

Dear Madam,

With regard to the study on international destruction of cultural heritage, we would like to contribute by providing the following information.

Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska is responsible for the sector of culture which also includes cultural heritage. The Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of the Republic of Srpska is an administrative organization within the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska.

The Institute carries out administrative and other professional tasks related to:

- a) identification, record, research and assessment of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and parts of nature that are previously protected,
- b) identification of properties of cultural, historical and natural heritage,
- c) declaring cultural heritage protected,
- d) keeping records of protected cultural heritage,
- e) development of projects for the restoration, reconstruction and conservation of the cultural and natural heritage,
- f) approval of the technical studies for the reconstruction and restoration works in protected areas and their adaptation and revitalization,
- g) development of expert studies on the protection and use of cultural heritage in the development of spatial and urban plans,
- h) authorization for the temporary transport of protected cultural heritage abroad,
- i) authorization for archaeological and other studies,
- j) requirements for the use of protected cultural heritage,
- k) professional supervision of the organization for the protection,
- l) publishing activity, publishing research papers and publications, popularization and promotion of cultural, historical and natural heritage,
- m) the coordination and implementation of projects,
- n) professional training,
- o) cooperation with authorities and organizations in the field of protection and with the users or owners of cultural and natural heritage,
- p) organization of professional examination for the work activities to protect the cultural, historical and natural heritage, and
- q) other tasks stipulated by the applicable regulations.

Since the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed, the Republic Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of the Republic of Srpska has been participating in many projects related to reconstruction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, renovation and design of documentation for the cultural and historical heritage. The Institute performs conservation and restoration, archaeological activities and projects, analyses and studies for the proclamation of protected areas of natural and cultural heritage.

The Institute has a continuous cooperation with relevant institutions in the field of heritage, such as the Institute for Protection of Monuments of the Republic of Serbia, Institute for Nature Protection of the Republic of Serbia, Museum of Republic of Srpska, Museum of Contemporary Art of Republic of Srpska, University of Banja Luka, UNESCO, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of nature), University of Cambridge and many others.

Since 2006, the Institute has been organizing Regional Conference on Integrative Protection, which brings together experts from around the world in the field of cultural and natural heritage and publishes conference proceedings after each conference.

**Legislative and strategic framework:**

Nature as good of general interest for the Republic of Srpska enjoys special protection under the Law on Nature Protection Act. This Law regulates the protection and conservation of nature, biological, geological and landscape diversity as part of the environment.

**Other laws related to this field are:**

Law on Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Srpska

Law on the Implementation of Decisions of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments, established pursuant to Annex 8 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Republic of Srpska has *Strategy for the development of culture of the Republic of Srpska 2010-2015*. A new one is being prepared.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



**Dragana Lukić PhD**

*Senior Officer for EU Integration in Education*

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