



University for
Continuing
Education KREMS



In support of the 70th anniversary
of the 1954 Hague Convention



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Protection of
Cultural Property in
the Event of Armed Conflict

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CULTURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION: MEETING REQUIREMENTS ACROSS THE FORCES

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1954 First Protocol as well as the 25th anniversary of the adoption of its 1999 Second Protocol

70 years after the adoption of the 1954 Hague Convention the implementation of cultural property protection (CPP) within armed forces and during armed conflict still leaves room for improvement. Thus, the Centre for Leadership and Defence Awareness of the Austrian National Defence Academy is planning an international conference to discuss current questions pertaining to cultural heritage and cultural property protection, and to address common challenges and possibilities for an increased, sustainable implementation of CPP within armed forces. A further objective is to emphasize the significance of tangible and intangible heritage for societies and to elaborate on the added value of CPP for military missions and operations, education and training.

Date: 11 to 13 November 2024

Location: Vienna, Austria

Venue: National Defence Academy, Stiftgasse 2a, 1070 Vienna

Implementing authority:

Austrian Armed Forces/National Defence Academy/
Centre for Leadership and Defence Awareness;

supported by

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

and in cooperation with

University for Continuing Education KREMS,
Austrian Society for Cultural Property Protection and
Blue Shield Austria



DRAFT PROGRAM

DAY 1 - 11 November 2024; 09:30-18:30 / registration 08:00-09:30

Introducing the significance of cultural property (CP) and cultural heritage (CH) for societies as well as its implications and benefits for armed forces in a broad and comprehensive perspective. Besides cultural property protection (CPP) according to the 1954 Hague Convention, CPP should be considered a crucial element in military missions and operations, conflict management and reconciliation regarding the destruction of CP as a military and war strategy, the manipulation of CP for political purposes or the matter of force protection.

Schedule

- Opening ceremony & welcome speeches
- Thematic session: Significance of tangible and intangible cultural heritage for societies & armed forces
 - Importance of CH for societies and traumatising by destruction of CP
 - Interdependence of tangible and intangible heritage
 - Heritage and peacebuilding
 - Destruction of CP as a military and war strategy
 - The importance of respecting CP – benefits for armed forces
- Panel discussion: Is the HC54 outdated in the 21st century?
 - The issue of listing and defining cultural property
 - Recent developments and challenges in CPP – EU, OSCE, UN, NATO

DAY 2 – 12 November 2024; 09:00-16:00 / followed by optional evening program

Focusing on the implementation of CPP within armed forces on a strategic and operational level. Practices from different forces will be introduced in reference to measures, opportunities and challenges for the inclusion of CPP in military education and training.

Schedule

- Thematic session: Implementation of CPP in the armed forces – education, training, requirements, lessons learned
 - Civilian and military training requirement analysis
 - Structural implementation of CPP in armed forces
 - Training incentives in different armed forces
- Panel discussion: CPP in the armed forces and during armed conflict – challenges & opportunities

DAY 3 – 13 November 2024; 09:00-13:00

Exploring future perspectives in CPP with a focus on recent conflicts and discussing the role of artificial intelligence and new technologies in enhancing CPP.

Schedule

- Thematic session: Future perspectives in CPP
 - CPP in recent conflicts
 - Illicit trafficking of cultural goods
 - Stability policing in CPP
- Panel discussion: Cultural heritage, new technologies & artificial intelligence
- Closing ceremony

The conference will be broadcast online.

