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Euromed Heritage
التراث الأوروبي المتوسطي



strengthening of institutional and legal frameworks/
renforcement du cadre institutionnel et juridique/
تعزيز الأطر المؤسسية والقانونية

Conclusions and recommendations

Referring to the synthesis, discussions, and suggestions of recommendations submitted during the Workshop “Preventing and Fighting the Illicit Traffic of Cultural Property” jointly organized in Beirut, Lebanon, 9-11 November 2009, by Euromed Heritage IV and the UNESCO Regional Bureau, the participants ¹ in the Workshop propose as a priority action plan the following recommendations:

I. Short term actions:

1. To complete **inventories** of cultural properties, both in public and private ownership, and archaeological sites, and emphasising, in priority, cultural objects that are vulnerable to theft and illicit exportation as well as archaeological sites vulnerable to illicit excavations;
2. To identify an **antenna** in each administrative structure concerned by the prevention and the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects; and to develop the coordination between those units and relevant international organisations (e.g. UNESCO, INTERPOL, WCO, ICOM...);
3. To develop the **training** of all personnel involved at the front line of the fight against the trafficking (collection and dissemination of information, communication, customs control).

II. Medium-term actions

1. To **accede** to the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention and the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention;
2. To develop and to execute campaigns of **information and awareness** in order to mobilise all members of society in preventing and fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural properties;
3. To identify partner countries in order to negotiate and conclude **bilateral agreements** on the reciprocal protection and restitution of stolen or illegally exported cultural properties.

III. Long-term actions

1. To **enhance the legal and regulatory framework** of prevention and fighting against illicit trafficking of cultural properties while transposing relevant international conventions;
2. To guarantee **on-going training** of all personnel involved in the antennas working in administrative structures;

¹ The participants in the Workshop were delegates from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia, as well as representatives of UNESCO, UNIDROIT, INTERPOL, WCO and ICOM.

3. To conduct **evaluation studies** to evaluate both the impact and efficiency of the measures taken for the implementation of the above recommendations in order to improve, correct or adjust them for a better prevention and fight against the trafficking of cultural properties. To meet again within five years in a regional workshop on the same theme in order to evaluate **both experiences and results**, and to draft a new action plan.