



16th September 2015, 9.00 a.m.

Serdika Hall, [Sofia Hotel Balkan](#), 5 Sveta Nedelia Sq.

Conference “Fighting the looting of Syria’s cultural heritage”

Initiatives to stop illicit antiquities trade financing the Syrian conflict. Awareness raising

The illicit trade with antiquities from Syria is among the less well-understood but increasingly important sources of income for the warring parties in Syria. The following organizations have confirmed their participation: UNESCO Director-General Mrs. Irina Bokova, the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU), the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture, the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior, experts on cultural heritage preservation etc. The conference includes group discussions on the following topics: looting of Syria’s cultural heritage, trafficking and illicit trade, legalization, impact and recovering etc. **Translation to and from English will be provided. The afternoon discussions will be held in English.**

The conference is organized by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Sofia and the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU) under the patronage of UNESCO and in cooperation with the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture, the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior, the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus and the “Walk of Truth” organization (the Netherlands).

Moderator: Mr. Carsten Paludan-Müller (NIKU)

09.00 – 09.45	<p><i>Welcome and introduction speeches (translation to and from English provided):</i></p> <p>H.E. Guro Katharina H. Vikør, Ambassador of Norway to Bulgaria</p> <p>Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO</p> <p>Mrs. Roumiana Bachvarova, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior</p> <p>Mr. Vezhdi Rashidov, Minister of Culture</p> <p>H.E. Stavros Avgoustides, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Bulgaria</p> <p>Mr. Carsten Paludan-Müller, Director-General of NIKU</p>
09.45 – 10.00	Coffee break

<p>10.00 – 12.00</p>	<p><i>Keynote speeches (translation from and to English provided):</i></p> <p>Mr. Neil Brodie, Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research University of Glasgow Cultural property protection failure in Syria and its regional neighbours</p> <p>Ms. Rubina Raja, Aarhus University, Denmark Marketing illicitly exported cultural heritage objects. The case of Palmyra</p> <p>Dr. Kheireddin Al Rifai, conservation architect The reconstruction and rehabilitation of the damaged architectural and urban heritage in Syria</p> <p>Ms. Tasoula Hadjitofi, “Walk Of Truth” Organization Engaging the public to combat antiquities looting and trafficking</p> <p>Mr. Andrei Mladenov, Bulgarian Ministry of Interior, Head of Unit Trafficking of Cultural Goods, General Directorate for Combatting Organized Crime Trafficking of Syrian cultural artefacts through Bulgaria and the Balkans - challenges</p> <p>Representative of the Ministry of Culture The Ministry of Culture’s involvement in regional cooperation to fight trafficking of cultural artefacts from Syria</p>
<p>12.00 – 13.00</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>13.00 – 14.30</p>	<p>Discussion groups, session 1 (in English only) Topics: looting, trafficking, facilitation and selling, damage and impact, and possible interventions to break the chain at each step (cf. enclosed list of topics and issues to be discussed)</p>
<p>14.30 – 14.45</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>14.45 – 16.30</p>	<p>Discussion groups, session 2 (in English only) Topics: ways of recovering Syria’s heritage now and in a post conflict perspective</p>
<p>16:30 – 17.30</p>	<p>Summing up and follow-up</p>
<p>17.30</p>	<p>End of conference</p>
<p>18.00 – 19.00</p>	<p>Guided tour to Sofia History Museum, 1 Banski Sqr. Ph. D. Todor Chobanov, Deputy Mayor, Sofia Municipality</p>



17th September 2015, 9.30 a.m.

Royal 1 Hall, [Sofia Hotel Balkan](#), 5 Sveta Nedelia Sq.

Conference “Cultural heritage for economic and social development in Bulgaria”

A resource to stimulate regional economic development and employment for vulnerable groups. Resilience and sustainability

The conference will focus on the potential of cultural heritage to stimulate regional economic development and create jobs for vulnerable groups. Norway’s contribution to reducing economic and social disparities in Europe through funding of programmes for preservation and revitalization of cultural heritage over the EEA and Norway Grants will be presented. Speakers from the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU), the World Bank, as well as Bulgaria’s Ministry of Culture, representatives of Bulgarian local authorities and cultural heritage researchers will take part in the conference. **Translation to and from English will be provided.**

The conference is organized by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Sofia and the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU) in cooperation with the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture.

Moderator: Mr. Carsten Paludan-Müller (NIKU)

Time	Session/Workshop
09.30 – 10.10	<i>Welcome and introduction:</i> H.E. Guro Katharina H. Vikør , Norwegian Ambassador to Bulgaria Mr. Tomislav Donchev , Deputy Prime Minister for EU Funds and Economic Policies (TBC) Ms. Boni Petrunova , Deputy Minister of Culture Ms. Denitsa Nikolova , Deputy Minister of Regional Development Representative , Ministry of Tourism

10.10 – 10.30	Mr. Sheamus Cassidy, Financial Mechanism Office, EEA and Norway Grants Reducing economic and social disparities through the EEA and Norway Grants culture programmes
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee break
10.45 – 12.00	<i>Investing in cultural heritage for growth and jobs:</i> Mr. Carsten Paludan-Müller, Director General of NIKU Cultural heritage as an asset for contemporary society Mr. Guido Licciardi, World Bank, Urban, Rural & Social Development Investing in historic city cores and cultural heritage assets for sustainable development (TBC) Ass. Prof. Svetlana Hristova, South-West University, Blagoevgrad The contribution of cultural heritage to sustainable development in European cities and regions Ms. Deiana Danailova, International and Regional Activities Directorate, Ministry of Culture The sustainable development agenda in culture policy and management in Bulgaria
12.00 – 12.45	Q & A session
12.45 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.30	Workshop, session 1: Case studies Cultural heritage preservation and urbanization – the case of Sofia City Ph. D. Todor Chobanov, Deputy Mayor Sofia Municipality Generating income through culture in rural areas – Thracian cultural landscape in the village of Sveshtari, Razgrad Region Prof. Diana Gergova, archaeologist Utilizing regional potential for cultural tourism – the case of Pavlikeni Mr. Emanuil Manolov, Mayor of Pavlikeni
14.30 – 14.45	Coffee break
14.45 – 16.15	Workshop, session 2: "Buffet" of ideas Topics for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on the case studies• Added value and sustainable tourism• Competence building for management of cultural sites Mr. Inge Lindblom, Scientific Advisor NIKU
16.15 – 16.30	Final remarks & summing up