars, workshops and in person events for cultural heritage professionals.

- Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Cultural Heritage Vares, part of the “Empowering Trust and Cohesion in BiH’s Communities”* (April – October 2023), Budget: EUR 12,000, Implementing Partner: “Čuvari bosanske krune Bobovac”, IOM, UNDP and OSCE.

The project seeks to create places of encounter in Vareš by facilitating advocacy efforts and community events gathering; to encourage community-led advocacy processes and collective action in arts and cultural heritage as a tool for strengthening social cohesion in the community; and to increased positive interaction between and within targeted communities.

- Republic of Moldova

*EU Support to Confidence Building Measures, Component 3 - Cultural Heritage* (2019 - 2023), Budget: EUR 4 million, Implementing Partner: UNDP.

The project aims to support cultural heritage conservation/restoration on both banks of the Nistru river. It comprises actions of rehabilitation or restauration of historical monuments of national importance: Bender Fortress (works are ongoing) and Chisinau National Circus (in procurement stage); 10 smaller scale restoration projects of cultural heritage items on both banks of the Nistru river: Macri family tomb in Dubăsarii Vechi, water tower in Soldanesti, museum of Doroțcaia, wind mill from Gaidar, synagogue ruins of Rașcov, Bender higher art school (auditorium), wind tower of Stroienti, church ruins of Rașcov, Beloci water mill, and the restauration of Moldova film cartoons.

- Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia)

*Fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in the Western Balkans* (2020 - 2023), Budget EUR 2.8 million, Implementing Partner: UNESCO.

The project aims to improve legal, technical and institutional frameworks in the Western Balkans for protecting moveable cultural heritage by reinforcing the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods. It enables the assessment of the state of play of the legal, institutional and policy frameworks in the Western Balkans, capacity-building and awareness-raising needs.

*Regional programme to support culture and creativity in the Western Balkans (2022 - 2026)*, budget: EUR 8 million, Implementing Partners: UNESCO, Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo and British Council.

The objective of the project is to foster reconciliation and good neighbourly relations in the Western Balkans through culture. It promotes intercultural dialogue and enhances the socio-economic impact of the cultural and creative sector in the Western Balkans, through a multi-sectorial approach targeting public authorities, the private sector and civil society organisations in culture. The project aims to improve the performance of the cultural and creative sector in the Western Balkans; to strengthen cultural cooperation within and with the Western Balkans; and to enhance inclusive cultural heritage for local development.

In **Central and South America**, the EU has been implementing projects in:

- Argentina

*Respira Córdoba* (March 2021 – February 2024), Budget: EUR 3.2 million (EUR 3 million EU contribution), Implementing Partners: Municipality of Córdoba (Argentina), Municipality of Cordoba (Spain)

The project aims at greening the central area of the city of Córdoba and readapt this space with more accessible cultural routes and a protected and enhanced cultural heritage. The plan includes all the projects to create a healthier, more inclusive, resilient and sustainable city centre.

- Nicaragua

*WINAMBA! Building more resilient communities for the comprehensive well-being of indigenous territories of TAWIRA, PRINZU AUHYA UN Y WANGKI TWI TASBA RAYA, and for their development with identity in the face of climate change* (2021-2024), Budget EUR 900,000 (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights), Implementing Partners: WeWorld - Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (WW-GVC).

The objective of the project is to support indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in improving the management of their territories and their well-being, including youth and women's participation in the management and enjoyment of good living, and the protection of

their identity culture, human rights and women's rights, empowering their structures and contributing to the processes of governance.

*Art and Culture for Coastal Youth in Nicaragua* (2023 onward), Budget: EUR 200,000, Implementing Partner: CCFD-Terre Solidaire.

The project aims at strengthening the capacities for sociocultural development of indigenous and Afro-descendant youth, in the municipalities of Prinzapolka and Kukra Hill of the Autonomous Regions of the North and South Caribbean Coast. It promotes artistic expressions, the rescue of multi-ethnic identities and the psycho-emotional development of coastal youth, as well as the cultural development of adolescent women and young people to face gender-based violence (GBV).

- Peru

*Bicentennial Project - Restoration of the facade of the Museum of Art of Lima* (2020-2022), Budget: EUR 525,000, Implementing Partner: World Monument Fund.

In the framework of the bicentennial of the Independence of Peru (2021), the EU Delegation to Peru funded the restoration of the facade of the Museum of Art of Lima.

*Bicentennial Project - Creation of the “Creole House” and two tourist circuits in Lima* (2020-2023), Budget EUR 200,000, Implementing Partners: A.R.S Progetti S.P.A, Municipality of Lima, World Monument Fund.

On the occasion of the bicentennial of the Independence of Peru (2021) it was created the first “Casa Criolla” (Creole House), a cultural centre that facilitates meeting spaces and, above all, the diffusion, learning and innovation of creole music (which is recognized national intangible heritage) and creole culture. Two tourist circuits have also been created in Lima.

**5. COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS**

Strengthening partnerships with international organisations is at the core of the EU's external relations, notably with UNESCO, which represents the natural first counterpart in actions related to cultural heritage. 2022 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EU-UNESCO strategic partnership: an opportunity to celebrate collaboration and acknowledge the impact achieved so far<sup>21</sup>.

Beyond the cooperation with UNESCO, the EU recognizes the importance of projects carried out by other relevant international organizations in the field of cultural heritage. During the year the EU provided support to:

- The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) in the framework of the activities aimed at protecting Ukrainian Cultural Heritage;
- The International Council of Museum (ICOM), to which financial support was provided in order to upgrade the *ICOM Observatory*, which centralises and disseminates various instruments and materials for international public understanding and policy orientation to protect cultural goods<sup>22</sup>;
- The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), providing expertise in the framework of the program “Combating illicit cross-border trafficking in cultural property in the OSCE area”<sup>23</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/eu-and-unesco-celebrate-10-years-partnership-2022-10-10\\_en](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/eu-and-unesco-celebrate-10-years-partnership-2022-10-10_en)

<sup>22</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods (16107/22).

<sup>23</sup> Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Secretary General's thematic report to the Permanent Council, Vienna, 20 April 2023, Protecting our Heritage while Tackling Organized Crime (SEC.GAL/49/23).

**6. WAY FORWARD**

In the process of collecting data for this report, the EU Delegations have been involved in the mapping of the situation regarding legislation and implementation of cultural heritage policies in their host countries. The aim of the exercise was to look at cultural heritage through the entire spectrum of a crisis or a conflict: from prevention and crisis response, to stabilisation and long-term peacebuilding. This means that a country should not be in an active phase of a crisis or a conflict in order for the EU to assess or support the protection of its cultural heritage (tangible or intangible) with the aim of maintaining or building sustainable peace. Prevention is at the centre of the EU's integrated approach to external conflicts and crises. In this context, relevant aspects do not concern only reconstruction, restoration or revitalisation of cultural heritage, but also the existence of proper inventories, adequate cultural policies, contingency plans and measures, as well as the tools to address crimes related to cultural heritage.

The overall picture based on the inputs from EU Delegations would be usefully completed by proper studies dedicated to national legislations where possible. There was not always the possibility to identify a proper counterpart in national authorities or the situation in the country did not always allow a more in-depth analysis of the issues regarding cultural heritage. Nevertheless, the replies from EU Delegations indicate that there is often a relevant commitment in national legislations regarding the protection of cultural heritage, even if laws and policies are sometimes outdated and recent interventions are somewhat limited<sup>24</sup>. As regards the main measures indicated in the most relevant international guidelines on protection of cultural heritage, the picture is fragmented. National inventories seem to be extensively present<sup>25</sup>, while on the other end national/local emergency protocols for

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<sup>24</sup> 84% of the Delegations indicated that protection and/or enhancement of cultural heritage is addressed in relevant national legislation, however, only 54% have knowledge of recent development of policies/measures in the field.

<sup>25</sup> 71% of the Delegations indicated the existence of a general national catalogue/inventory of cultural heritage.

protection of cultural heritage are scarcely implemented<sup>26</sup> and refugees for endangered heritage - mostly absent<sup>27</sup>.

While every state or region has its own situation and priorities, the need for *capacity building activities on enhancement and protection of cultural heritage for relevant national institutions* has been prioritized the most by EU Delegations, followed by *awareness campaigns on enhancement and protection of cultural heritage for population and/or relevant private stakeholders*<sup>28</sup>.

When it comes to the civilian and military CSDP, the expertise in the area of cultural heritage is envisioned as an added value by the missions themselves<sup>29</sup>, and such expertise could be provided either in the form of dedicated personnel (as it is the case of EUAM Iraq), or in the more flexible form of visiting experts and/or specialized teams. Tasks related to cultural heritage (e.g. fighting illicit trafficking of cultural property) can be performed within the existing mandates, mission plans and operational plans.

In order to combat crimes related to cultural heritage, it is necessary to have an appropriate knowledge of them, and currently, the available intelligence picture may not adequately reflect the prevalence of cultural goods trafficking<sup>30</sup>, either inside or outside the borders of the EU. In this regard the support given to third states by the EU Delegations and CSDP Missions and Operations could be paramount. The EU could provide technical assistance through its crisis management tools to host states for the implementation of provisions contained in relevant international conventions in this field, as well as support peer-to-peer exchanges among states.

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<sup>26</sup> 27% of the Delegations recalled the existence of national/local emergency protocols for cultural heritage.

<sup>27</sup> Only 18% of the replies indicated the existence of refuges for endangered cultural property (safe havens) in case of war, crisis, natural or anthropogenic disasters.

<sup>28</sup> For the complete list of the priorities as indicated by the Delegations, see table in Annex I.

<sup>29</sup> A large majority of the CSDP missions (both military and civilian) inquired during the drafting process of the report stated that they would benefit from the presence of an expert/advisor on cultural heritage protection in the staff.

<sup>30</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods (16107/22).

**Table 1 – Scale of priorities as indicated by EU Delegations**

N.	Actions to prioritize	Average	Weight	Index
1	Capacity building activities on enhancement and protection of cultural heritage for relevant national institutions (ex. trainings).	2,325	1	2,33
2	Awareness campaigns on enhancement and protection of cultural heritage for population and/or relevant private stakeholders.	3,667	0,975	3,76
3	Creation of a general national catalogue of cultural heritage.	3,077	0,65	4,73
4	Establishment of national/local emergency protocols for cultural heritage.	4,063	0,8	5,08
5	Establishment of preparedness and mitigation measures for cultural heritage in case of conflict and crisis.	4,656	0,8	5,82
6	Creation of a national database of stolen cultural property.	4,724	0,725	6,52
7	Establishment/identification refuges for endangered cultural property (safe havens) in case of war, crisis, natural or anthropogenic disasters.	5,8	0,75	7,73
8	Creation of an archaeological risk map.	5,786	0,7	8,27
9	Establishment of a tracking system for cultural property crimes.	5,76	0,625	9,22
10	Establishment of a tracking system for illegal archaeological excavations.	6	0,625	9,6

**Data interpretation:** Delegations were requested to prioritize the possible actions indicated in the table from most (1) to least (10) needed. Not all the delegations participating to the survey were able to provide such prioritization, neither every delegation ranked all 10 priorities. In order to establish a mechanism to define the order of priority two factors have been taken in consideration:

- The “Average” evaluation of the single voice (from highest, 1, to lowest, 10);
- The “Weight” of every single voice, meaning the number of times the specific action was indicated, despite the effective mark assigned (establishing that 1 was the parameter for the voice more cited, all the others were assigned in comparison).

The index obtained is, therefore, a combination of the actual average mark received by every single voice, related to the number of times the action was actually mentioned.