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mcip MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND  
INFORMATION POLICY OF UKRAINE

## Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine | May 2024

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, UNESCO has mobilized the international community and national partners to join efforts and coordinate the different interventions in support of the culture sector in Ukraine. With the participation of more than 40 national and international partners in these meetings, UNESCO and Ukraine developed an Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine around six priorities to address key challenges and needs, as well as prepare and plan for short, medium, and long-term interventions for the recovery of the cultural sector.

# Priority 1: Monitoring, assessment, and documentation of damage to cultural heritage in Ukraine



UNESCO conducting 3D scanning of historical buildings, L'viv.  
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## Challenges

- The need to harmonize data collection for damage assessments by national and international partners, as well as the inclusion in damage assessments of non-documented heritage of national and local importance in Ukraine.
- The importance of establishing data collection, data protection and data sharing protocols.
- Given the difficult context and important turnover within cultural institutions, there is a continuous need to train professionals at national level to conduct damage assessment and ensure appropriate documentation.
- The inaccessibility of some territories in Ukraine continues to complicate efforts to conduct damage assessments.

### **NEEDS from Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) 3 (as of January 2024)**

Needs linked to monitoring, assessment, and documentation of damage to cultural heritage in Ukraine over the next 10 years are estimated at **US\$ 369.91 million**. This includes short- and medium-term needs from 2024 to 2026, amounting to US\$ 283.71 million, and long-term needs from 2027 to 2033, totaling US\$ 86.20 million.

### **Examples of results achieved by partners**

- Continuous damage assessment and monitoring of cultural properties conducted in Ukraine, including through satellite imagery. As of 24 May 2024, UNESCO has verified damage to 375 cultural sites (137 religious sites, 172 buildings of historical and/or artistic interest, 31 museums, 20 monuments, 14 libraries, 1 archive).
- Development of an on-site damage assessment methodology and its corresponding form to conduct post-event on-site damage and risk assessment of cultural property in Ukraine aligned with the national regulatory framework of Ukraine as well as with the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols.
- 35 cultural heritage professionals from more than 14 regions of Ukraine trained on post-event on-site damage and risk assessment of cultural property in Ukraine.
- Piloting on the ground of the ICCROM/UNESCO unified form for damage and risk assessment at the damaged architectural monument of local importance in the buffer zone of the World Heritage site L'viv- the Ensemble of the Historic Centre that was hit by a missile on 6 July 2023.
- Damage assessment missions conducted in Ukraine by different international partners, assessing cultural properties on the ground, including missions using the developed methodology between the international partners and the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine.



## Types of activities

- Urgent identification, data collection and coordination on the impact of the war on cultural heritage.
- GIS satellite-based monitoring of damage to cultural heritage.
- *In-situ* damage assessment, fact-finding missions and documentation of built heritage, cultural repositories, libraries & archives.
- Capacity-building for military and judiciary for damage assessment.
- Synchronization of methodologies of *in-situ* damage assessment.
- Inventorization and documentation of non-documented cultural heritage of local/national importance.
- Establishment of a data sharing and security protocol regarding the hosting of data collected using the unified damage and risk assessment form for immovable cultural property. It will include description of a data storage platform, modalities to access and use of data by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy in Ukraine, as well as all types of data collection, including devices which could be used for their collection, as, for example, the ICCROM Mobile-Based Application.



## Actors engaged

Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine (MCIP)  
Ministry of Communities and Territories Development  
International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)  
Blue Shield International  
Cultural Emergency Response (CER)  
Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab (CHML)  
European Commission  
Global Heritage Fund  
Heritage Monitoring Lab (HEMO)  
Heritage Rescue Initiative (HERI)  
International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)  
International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)  
International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)  
Kyiv School of Economics  
Maidan Museum  
Martin Duplantier Architects  
Penn Cultural Heritage Centre (Penn CHC)  
Polish National Institute of Cultural Heritage  
Smithsonian Institution  
UA Damage NGO  
UNDP  
UNESCO  
UN-Habitat  
UNITAR/UNOSAT  
University College London  
World Monuments Fund

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# Priority 2: Preventive and urgent measures, repairs, reconstruction, and recovery of cultural heritage



The Chernihiv Regional Taras Shevchenko Theatre, located in the Historic Centre of Chernihiv, included on Ukraine's Tentative List for World Heritage, was severely damaged by a missile on 19 August 2023.

© UNESCO/S. Kozliuk

## Challenges

- The war has negatively impacted cultural heritage in the country. It has damaged historic cities, cultural sites, built heritage, cultural institutions, and cultural collections.
- Whereas UNESCO has conducted monitoring of damage to cultural heritage since February 2022, increased attacks on cultural heritage have been documented since summer 2023, including sites protected under the World Heritage Convention. Under daily threat of bombing, risk management, preventive measures, monitoring, and continued documentation including through satellite imagery and 3D laser scanning, remains critical for historic cities, built heritage, and monuments while the establishment and equipment of shelters for cultural institutions, to enable continuity of cultural life and access to it by communities, where necessary, remains paramount. Cultural heritage close to or within areas of active hostilities remains under continuous threat. Conditions of several cultural sites of national importance damaged in 2022 have worsened, making these sites particularly vulnerable to the direct or indirect effects of future attacks.
- The condition of collections packed and evacuated in an emergency modality, as well as of their storage facilities needs to be reassessed as some measures were intended to be temporary in nature. Difficult access or lack of accessibility to cultural assets, located close or in the frontlines, remains a challenge. Physical damage to museums and the risk of looting highlights the urgent need for thorough inventory, digitalization, and improved collection management.
- Preventive measures, documentation, inventorying and preservation for and of heritage assets and historic material not currently registered as heritage or cultural properties, which are often in private ownership including vernacular architecture located in rural areas or community-relevant historic or cultural buildings in damaged or at-risk urban settings, is key.
- The lack of professionals with the necessary technical and regulatory skills and expertise to engage in rehabilitation projects for cultural heritage.
- The integration of conservation plans for damaged properties in urban and territorial plans is paramount.

### **NEEDS from Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) 3 (as of January 2024)**

The total needs for preventive and urgent measures, repairs, reconstruction, and recovery of cultural heritage in Ukraine over the next 10 years are estimated to be **US\$ 6.32 billion**. This includes short- and medium-term needs from 2024 to 2026, amounting to US\$ 1.83 billion, and long-term needs from 2027 to 2033, totaling US\$ 4.49 billion.

The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy has identified 87 priority projects for urgent action and also considered by RDNA3, with Kyiv and Ternopil' oblasts representing the largest needs, budgeted at US\$ 42 million and US\$ 8.5 million respectively, with 11 projects each.

## Examples of results achieved by partners

Since February 2022, partners continuously supported *in-situ* preventive works, winterization of damaged cultural and historic assets, stabilization, urgent inventories, provision of energy and relevant supplies for collections and cultural institutions, and the urgent stabilization and recovery of cultural properties across Ukraine. These projects also include emergency stabilization and repairs, construction of cultural centers and bomb shelters, provision of protective and preventive measures and development of emergency preparedness plans.

So far, more than 300 cultural properties in Odesa alone have been marked with the **Blue Shield Emblem**, and 25 sites have been inscribed on the list of enhanced protection by virtue of the Second Protocol of UNESCO's 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. **On-site damage assessments** have been conducted (including in Chernihiv, Odesa, L'viv) and monitoring crack gauges installed in priority heritage buildings (L'viv, Odesa). **Architectural visual and instrumental surveys, including 3D laser scanning**, were conducted in Odesa, L'viv and Chernihiv, among others.

In consultation with the Ukrainian authorities, several cultural sites verified by UNESCO as damaged have been identified as priorities for **protection measures and urgent repairs** and recovery efforts, by developing emergency preparedness and mitigation plans.

## Types of activities

- Support the implementation of protection/prevention measures for cultural sites and monuments, including archaeological sites, such as mapping and online and in-person trainings.
- Urgent stabilization and repairs of built heritage, cultural repositories, museums, cultural institutions, libraries and archives, including structural studies and required investigations/assessment, structural reinforcement, sheltering, shoring, propping, stabilization, and debris removal.
- Support the development of emergency preparedness plans for heritage sites for potential damage or destruction and for movable cultural property.
- Urgent restoration works to rehabilitate cultural assets, in line with defined priorities, including historic cities and cultural landscapes.
- Support emergency inventorying of built heritage assets, including photogrammetry and 3D scanning activities.
- Assist in the development of integrated master plans for historic cities and cultural landscapes.
- Provide preventive and first aid and emergency conservation measures for moveable heritage and museum collections, including archival and library collections, support to staff through capacity-building, evacuation.
- Support the inventorying of museum, library/archival collections, securitization of cultural repositories including storage facilities through enhancement of safe storage conditions and management for moveable heritage in country of origin and bordering countries (safe havens).



## Actors engaged

Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine (MCIP)  
International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)  
Blue Shield International  
Cultural Emergency Response (CER)  
European Commission  
Foundation to Preserve Ukraine's Sacral Arts  
Friends of the L'viv Historical Museum  
German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and KulturGutRetter (KGR)  
Global Heritage Fund  
Heritage Rescue Emergency Initiative (HERI)  
House of Europe (implemented by Goethe-Institut Ukraine)  
International Council on Archives (ICA)  
International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration  
of Cultural Property (ICCROM)  
International Council of Museums (ICOM)  
International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)  
International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)  
L'viv Historical Museum  
Maidan Museum  
National Cultural Institute of Poland  
NGO Museum for Change  
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)  
Prince Claus Fund  
Smithsonian Institution  
Ukraine Art Aid Center (UAAC)  
UNESCO  
UN-Habitat  
UNITAR/UNOSAT  
University College London  
World Monuments Fund



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# Priority 3: Revival of institutional capacity of cultural institutions and cultural education



Beneficiaries of a training on on-site damage and risk assessment of cultural property in Ukraine, during a practical exercise on a damaged historic building in L'viv city center.

© UNESCO/Z. Sirkovych

## Challenges

- **Outflow of professionals:** Culture professionals and practitioners have relocated abroad or internally, joined the armed forces or shifted to other sectors due to the ongoing war, leading to a significant brain drain. This loss not only significantly reduces the capacity of organizations operating in the field of culture, it also hampers the efforts designed to effectively respond to the consequences of the war and, in the long term, economic growth.
- **Financial impact:** There is a significant reduction in national and local budget allocations for the culture sector, including for institutional capacity-building, exacerbated by the need to divert funds to immediate war-related expenses. This also extends to the income of cultural heritage professionals and practitioners coming from for-profit activities. 39% of creative businesses are experiencing a significant decrease or complete lack of orders and sales. A quarter of creative businesses have reported a turnover decrease of more than 90% (July 2022). This not only affects the maintenance of the institutional capacity of public and private institutions but also hinders the sustaining of an adequate level of education in the field of culture.
- **Cultural policies and legislative gaps:** There is an urgent need for in-depth analysis of local contexts and the development of cultural policies and favorable regulatory frameworks. Due to the war, the implementation of the decentralization reform also slowed down, requiring the provision of direct support at the local level in building a cultural policies and management system. In light of this, current legislation may also need to be updated to enable cultural institutions to attract investments and generate revenue through cultural activities.
- **Cultural rights:** The cultural rights of citizens to actively access, participate and contribute to the cultural life in their communities have been negatively impacted. Reinforcing dialogue between public institutions and civil society organizations to define favourable policies and regulatory frameworks is essential.

### NEEDS from Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) 3 (as of January 2024)

The needs for the revival of institutional capacity of cultural institutions and cultural education over the next 10 years are estimated at **US\$ 725.9 million**. This includes short- and medium-term needs from 2024 to 2026, amounting to US\$ 327.41 million, and long-term needs from 2027 to 2033, totaling US\$ 398.49 million.

## Examples of results achieved by partners

- ▶ Numerous organizations have provided technical advice and training for cultural heritage professionals and practitioners in Ukraine. These trainings have included damage assessment, inventorization, management of cultural sites, and the use of specialized equipment.
- ▶ UNESCO, with financial support from Spain, has supported the establishment of the L'viv Culture Hub under the L'viv City Council, which is currently undergoing renovation. Through this and other projects, over 1,700 cultural heritage professionals and practitioners have been trained in various fields, including museum management, conservation, digital inventory of collections and satellite damage assessment.
- ▶ House of Europe has fostered professional and creative exchange between Ukrainians and their colleagues in the EU and the UK. The programme supported over 179 organizations and 2,700 individuals in the areas of culture and creative industries.
- ▶ ICCROM, in partnership with UNESCO and ICOMOS, has implemented capacity development activities on risk management at World Heritage sites and beyond. It has developed targeted training and tools for providing first aid to cultural heritage including a step-by-step methodology for conducting on-site damage and risk assessment at damaged heritage sites.

## Types of activities

- ▶ Capacity-building and professional development initiatives including training and workshops to enhance the skills of culture professionals, along with networking sessions and knowledge sharing; enhancing the knowledge of public institutions on international standard-setting instruments in the field of culture, good practices in legislation and relevant to cultural management; specialized training for civil society organizations to strengthen their roles in the cultural sector.
- ▶ Resource enhancement activities to improve existing training programmes and develop new materials tailored to the needs of cultural professionals, including the establishment of dedicated units aimed at implementing conventions and preventing the looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property. Conducting studies and implementing policies ensure cultural inclusiveness and accessibility, contributing to a more resilient and adaptable cultural sector.
- ▶ Policy development, implementation support and the provision of technical advice on national policy development and updates to align with best practices and international standards. Comprehensive analyses, updating, and elaboration of cultural policies and frameworks to support the vision for cultural recovery and development. Financial and budgeting schemes are analyzed and assessed to ensure sustainable funding for cultural activities.



## Actors engaged

Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine (MCIP)  
International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)  
Blue Shield International  
CRAterre  
European Commission  
European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) Ukraine  
International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)  
International Council on Archives (ICA)  
International Council of Museums (ICOM)  
International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)  
International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)  
Heritage Rescue Initiative (HERI)  
House of Europe (implemented by Goethe-Institut Ukraine)  
Maidan Museum  
National Architects Union of Ukraine  
Museum and Monuments Studies Institute  
Penn Cultural Heritage Centre (Penn CHC)  
Prince Claus Fund  
OSCE Taskforce  
Smithsonian Institution  
Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI)  
UNESCO  
UNITAR/UNOSAT  
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# Priority 4: Strengthening cultural and creative industries of Ukraine



Yaryna Kvitka and Juliia Sovershenna, Ukrainian folk musicians from the Folknery band, teaching locals traditional Ukrainian dances during their UNESCO-Artists at Risk residency in Queen's Hall Arts, Hexham, UK.

© Svitlana Pogasiy

## Challenges

- The war has significantly impacted the diversity of cultural expressions in Ukraine. It has caused damage to cultural infrastructure and assets, and, as of 31 December 2023, the estimated total cost of damage to buildings, workshops, and ateliers dedicated to cultural and creative industries (CCIs) in Ukraine is approximately US\$ 262 million (source: RDNA 3).
- Many artists have lost their sources of income due to the suspension or slowing of cultural activities, and are being displaced within the country and abroad, thus affecting their creative livelihoods. It is estimated that, on average, 37% of workers in the CCIs have lost jobs or joined the army. It is also estimated that 20% of the talents have relocated abroad, primarily to European countries (source: RDNA 3). The brain drain is a painful consequence of the conflict, and this loss of creative minds hampers the sector's growth and weakens Ukraine's cultural fabric.
- Remaining cultural actors in Ukraine report a lack of support, with more opportunities being offered abroad for those that have left the country, further highlighting the crucial need to increase support within the country.
- The reduction of state expenditures on culture threatens the survival of cultural institutions, and the independent sector is the most impacted. In 2022, the share of state finances allocated to culture dropped to 0.16%, the lowest in the past decade. Redirecting resources toward basic needs has turned cultural practices into a luxury for many, limiting access to culture and the realization of cultural rights.
- All in all, the estimated losses for the CCI sector alone would amount to approximately US\$ 7.3 billion (source: RDNA 3).

### **NEEDS from Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) 3 (as of January 2024)**

The total recovery and reconstruction need for CCIs in Ukraine over the next 10 years is estimated to be **US\$ 957.43 million**. This includes short- and medium-term needs from 2024 to 2026, amounting to US\$ 442.23 million, and long-term needs from 2027 to 2033, totaling US\$ 515.21 million.

## Examples of results achieved by partners

Since 2022, mapping, research and data collection have been undertaken to assess the impact of the war on CCIs and related response and recovery needs. International actors have supported the temporary relocation of Ukrainian artists and culture professionals both within Ukraine and abroad to enable them to continue their creative work safely, receive capacity-building as well as financial and material support. Hard-hit Ukrainian cultural institutions are financially and technically supported to resume their creative work that highlights and promotes Ukraine's diversity of cultural expressions. Assistance has been provided with evacuating contemporary museum collections and establishing storage facilities, along with digitization efforts. In terms of infrastructure, cultural and artistic spaces are being renovated to facilitate networking, practicing, and training of culture professionals, local communities and civil society organizations, such as the UNESCO Culture Hub in L'viv, thanks to financial support from Spain.

## Types of activities

- Support for the reconstruction of infrastructure dedicated to CCIs, as well as the development of creative hubs, incubators, etc., as well as the acquisition of equipment necessary to the strengthening of the CCIs.
- Support the livelihoods and capacity building of Ukrainian artists (including the internally displaced) and culture professionals inside Ukraine, facilitating the return of artists, notably through individual grants and financial support.
- Support to the continuation of artistic creation, resumption of cultural events and access to cultural life by facilitating the implementation of creative projects, notably through financial support to cultural institutions.
- Foster cross-sectoral investment in the Ukrainian CCIs through different sources including public-private partnerships, and private sponsorship.
- Promotion of Ukrainian CCIs abroad and fostering of international cooperation between Ukrainian cultural institutions and peers abroad.
- Technical assistance to elaborate reforms or new regulatory frameworks to strengthen CCIs as well as the status of Ukrainian artists and culture professionals.



## Actors engaged

Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine (MCIP)  
International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)  
Artists at Risk (AR)  
European Commission (Creative Europe)  
Europa Nostra  
House of Europe (implemented by Goethe-Institut Ukraine)  
Institute for Cultural Research  
Museum of Contemporary Art of Ukraine (MOCA)/Ukrainian Emergency  
Arts Fund (UEAF)  
Pause Programme  
PEN America's Artists at Risk Connection (ARC)  
Perpetuum Mobile/Artists at Risk  
Prince Claus Fund  
Ukrainian Book Institute  
Ukrainian Cultural Foundation  
Ukrainian Institute (UI)  
UNESCO  
Ukrainian Center for Cultural Research (UCCR)





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# Priority 5: Strengthening resilience through culture



Student from Odesa, learning history, geography, chemistry, biology, physics, 3D modelling and art while learning about the significance of the traditional Black Sea clay toy - an element of Ukraine's living heritage.

© UNESCO

## Challenges

- The war has resulted in mass destruction and displacement of millions who have been forced to flee their homes. Separating people from their places and communities of origin has severely affected their ability to practice, transmit, and safeguard their living heritage.
- Communities across Ukraine, as well as those temporarily displaced abroad, confirmed over the past two years that living heritage practices foster a strong sense of belonging and continuity, providing thus a foundation for their well-being and resilience. The transmission of living heritage to future generations is essential in times of war and forced displacement.
- Despite the growing recognition of the importance of living heritage for communities across Ukraine, there is no state policy on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and no specific strategies and programmes exist to support living heritage bearers and safeguarding activities.

## NEEDS

The need for strengthening resilience through culture in Ukraine until end 2026 is estimated to be **US\$ 4.98 million**.

However, damage, losses, and needs related to living heritage safeguarding have never been assessed on a sectoral basis, and on the scale of a whole country. UNESCO in cooperation with local partners in Ukraine is elaborating and testing new assessment methodologies to generate reliable data on living heritage safeguarding for the next RDNA exercise. The above figure represents therefore only a rough estimate of the short and mid-term needs based on the preliminary results of the pilot studies in Ukraine.

## Examples of results achieved by partners

- Establishment of an **active network of practitioners and professionals** involved in living heritage safeguarding: since March 2022 **regular consultations have been conducted to monitor the evolving living heritage safeguarding needs**.
- The **community-based needs identification in five neighbouring countries to Ukraine** implemented by UNESCO in 2022<sup>1</sup> confirmed the key role of living heritage for well-being and resilience of temporarily displaced populations. Three **follow-up projects testing new methodologies for interventions among temporarily displaced populations** are underway with the support of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in Romania, Slovakia and Hungary.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Needs identification of living heritage safeguarding among displaced communities from Ukraine in five neighbouring countries: Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia', UNESCO, 2022

- Bringing together **living heritage, education, and science**, UNESCO implemented an **innovative pilot project aimed at supporting the resilience of Ukrainian school children through enhancing awareness of their living heritage**. Based on 12 pilot projects implemented across Ukraine in 2023, a resource kit for primary and secondary school teachers ‘Teaching and learning with living heritage in Ukraine’ has been recently published<sup>2</sup>.
- The current Rapid Damages and Needs Assessment (RDNA) methodologies do not cover the living heritage safeguarding sector. Two pilot studies were therefore launched in 2024 to develop and test new methodologies to generate data to complement the RDNA.

## Types of activities

- **Development of a state policy and strategy for living heritage safeguarding**, and the synchronization of legislation in various sustainable development fields (including culture, education, health care, among others), coordination of approaches and concepts.
- **Capacity-building for different target groups in Ukraine**, including living heritage bearers and professionals (e.g. on community-based inventorying, development of urgent safeguarding measures and plans, including seed money for the development of urgent safeguarding measures).
- **Documentation and inventorying**: Mapping all existing living heritage inventories, with the participation of communities, establishing inventorying standards and formats, updating and broadening existing inventories in the regions, including those of the living heritage of minorities and national communities. Establishment of an inventory of elements severely threatened by the war that require urgent safeguarding.
- **Development of a multifunctional digital platform on living heritage in Ukraine**, with the revised National List of Elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Register of Masters of Folk Crafts and other databases related to living heritage safeguarding, to share information on elements, and experts and strengthen cooperation between all stakeholders.
- **Measuring the impact of war on living heritage**: establishing a national system for monitoring the state of ICH, facilitating the exchange of international experiences to develop a coherent methodology for assessing losses, damage and needs related to living heritage, including for RDNA or Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) processes.
- Integrating **living heritage in education** in a systematic way, including in formal and non-formal education, teacher training and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).
- **Awareness raising on the importance of living heritage**, including **direct support** to organizers to relaunch living heritage related events, including festivals, national celebrations and the promotion of crafts.
- **Direct support for practitioners, including craftspeople** impacted by the war to restart their activities: purchasing equipment, materials, training, etc. (small grants schemes for individuals, groups and NGOs).

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/documents/ukraine-resource-kit-for-teachers-on-teaching-and-learning-with-living-heritage-62320>. The resource kit will be officially presented at the end of June 2024.



## Actors engaged

### **Most partners in this field are stakeholders from Ukraine, including:**

Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine (MCIP)  
Ministry of Education of Ukraine  
Alem  
Bohdan Khmelnytsky Melitopol State Pedagogical University  
Center for Ukrainian Culture in Odesa  
Development Centre Democracy through Culture  
Dnipropetrovs'k Region State Administration  
Institute of Cultural Research of the National Academy of Arts  
Kharkiv Regional Organization and Methodological Center of Culture and Art  
Kyiv National Shevchenko University  
Luhans'k Regional Center of Folk Art  
Melitopol University  
Museum for Change  
Mykolaiv Regional Museum of Local Lore  
Open Opera House Ukraine  
Research laboratory of musicology at the L'viv National Lysenko Music Academy  
Souspilnist Foundation  
Ukrainian Center for Culture Research (UCCR)  
Vinnytsia Regional Center of Folk Art  
Women Plus

### **International actors include:**

European Commission  
Global network of UNESCO trained facilitators under the 2003 Convention  
Heritage Rescue Initiative (HERI)  
House of Europe (implemented by the Goethe Institute)  
ICH NGO Forum  
Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences  
International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)  
International Council of Museums (ICOM)  
JRS Romania  
UNESCO Associated schools network (ASPnet)  
UNESCO



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### **Priority 6: Digital transformation of cultural heritage management, development of digital infrastructure, creation of digital cultural heritage inventories for integration and interoperability with international databases**



Digitalization of collections at the Odesa Archeology Museum.

© UNESCO/I. Strahov

## Challenges

- The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy (MCIP) of Ukraine reports over 12 million artefacts in more than 970 museums and 2,500 public collections, 120,000 immovable cultural properties and 401 historic cities, as well as 97 elements on the National List of Elements of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ukraine. However, in many cases they are not digitized, the level of digitization being around 10% of collections, and there are no consistent metadata schemas for databases and information sharing, or common terminology.
- Inadequate and insufficient storage and preservation services for digital and digitized collections, IT infrastructure, and digital skills and competencies of professionals are hindering digital transformation.
- The establishment of a centralised Geographic Information System (GIS) database is critical to contribute to the implementation of the Construction Act, which requires that cultural heritage be mapped and recorded in the Construction Registry before 1 January 2025, to serve as a reference for the granting or vetting of construction permits.
- The war has highlighted the need for a comprehensive and centralised cultural heritage infrastructure in Ukraine to record the built heritage, museums and their collections, archive and library holdings, including accounting records, plans, photographs and 3D digitization of buildings and cultural objects. To achieve this, a strategic vision for the digital transformation of the cultural sector, aligned with national efforts in this area, and a roadmap for its implementation are essential and must bring together all stakeholders in the sector.

### NEEDS from Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) 3 (as of January 2024)

The needs for digital transformation of cultural heritage management, development of digital infrastructure, creation of digital cultural heritage inventories for integration and interoperability with international databases over the next 10 years are estimated at **US\$ 553.57 million**. This includes short- and medium-term needs from 2024 to 2026, amounting to US\$ 117.87 million, and long-term needs from 2027 to 2033, totaling US\$ 435.70 million.

### Examples of results achieved by partners

- Around 10% of significant cultural heritage objects have been digitised. Efforts will continue in heritage institutions across the country.
- Ongoing design and development of 5 to 6 national registries of cultural heritage data by MCIP, including the State Register of Immovable Monuments of Ukraine<sup>1</sup> and the Register of the Museum Fund of Ukraine<sup>2</sup>. Software has been developed for 6 of the 12 registers under MCIP's responsibility.

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**1** The design and software development of the [Register](#) was carried out with the support of the [Eurasia Foundation](#), accredited in Ukraine as the implementing entity of the International Technical Assistance Project 'Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services (TAPAS)'.  
**2** The Register is being developed with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and the National Heritage, and the Solidarity Fund of Poland

- ▶ 105,000 immovable properties are included in the State Register of Immovable Monuments of Ukraine and are being verified by the regional administrations. The digitisation of land and territory plans will continue to provide the cultural layer with building restrictions. 170 out of 401 plans have been adopted in paper form, 30 of those are also available in digital form, 231 are awaiting development and adoption.
- ▶ Completion of the first components of the Register of the Museum Fund (e.g.: user management, dictionaries and classifiers, public Application Programming Interface, relocation requests). The launch of the Register is planned for July 2024.
- ▶ The development of the Register of [Intangible Cultural Heritage](#) of Ukraine<sup>3</sup> is almost complete and has been launched with an open Application Programming Interface (API).
- ▶ The development of platform-based registries of four different types: the Book Publishers Registry; the registry of the core network of cultural institutions to enable the creation of administrative and operational reports; the Grant Register to simplify the grant application process and centralise all available information on State support; the fourth register collects information on Ukrainian craftsmanship with the aim of preserving its various traditional techniques.
- ▶ The necessary IT infrastructure is currently using the AWS cloud services, while all inventories are awaiting the arrival of the required equipment.
- ▶ The provision of training in digitization and data heritage management.

## Types of activities

- Support for the revision of the national legislation on cultural heritage, which will also include the 'reengineering' of the operational framework of the new Ukrainian law on digital transformation for culture.
- Support the establishment of a digital Cultural Heritage Management System (CHMS) and its operation according to international standards, ensuring integration and interoperability of digital registers at State or sub-State level in Ukraine with other European and international databases.
- Definition of a guiding policy framework in the form of protocols for the creation and management of digital data, definition of the characteristics of digital data according to their type (ownership, accessibility, use, etc.).
- Equip and train heritage professionals to create and manage digital heritage data. Support for the provision of required materials and equipment, including mobile and small-scale equipment for cultural institutions, starting with a core team to initiate the creation of the digital layer mapping cultural property and training regional and local staff at *hromada* level to feed and maintain updated national digital registries.
- Support the digitisation of state-owned part of the Museum Fund of Ukraine through the development of an electronic register of data on geographically stored, looted, damaged, renovated, transported, or lost museum objects.
- Operate and maintain a centralised GIS database with the necessary equipment and trained staff.
- Support the creation of the National Digital Library of Ukraine in accordance with the developed planning documents.
- Support the creation of a digital repertoire of musical works and scores harmonised into a common digital collection under the *aegis* of the MCIP.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://ich.mkip.gov.ua/>



## Actors engaged

Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine (MCIP)  
Ministry of Communities and Territories of Ukraine  
International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)  
Cultural Emergency Response (CER)  
Eurasia Foundation  
Europeana Foundation  
House of Europe  
International Council on Archives (ICA)  
International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)  
L'viv National Lysenko Music Academy  
Kyiv School of Economics  
Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland and the Solidarity Fund PL  
UK aid  
Ukrainian Library Association (ULA)  
UNESCO  
USAID