



*Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units
International Conference on the Protection
Of Cultural Heritage in Crisis Areas
28-29 September 2023*



COESPU CHP CONFERENCE FACTSHEET

AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

To raise awareness on the difficulties and implications while protecting Cultural Heritage in areas of crisis. Military Commanders are often presented with the dilemma stemming from the concurring but opposing necessities to protect their forces on the one hand, and cultural property on the other. Such severely destabilized situations present unique challenges and demand quick and sound decision-making. To this purpose, the identification of key information from past missions as well as solid doctrinal products aimed at systematically preserve and safeguard Cultural Heritage is crucial.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

To raise overall awareness, particularly about:

- The possible role of an expeditionary law enforcement capability;
- The identification of a more proactive approach and strongpoints, shortcomings and gaps that need to be addressed to support national actors as well as International Organizations involved in peace operations to improve Cultural Heritage Protection on a global scale.



CARABINIERI DEPUTY COMMANDER



«... the integration of Cultural Heritage Protection in crisis and post-conflict areas should get the primacy, since it is conducive to sustainable long-term peace and development. ... and squarely falls into the Stability Policing's remit, being Law Enforcement pivotal to ensure Human Security and resilience in any society».

[LTG Riccardo Galletta]

UNICRI'S DIRECTOR

«Cultural heritage speaks a universal language. It is a testament to the collective memory and identity of peoples and nations. It educates and depicts values and beliefs».

«Countries with turbulent histories, marked by conflict and political instability, place cultural heritage in grave danger. It is well-documented that looting of antiquities increases during times of civil unrest and conflict, as well as from areas with insufficient security».

(Ms. Antonia Marie De Meo)





MAIN ACTION ITEMS

- Capturing usable and measurable data that can be utilized to improve Cultural Heritage Protection operations globally
- Making best use of COESPU top-notch facilities to host working groups and courses centred on the development of concepts and first responders' capabilities, as well as the sharing of best practices and Lessons Learned
- Proposing the establishment of an expeditionary capability to rapidly respond to emerging challenges and threats
- Crucial duty: to inspire respective leadership worldwide

MAIN Deliverable: creation of the CoESP's worldwide Cultural Heritage Protection Network

COESPU DIRECTOR



«In today's complex and multi-faceted, multi domain, and multi-dimension environment, the protection of Cultural Property is also linked to the fight against Serious and Organised Crime and Terrorism, as often the illicit trade of works of art finances criminal groups world-wide.

Protecting Cultural Heritage falls under the wider remit of Human Security, indeed our shared center of gravity, which is upheld by Stability Policing, a cutting-edge tool (instrument of power?) deployable to face Law Enforcement-related threats below and above the threshold of war.

Cultural Heritage preservation can assist in rebuilding a society and in upholding the legitimacy of a local Government in the aftermath of a conflict. It can also tremendously support the economic revival of a Country as well as assist in the battle of narrative. This is conducive to long-term peace, stability & development and fosters national identity»

[Col. Giuseppe De Magistris]



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