

Concept Note

Central Asian Workshop on Combating Illicit Cross-border Trafficking in Cultural Property

14-18 May 2018

*Tashkent/Samarkand
Uzbekistan*

I. Background

The OSCE participating States (pS), along with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation (PfC), are experiencing a dramatic upsurge in the unlawful looting of archaeological sites and illicit cross border smuggling of priceless stolen artwork, archaeological materials and antiquities. Trafficking in cultural property that in most cases is cross-border in its nature, has close linkages to transnational organized crime groups, international money laundering, corruption networks, and terrorist organizations.

Following the recommendations arising from the 2014 Annual Meeting of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Points (NFP) Network, in 2017 the OSCE Border Security and Management Unit (BSMU) developed the project titled “Combating Illicit Cross-border Trafficking in Cultural Property in the OSCE area”.

The project envisages a series of regional awareness raising workshops to be conducted for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, Central Asian, South-Eastern European regions, Caucasus, and Asian Partners for Co-operation. The project aims at both the introduction of practical measures against this emerging transnational threat, while providing a platform for discussion, exchange of views, and identification of best practices and tools to counter this complex and multi-faceted phenomenon.

Italy, as the 2017 Chair of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, in co-operation with the Border Security and Management Unit of the OSCE Secretariat’s Transnational Threats Department is financing the project and was hosting the first expert workshop for the group of policy and decision making officials and operational experts from Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and participating States’ border security and management agencies at the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), in Vicenza in November 2017.

II. Objectives of the Workshop

The Workshop aims to raise awareness regarding illicit trafficking in cultural property and its impact on security and stability in the Mediterranean region. The participants will discuss various methods and best practices from the OSCE perspective and explore best mechanisms and tools that will enable them to respond to this serious transnational threat in a sustainable

manner in co-ordination with relevant national agencies, international organizations, private sector, and educational institutions.

III. Roster of Experts

The pool of experts will represent the following organizations/states :

1. OSCE Secretariat/ Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit;
2. INTERPOL - Works of Arts Unit;
3. UNODC - Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch,
4. UNESCO
5. WCO/ Customs Cooperation Expert
6. EUROPOL
7. Experts from OSCE Participating States (Greece, Italy, US)

IV. Draft Agenda

DAY 1 – 14 May 2018

Time / Venue	Topics / Experts
09.00 – 09.30	Registration of participants, administrative remarks
09:45 – 10:30	<u>Opening Session</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uzbek National Representative - Representative of OSCE Chairmanship - OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan - Border Security and Management Unit / Transnational Threats Department / OSCE
10.30–10.45	Photo Session and Coffee break
10.45-11.00	<i>Briefing on logistics / Tour de Table / Introduction</i>
11.00-11.30	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - Political and Legal Frameworks
11.30-12.30	Introduction to Archaeology and Cultural Property and Antiquities Smuggling Phenomenon
12.45-14.00	Lunch break
14.00-15.00	Importance of Protection of Cultural Property
15.00-15.30	Coffee break
15.30-16.15	The Role of Auction Houses, Collectors in Legal/Illegal Trade of Antiquities
16.15 – 17.00	Case Study and wrap up of Day 1
19.00-21.00 Venue - TBC	Ice-Breaker Dinner

DAY 2 – 15 May 2018

Time / Venue	Topics / Experts
09.30-10.30	International Legal Framework and Best Practices in Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Cultural Property
10.30–11.00	Coffee break
11.00-11.45	National Legal Base and Current Situation regarding Trafficking in Cultural Property / Antiquities smuggling
11.55 – 12.45	Trafficking in Cultural Property, Enforcement Resources and Customs Cooperation Best Practices
12.45-14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.00	Trafficking in Cultural Property, Enforcement Resources and Customs Cooperation Best Practices, continued
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 – 16.20	General Overview of Illicit Traffic in Cultural Property and INTERPOL Capabilities
16.30 – 17.30	<i>Discussions, Questions & Answers Session</i>

DAY 3 – 16 May 2018

Time / Venue	Topics / Experts
09.30 - 10.30	United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199/15 and 2347 and INTERPOL Activities in this Field
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 11.45	INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art Database and its Operational Support in Fighting Illicit Traffic in Cultural Property
11.55 – 12.45	International Police Cooperation in the Fight against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property and Restitution Requests
12.45 - 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.00	Intelligence and Inclusion of Illicit Pathways Attack Strategy
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 – 16.20	Applicable Techniques and Best Practices in Trafficking in Cultural Property Cases; Steps to be Undertaken when Questionable Objects are encountered
16.30 – 17.30	Returning of Forfeited Cultural Property

19.00 – 21.00	Official Dinner
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DAY 4 – 17 May 2018

Time / Venue	Topics / Experts
09.30-10.30	Samarkand Sites Visit (Programme TBC)
10.30–11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.45	Samarkand Sites Visit (Programme TBC)
12.45-14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.30	Samarkand Sites Visit (Programme TBC)
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.00	Samarkand Sites Visit (Programme TBC)

DAY 5 – 18 May 2018

Time / Venue	Topics / Experts
08.30-10.30	Proposing Best Practices to Better Address Trafficking in Cultural Property / Antiquities Smuggling
10.30–11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.45	Feedback and Workshop Closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Uzbek National Representative</i> - <i>Representative of OSCE Chairmanship</i> - <i>OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan</i> - <i>Border Security and Management Unit / Transnational Threats Department / OSCE</i>
12.45-14.00	Buffet Reception