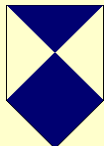


did you know?



1954 Hague Convention

Article 25 Dissemination of the Convention

The High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace as in time of armed conflict, to disseminate the text of the present Convention and the Regulations for its execution as widely as possible in their respective countries. They undertake, in particular, to include the study thereof in their programmes of military and, if possible, civilian training, so that its principles are made known to the whole population, especially the armed forces and personnel engaged in the protection of cultural property.

For further information about other related articles:
<http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/FULL/590?OpenDocument>



A Newsletter from contractual commitment to working tool

The programme CIUDAD is due to an end and it is time for objective assessments and reviews of what did and what did not work. While an overall review of the concrete achievements by each project will be part of the final reports, we focus here on the role played by this newsletter within the CIUDAD project War Free World Heritage Listed Cities.

An empty container to fill or rather a flow of information to contain? Often perceived as an additional load on top of the 'really ambitious objectives' pursued by each project, the implementation of the visibility, information and communication strategies could be pain or joy for EU grant projects depending on the relevance they have for the success of the initiatives.

In our experience, the introduction of several communication tools was possible thanks to the project, the most important are the fully dedicated website and a specialised newsletter. We realise that the effects of armed conflicts on cultural heritage is not the most 'appealing' topic to write about, yet, this Newsletter represents one of the few voices available to inform you about the latest developments, disseminating achievements and experiences made in various countries for the implementation of concrete measures for the protection of natural and cultural heritage against the catastrophic effects of natural events and human activities, especially if associated to armed conflicts.

This is why, while issue no. 9 of this newsletter marks the end of the War Free World Heritage Listed Cities project, the Newsletter will continue to be circulated online or directly distributed to those who subscribed in the mailing list. You may decide to subscribe online in the website and get directly in your desktop the free issues of the Newsletter and get immediately updated with the latest developments that we recorded.

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More interactive instruments will be gradually introduced to secure a quicker circulation of news and eventually provide experts' support to institutions and organisations in need. Sustainability is also synonymous of 'capacity to reproduce the positive beneficial effects of a project ex-post its implementation That is our commitment and not just a formality!

Interested? Download previous numbers of the NL from the project website www.warfreeheritage.net

War Free World Heritage Listed Cities project partners



The Cultural Military Advisor point of view

A synthetic summary about the role played by the military in the protection of natural and cultural heritage.

Two different scenarios of threat exist for Cultural Property:

Natural disasters

as Flooding, Earthquakes, Fire.

Artificial disasters

in the dimension from conflict to war.

The responsible authorities in small dimensions disasters are:

Fire brigade, Police, and Civil Protection (like technical "Hilfswerk" in Germany)

If the disaster assumes bigger dimensions and civil authorities cannot any longer handle the disaster Armed Forces can provide assistance, due to the national legislation and the national security doctrine. The advantage for the requesting authority is very simple:

1. The army has its clear structure, its chain of command and conduct of operations, uniform (looters do not wear a uniform!), vehicles, wireless communication, field kitchen, logistics. However, one should be aware about the time frame from requesting a unit, before they are ready to move and be available on site. It simply takes time for the chain of command, getting their orders through.

2. Soldiers can also provide support as "security police"- together with the regular police forces if necessary, especially against looting.

For the engagement of the army **"Rules of Engagement"** (RoE), the Does & Doesn't have to be prepared, for the staff, and **"Soldiers Field Cards"**-instructions for each soldier. As a "soldier proof" pocket card every soldier gets a written information what he has to do, what is strictly forbidden, and where he has to be sensitive, and to whom to report in case of emergency.

RoE provide authorization for and/or limits on, among other things, the use of force and the employment of certain specific capabilities. In some nations, RoE have the status of guidance to military forces, while in others, RoE are lawful commands.

Very useful, with a wider perspective, is the installation of a permanent civil-military liaison structure.

Who is responsible? Who is in charge? Who is the point of contact? How to activate the alarm chain in disaster relief operations? On the other hand it is a two-ways alternate communication between civil authorities and officials and responsible Army staff.

On this level civil authorities can be provided with information about the general situation and military operational measures, and can learn what is (im)possible to handle with the equipment of the army.



Civil Military Cooperation Training in Georgia
WVHLC - Summer 2013

The other way around it is possible transmitting civilian requests to the military headquarters and responsible offices, assisting in the elaboration of respective alert and operations plans as well as of basic materials, in the course of the general and specific operations preparation.

Cultural heritage is unique and irreplaceable, which places the responsibility of preservation on the current generation. Once destroyed - Gone forever!



Wolfgang K. MATTES - Liaison Officer/ Protection of Cultural Property / Staff officer in the Austrian army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel since 2008, assigned orderly officer in the headquarters' of an armoured brigade, with focus on Nature Conservation on Training Areas, Cultural Property Conservation, member of the NATO Environmental Training Working Group and of the Scientific Commission of the Austrian MOD

October ends as the project grows in momentum and the results are shown with a final event in Byblos

A rich agenda of activities and events took place between 18 and 28 October. An intense two weeks that involved all War Free World Heritage Listed Cities (WFWHLC) partners implementing actions on the ground both in Georgia and Lebanon.

Experts' mission

An experts' mission led by Prof. Giuseppe Maino was assigned by the Italian project Associate NEREA (Network for Advanced Restoration diagnostic investigation, computer aided documentation, anti-seismic prevention) and it was accompanied and backstopped by Dr. Claudio Cimino, WATCH project coordinator, conducted on site detailed architectural photogrammetric survey, non destructive material sampling and other instrumental inspection of the world heritage sites in Mtskheta and Byblos.

The purpose of this mission was to acquire information and data which are necessary for a scientific assessment of the state of conservation of the world heritage sites and define a reliable model of the expected physical capacity/behaviour that the built heritage would have if posed under stress during earthquake, floods, fire and other normally expected events based on historic records of events and the most updated reports issued by the concerned specialised national and international agencies.

An activity that is conducted to inform the dossiers under preparation for the nomination of both Byblos and Mtskheta to the status of enhanced protection according to the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention which expressly requires that adequate legislative and administrative measures are in place to secure the heritage protection.



NEREA scientific team conducts measurement and material sampling in Mtskheta

Measures that should have been already in place according to the 1972 WHC within site management plans. Plans that in old world heritage dossiers were sometimes derogated due to a variety of reasons but are currently strictly required to be in place due to an

increased awareness of the importance of consistent measures in place to prevent the sometimes devastating effects produced by natural events and human activities to heritage, including armed conflicts.



NEREA scientific team conducts measurements and material sampling at the archaeological park in Byblos

The result from the elaboration of the acquired data will permit modelling and design a plan for the deployment of adequate measures for the protection of the listed heritage sites that will be an integral part of Risk Preparedness Plans being completed for both cities.

Inter-agency multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary Risk Management Units will be endorsed the responsibility for the enforcement of the risk management plans within a Civil Military Cooperation framework. An ex-post project implementation Monitoring & Evaluation approach will be adopted with support from WATCH and other specialised agencies for the implementation of those plans to secure that they are consistently enforced and progressively updated and upgraded in line with the progressive project design that was adopted during the whole project duration.

The workshop was also attended by experts from the Italian Carabinieri Headquarters for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, the Military Chief of Staff Office for Juridical Affairs and other organizations active in the contrast of various forms of illicit towards Cultural Heritage.

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Public Awareness Promotion 2013 edition

A second cycle of public awareness promotion (PAP) took place with campaigns both in Lebanon and Georgia addressing students aged 13 through 17 in schools.

In Georgia, the PAP campaign took place in cooperation with the National Committee of ICOMOS which is currently engaged in the implementation of the EU funded project Regional Cooperation for Cultural Heritage Development (RCCHD), implemented by the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Culture programme.

Cultural heritage experts and art historians delivered lectures covering the following topics:

- Needs of preservation of heritage for future generations;
- Queries about what to protect;
- Values and principles in heritage preservation;
- How to safeguard cultural heritage in times of armed conflicts;

As a case study the values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage Sites of Mtskheta were reviewed and discussed with the students.



School students celebrate the end of Public Awareness Campaign in Mtskheta - October 2013

Furthermore, principles and requirements of the UNESCO conventions on World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Hague Convention were discussed with students who have shown great interest for the topics addressed.

During the following days students were involved in either a written or a designed composition dedicated to the subject treated within the PAP initiative. Prizes were distributed to the best selected composition and all students participating to the activity received a certificate of participation from the representative of the Georgian UNESCO committee, ICOMOS representative, WATCH Secretary General and the Mayor of the City of Mtskheta

At a meeting following the 2013 PAP campaign in Georgia, it was agreed that PAP activities will be repeated yearly in Georgia with students engaged each time in different activities. A little budget will be dedicated by the Municipality of Mtskheta within its overall yearly financial estimates to support this activity looking at a virtual transfer of responsibility for the maintenance and protection of the world heritage sites straight to the generations of the future. A matter of project sustainability ... a matter of responsible institutional engagement.

In Lebanon a series of PAP initiatives were promoted in Byblos by the leading project partner the Council of the United Municipality of Jbail, with support by Municipality of Byblos, the Lebanese American University (LAU) and the RotarAct group of Byblos (Rotary Club Youth members).

On October 22nd two presentations were performed at the Lebanese American university, spreading awareness and emphasizing the importance of the project and its impact on the region, around 60 architecture & design students attended the workshop.

Public and private schools were visited by LAU students and RotarAct members who lectured students aged 13 to 17 on the importance to preserve world heritage globally and more in specific focusing on the world heritage sites in Byblos. Thus, two presentations took place on October 25th in the Byblos school for 70 students. The students showed interest & enthusiasm in the project. The second lecture was performed at the Monsif national school for 50 students. After the lecture a dozen of interested students had an extended Q&A. It was a fruitful conversation where everybody shared ideas & concerns.

Presentations of the objectives of the project War Free World Heritage Listed Cities and the results it achieved were conducted with support of a variety of documents and a slide-show highlighting the beauty of the protected heritage sites and depicting the threats they are exposed to. The importance of a participatory approach involving a responsible civil society, especially the residents inhabitants was also emphasised by Prof. Rachid Chamoun, Local project Coordinator, to secure a concrete protection of cultural heritage sites as landmark signing everybody collective memory and perspective life.

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School students celebrate the end of Public Awareness Campaign in Byblos - October 2013

All students who participated in the public awareness campaign were given certificates of participation.

The RotarAct club of Byblos' role in the PAP was organizing the events, contacting the institutions & public relations. The club also worked on design from banners to water bottles especially for the occasion.

A PAP event dedicated to the general public was also hosted at the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Byblos on October 26th. Attended also by university students from various faculties at LAU a presentation of the project took place with a slides-show and distribution of pedagogical and informational materials which gave emphasis to the relevance of world heritage sites in everyday life alongside their primordial importance as cultural legacy and landmark for the entire human society.

The presentation evidently impacted the whole public producing the basis as a result for an intense question/answer session with a series of profound considerations made by the young yet mature participants.

A ground was created for the formation in Byblos of a young volunteer group that will support the WFWHLC project follow up and to secure its sustainability with support from WATCH members.

T-shirts and other gadgets designed by the partners ad hoc for the PAP activities were distributed to the young participants who will wear them in summer and in winter as a manifesto on the move accompanying the students around town and very visible highlighting the main project objective, the importance of the World Heritage Sites and the quest for a more active participation of the whole local community as a matter of civil responsibility.

The logotype of UNESCO WHC *Patrimonito* was also introduced in the graphics to stimulate the youth curiosity and suggest them to browse Patrimonito videos which are visible for free online in the net.

A final event in Byblos

Monday, October the 28th a Final Conference was organised at the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Byblos gathering the major stakeholders and target groups of the project in Lebanon.

The event, apart from its formal character signing the completion of the project, represented a golden occasion to present and share the project results and point out lessons learned through its implementation to participants who are also the major direct beneficiaries of the project. Weaknesses and strengths of the project were summarised and remedies found in progress during project development were reviewed. The slides-show presentation was followed by a 15' film where 44 months work were projected on screen.

An ex-post project follow-up phase will be secured through continuous cooperation between partners to enable Lebanon submit its dossier for the enhanced protection of Byblos as soon as the Second Protocol will be ratified.

Meanwhile, Byblos draft dossier will be endorsed to the competent Lebanese Authorities and a dedicated Risk Preparedness Plan will be delivered to the Council for implementation locally in coordination with the National Authorities.

This is a consistent continuation of the bottom-up approach foreseen by the CIUDAD programme where Local authorities with support by the civil society organisations, take a stake of responsibility also in the implementation of emergency measures for the protection of cultural heritage when this is needed. Finally, isn't this the usual scenario in critical times?



RotarAct and LAU students received certificate of participation to PAP in Byblos - October 2013

Certificates were distributed by WATCH project coordinator Dr. Claudio Cimino to active participants from LAU and members of RotarAct of Byblos who contributed to the successful implementation of this second round of PAP campaigns in Byblos.

Cultural Heritage and Armed Conflicts, Natural Catastrophes and, Environmental Disasters

The challenges and projects between war, terrorism, genocide, and organized crime will be the topics of discussion at the conference organised by the CNR (Italian National Council of Research) in Rome on the 15 November.

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche



An event that is celebrated with the patronage of the Italian *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* and the *Camera dei Deputati* this conference represents an important moment of reflection in Italy on the state of implementation of the Hague Convention of 1954 and especially its 1999 Second Protocol (1999HP) of which the country is party. Institutional, academic and civil society organisations representing the major stakeholders and target groups in Italy were invited to participate and contribute to the event.

Dr. Benjamin Goes, the President of the 1999HP Intergovernmental Committee, Ms Aparna Tandon (ICCROM) and Dr. Alessandra Liquori O'Neil (UNICRI) will also contribute testifying the experience made within their international organisations in the prevention and contrast of any form of illicit to the detriment of cultural heritage.

WATCH member Dr. Max Carcione will participate to the conference with a review of the role played by the International Committee of the Blue Shield and Cultural NGOs in the concrete implementation of protective measures for cultural heritage and in the dissemination of the 1954 Hague Convention, its two Protocols and Guidelines.

Italy is Party in the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and this conference represents a moment of reflection where most of the major national institutional, academic, and civil society representatives are gathered to assess the level of implementation in Italy of the Second Protocol. Results will be reported in issue no. 10 of the Newsletter.

Project calendar in pills

Forecast:

Strange to make a forecast when projects end? Not at all! While preparing the final project report, partners will pack and wrap records produced for the use of the concerned national institutions and local authorities. Expected between January 31st and March 19th, 2014.

A Risk Management Unit in Georgia will be finalised and set in Georgia and will take over to secure that Risk Preparedness Plan is enforced / updated (expected before February 28th 2014)

Project final publications & dissemination activities to be released late this year.

Memory of the project and instrument for the dissemination of the 1999HP, a publication is under preparation within the War Free World Heritage Listed Cities framework and to be distributed by January 2014.

Success stories and failure collected during almost four years of international cooperation were reviewed in the form of lessons learned. Contributions from a pool of civil and military international experts of various disciplines who participated on a voluntary basis to the project development will be also included.

Most important, the methodology adopted for the development of the project will be described in the publication with hints for those who have the willingness to start the procedure to nominate heritage sites to the status of enhanced protection but are discouraged from an initial apparent complexity of the task.