

EU presents expert recommendations on safeguarding cultural heritage in Ukraine

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On 19 November, the European Commission-led Expert Group presented in Brussels its recommendations on safeguarding cultural heritage in Ukraine.

The presentation was part of the project 'Resilience Through Culture: The EU's Support for the Ukrainian Cultural Sector', organised by Goethe Institute with the support and the participation of the European Commission.

Twenty-six experts, including six Ukrainians, met four times since 2023 to identify best practices and formulate recommendations in four thematic areas: recognising the value of cultural heritage; risk management and preparedness; documentation, monitoring and data collection; and recovery of cultural heritage.

Their recommendations – for immediate action and long-term perspective –

are addressed to the European Commission, the Ukrainian national, regional and local authorities, as well as civil society organisations. The document is also available in Ukrainian.

For example, recommendations for immediate action include support for the creation, upgrade and sharing of safe storage spaces and other protective measures in Ukraine, along with the possible creation of safe havens for moveable heritage within institutions in EU Member States and providing for safe transportation, if such provisions were to be requested by Ukraine.

As of 21 October, according to UNESCO, 457 cultural sites in Ukraine had been damaged since 24 February 2022. These include 143 religious sites, 231 buildings of historical and/or artistic interest, 32 museums, 33 monuments, 17 libraries, and one archive.