



VENICE OFFICE



Ministry of Culture
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR UNESCO



Ministry of Culture
CULTURAL HERITAGE
PROTECTION OFFICE

FINAL REPORT

Regional Meeting

“Prevention of Illicit Traffic and Other Illegal Actions Related to Cultural Properties” Ohrid, March 15-18, 2006

The Cultural Heritage Protection Office, in the frame of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia, in collaboration with the National Commission of UNESCO for the R. of Macedonia and supported by the UNESCO – Venice Office, were the organizers of the regional meeting “Prevention of illicit traffic and other illegal actions related to cultural properties” held in Ohrid (hotel Metropol), from 15-18 March, 2006.

Participants of this Meeting were the representatives of the cultural authorities and institutions included in the process of prevention of illicit traffic of cultural property of the SEE countries (Albania, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia and Macedonia), as well as the representatives of INTERPOL - Lyon, Carabinieri for protection of cultural heritage, UNIDROIT - Italy. The representatives of the participating countries presented the current state in their countries as well as the future strategy of their own countries on the suggested topics:

- International standards and their compatibility
- Security protective systems of cultural heritage and the coordination among the institutions
- Diagnosis and prognosis – elements of preventive safety strategy
- Responsibility and control in the risk management professionalism
- Penal legislative and criminology policy
- Criminology research and prevention of cultural heritage
- Recovered cultural properties





The aim of the Meeting was the enhancement of the regional cooperation of the cultural authorities and institutions (police, customs, judiciary) in the process of the prevention of illicit traffic of cultural property as well as the presentation of the best practices of the participating countries supporting the processes of ratification of UNESCO and UNIDROIT conventions on stolen or illegally exported cultural property.

Due to the underdeveloped regional collaboration and the bad cross-border cooperation among the services and institutions dedicated to the fight against illicit traffic of cultural property (police, customs, judiciary), the final document has been issued containing the actions recommended to be undertaken in order to fight the illicit traffic of cultural property.

The document was supported and adopted by the participants of the Meeting and its final version will be available at: www.uzkn.gov.mk

Besides the formal content of the Meeting, the sightseeing tour around the old city of Ohrid was organized and the important cultural/historic monuments has been visited: Antique theater, the churches of St. Panteleimon - Plaoshnik, Holy Virgin Peribleptos, St. Sofia, Robev's house...

It is important to be emphasized that the Regional meeting was completely funded by the UNESCO-Venice office in the frame of its program and budgetary resources representing a step forward in the fight of the illicit traffic of cultural property.

