



Proposal for Cooperation in ICOM's

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY on ILLICIT TRAFFIC in CULTURAL GOODS

- A long-term international cooperative platform network between law enforcement agencies, research institutions and other external expert stakeholders
- An information databank for the network and the public through a Website and a triennial Global Report
- An innovative tool that will contribute to preventing and fighting the illegal trade in cultural property and related crimes at both national and international levels



Project summary

Article 17 of the **1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property** encourages the conduct of studies by relevant organisations on matters relating to the illicit movement of cultural property. In creating the **International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods**, ICOM wishes to start a continuous process of **extensive research and reporting**, in close cooperation with a wide range of **international partners**.

ICOM's daily monitoring will gather and compile an unprecedented amount of **information** regarding illicit traffic in cultural goods. The acquired information will be used to implement a dedicated **Website**, which will disseminate all the information available and act as an **activity hub** for ICOM and its partners in this fight. This three-year project will provide a unique permanent monitoring activity and work analysis leading to the publication of the first **Global Report** on the worldwide issue of illegal traffic in cultural property.



The objective of the Observatory is to create a **strong network of project partners** who will contribute to the development of the **Website** and the publication of the final **Global Report**. The Observatory will offer a **private dedicated Web platform**, allowing permanent communication between the different partners. Several **seminars and work meetings** will also be organised in Paris and abroad throughout the project's duration.

- International Organisations
- Specialised research institutions
- Journalists
- National law enforcement agencies
- Public officials
- Private sector

20 key partners and over 300 participants in 100 countries

The network to be established will help reinforce the **dialogue and cooperation** between its diverse members and foster the development of the collaborative platform. The Observatory initiative will be **largely and internationally promoted** through all ICOM communication tools (magazine, e-newsletter, mailing lists, public events, etc.) to all those concerned by the issue as well as the general public, thus successfully raising general awareness. ICOM's Programmes Department will have a full-time expert staff member working specifically on the Observatory during the **three-year project** for the entire duration of the project.

Content

WEBSITE

- Publication of recent theft cases
- Case studies and best practices by country
- Leading articles from international experts
- Information, analysis and comments
- IOs and NGOs programmes and practices
- Latest legal improvements
- Online platform for the project's partners

GLOBAL REPORT

- Overview of major case studies
- Global, regional and thematic analysis
- Leading articles from international experts
- Global actions and improvements
- Worldwide legal situation
- Possibility of a triennial publication

Objectives

- Improve **monitoring methods**, data gathering and scientific research.
- Provide **information and data** for international public understanding and policy orientation.
- Provide **a space for dialogue**, discussion and mutual understanding for key organisations.
- Motivate the **exchange of good practices**, techniques and methods between concerned parties.
- Reinforce **collaboration between stakeholders** for the development of instruments and practices.
- Identify and better **respond to the needs** in terms of training and capacity-building.
- **Identify and promote** national and international normative and practical instruments.
- **Raise awareness** of governments, IOs, NGOs and the general public on the issue.
- Encourage all parties (States, IOs and NGOs) to **improve and develop methods and tools**.

Outcomes of the project

A Website, a Global Report, a new collaborative framework and platform

Short term

- Cooperative network development
- Information exchange
- Dissemination of information

Medium term

- Better knowledge and practices
- Legal improvements
- Concrete collaborations
- Better prevention
- Dissemination of information

Long term

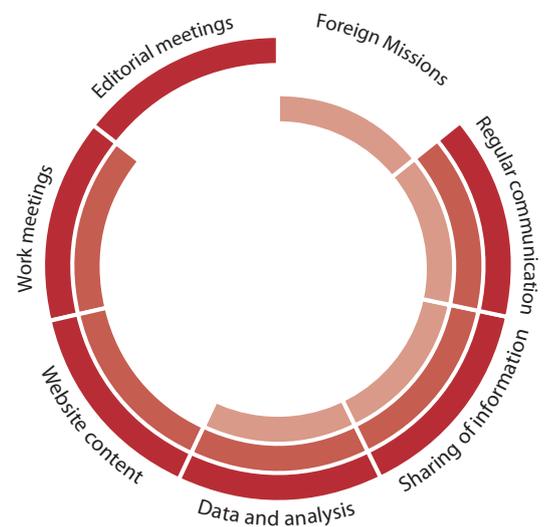
- Development of legal tools
- Solid cooperative framework
- Reduction of the traffic

ICOM is seeking to build an international network of partners for the development of the **International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods**, and to provide a space for dialogue and exchange of knowledge and practices. Through the invaluable work of the **Observatory**, ICOM is offering its partners the opportunity to be part of an innovative and effective project receiving great international visibility and worldwide recognition.

Additional benefits for the official partners include strong visibility on the **Website**, the published professional **Global Report** and on all of ICOM's communication tools.

Levels of partnership

The **Observatory on Illicit Traffic** proposes several types of partnership, all of them with different levels of involvement in the project. Depending on their activity and their availability, partners will bring their expertise to the project in different manners: from the important act of sharing of information to active participation in the Global Report's Editorial Committee.



Editorial Committee 

Consulting Committee 

Operational Partners 

About ICOM

The International Council of Museums (ICOM), the world organisation representing museums and museum professionals, has been committed to promoting and protecting cultural heritage worldwide since its creation in 1946. ICOM maintains formal relations with UNESCO and has a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods is at the core of ICOM's public service missions. The organisation is the only non-governmental organisation recognised as an international expert in this field. ICOM is dedicated to preventing the rising trend of this global issue, which has deprived entire societies of their cultural heritage, robbing them of parts of their history and identities, and impeding their economic development.

Today, ICOM is a worldwide reference in the fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods. Among the better-known practical tools that ICOM has created at the service of this fight are the widely recognised *Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk*.

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