

## CONFERENCE REPORT “THE ILLICIT ART TRADE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA”

TUZLA, 18.10.2018

First, we wish to make a review of the activities of the Center against Art Trafficking (CPKU) from 2014 to 2018, until the last conference of October 2018 which will be discussed in the second part of the report.



*Conference “The illicit art trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina », October 2018*

When it was created at the end of 2014, the CPKU defined four target groups with which it would carry out a series of activities to fight the illegal art trade:

1. Police, border police, customs
2. Prosecutors and judges
3. Ministries of Culture, competent institutions in the field of culture, non-governmental organisations and private collectors
4. legislative authorities and executive authorities

In 2015, an interdisciplinary conference on “**The Illicit Art Trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina**” organized by the CPKU had already brought together more than 40 participants representing the main institutions dedicated to the fight against the illicit trade in cultural goods. As a result of this conference, conclusions and recommendations were adopted with the aim of improving the situation in the fight against trafficking in works of art and cultural goods.

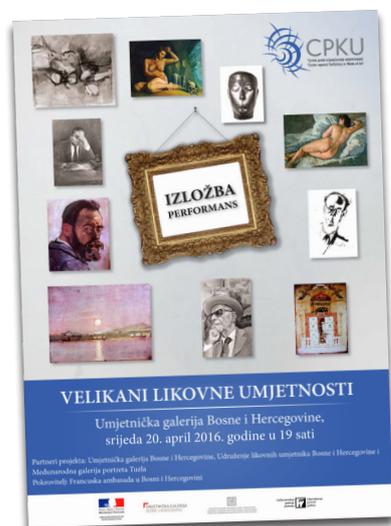


Conference “*The illicit art trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina*», October 2015

At the end of 2015, UNESCO’s National report on the implementation of the “Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property” of 1970 described the CPKU as a positive step in the fight against the illicit trade in cultural goods. The report states: “The initiative was instituted due to a lack of adequate specialist departments in the Ministries of Interior (both at cantonal and higher levels of government), and the situation on the ground required the existence of such a specialized institution”.

Based on the conclusions and recommendations adopted in 2015, the CPKU carried out a number of activities between 2015 and 2018, including:

## April 2016



**Exhibition “The Great Names of Art”**, conceived as an artistic performance in which photographs of artworks stolen from private and public collections were displayed in empty frames, with the aim of raising public awareness of the importance of protecting the artistic heritage of Bosnia Herzegovina. This exhibition was made in cooperation with the National Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Portraits Gallery of Tuzla, the Association of Artists of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the French Embassy in Bosnia Herzegovina.



Exhibition "The Great Names of Art", 2016



French Ambassador Claire Bodonyi



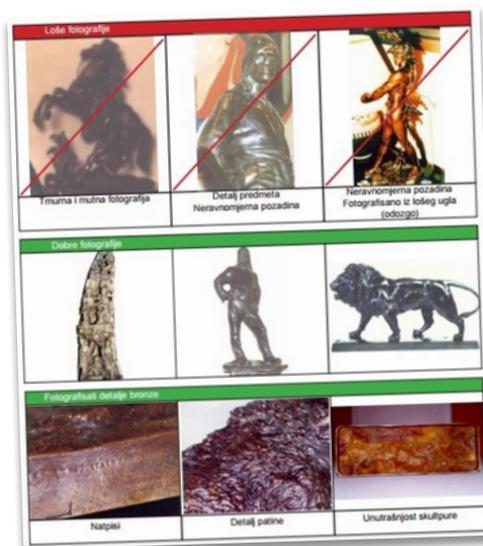
Exhibition "The Great Names of Art", 2016

## May 2016

Creation of the „Guidelines to photograph artworks and valuable objects“ and the „Artwork descriptive sheet“, two tools necessary for cultural goods owners (whether public or private) to establish documentation of these properties, for preventive purposes. This project has been realised with the support of the French embassy in Bosnia & Herzegovina and the General Directorate of the French National Police - Central Office against Trafficking in Cultural Goods OCBC (Paris).

Deskriptivna kartica za umjetnine	
Fotografija/broj :	<input type="text"/>
01. Vista umjetnine :	_____
02. Naziv ili tema :	_____
03. Autor :	_____
04. Vrijeme nastanka/epoha :	_____
05. Medij ili tehnika :	_____
06. Materijal :	_____
07. Dimenzije : visina _____, širina/promjer _____, dubina _____, težina _____ (za umjetničke slike navedite dimenzije bez okvira, a za skulpture bez postamenta – ako postoji)	_____
08. Oblik/forma (npr. pravougaoni, ovalni, okrugli i sl) :	_____
09. Dominantne boje :	_____
10. Potpis autora, žig, pečat, serijski broj (ukupan broj, opis, lokacija) :	_____
11. Druge oznake (vrsta i lokacija) :	_____
12. Proizvođač ili manufaktura/izdavač-štamparija/ljevaonica :	_____
13. Geografsko porijeklo :	_____
14. Stil :	_____
15. Samostalan predmet : da / ne	_____
16. Predmet dio kompleta: (par, diptih, triptih, polptih, ostalo) :	_____
17. Dokumentacija : (ukoliko posjedujete dokumentaciju o porijeklu/vlasništvu/procjeni sl. dostavite u prilogu)	_____

Artwork descriptive sheet



Guidelines to photograph artworks and valuable objects



Handbook „Art trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina“

Publication of the handbook „Art trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina: State of play, prevention, fighting tools, legislative framework, recommendations“, intended to all stakeholders in the fight against art trafficking (in particular police / justice).



#### Avant-Propos

La protection et la préservation du patrimoine culturel sont un enjeu essentiel pour un pays et sa population, en ce que le patrimoine culturel d'un pays est au coeur de son identité. Il est un élément de fierté légitime d'une population, en plus d'être un élément d'attractivité, y compris touristique et donc économique d'un pays.

L'engagement depuis 2014 du Centre contre le trafic d'oeuvres d'art (CPKU) a contribué à la sensibilisation grandissante de la société bosnienne à la question de la lutte contre le trafic des biens culturels, ainsi qu'à animer la réflexion sur ce sujet complexe, qui implique la coordination de très nombreux acteurs.

Je suis dès lors particulièrement honorée que m'ait été proposé d'introduire cet ouvrage, dans un contexte de développement d'une coopération entre la Bosnie-Herzégovine et la France sur ces sujets qui nous tiennent à coeur. La France oeuvre en effet depuis longtemps en faveur de la lutte contre le trafic illicite des biens culturels, sur son territoire et de par le monde, avec les autorités et organismes compétents et en coopération avec les Nations Unies, en particulier l'UNESCO.

Cet ouvrage du Centre contre le Trafic des Oeuvres d'art contribuera à la meilleure appréhension par les différents acteurs concernés d'une thématique large et trop peu connue. En proposant un état des lieux de la situation du trafic d'oeuvres d'art en Bosnie-Herzégovine, fondé sur plusieurs années de recherches, en rappelant la législation internationale et nationale applicable et en soulignant les outils existants pour agir efficacement, cet ouvrage se pose en un véritable manuel qui, je le souhaite, sera utile à de nombreux responsables agissant dans le domaine de la sensibilisation, de la prévention et de la formation en matière de lutte contre le trafic des biens culturels.

Je forme le voeu que cet ouvrage renforce la prise de conscience de chacun qu'il est acteur et défenseur de la préservation du patrimoine. C'est une responsabilité individuelle et collective, pour soi et surtout pour les générations à venir.

Claire BODONYI  
Ambassadrice de France  
Bosnie-Herzégovine

Introduction of the handbook „Art trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina“

**Training courses for judges and prosecutors in cooperation with the Center for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina CEST FBiH.** The instructors were Ljiljana Filipović of the Supreme Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Corinne Chartrelle of the French Police (OCBC) as well as representatives of the CPKU.



*Training course for judges and prosecutors, 2016*



*Training course for judges and prosecutors, 2016*



*Instructor Ljiljana Filipović, Supreme Court of the Federation of B&H*



*Instructor Corinne Chartrelle, French police (OCBC)*



*Instructor Eléonore Loué-Feichter, CPKU*



*Instructor Senad Begović, CPKU*



*Training course for judges and prosecutors, 2017*



*Training course for judges and prosecutors, 2017*

**Creation of the first national database of stolen / missing artworks in Bosnia and Herzegovina.** Available to the public on the CPKU website (<https://www.cpk.org>), the database was put together from police reports submitted by private collectors, museums and galleries in B&H. Its main purpose is to raise public awareness and to put pressure on the public authorities so that investigations can be conducted in these cases of missing / stolen artworks. Following the publication of the CPKU's database, INTERPOL added, in February 2018, 13 new stolen objects in its database, which consisted until then of only 14 stolen artworks, bringing the total number of missing objects to 27 for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The CPKU database contains all the relevant information, including the date of complaint, of 109 stolen items from the National Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Tuzla International Portrait Gallery and the private collection of Damirka and Enver Mulabdić. It is regularly updated and supplemented by adding new objects.

## Baza nestalih umjetnina - The database of missing art

## BAZA NESTALIH UMJETNINA - THE DATABASE OF MISSING ART

[vрати se na Početnu](#)

**Projekat "Baza ukradenih / nestalih umjetnina u Bosni i Hercegovini" realizovan je uz podršku Francuske Ambasade u Bosni i Hercegovini.**

Prikaži  elemenataPretraga: 

Redni broj / ↕ Number	Autor Author ↕	Naziv Title ↕	Tehnika izrade Technique ↕	Dimenzija (cm) Dimension ↕	Godina nastanka Year of creation ↕	Vlasništvo Ownership ↕	Godina nestanka Year of disappearance ↕	Datum podnošenja prijave Complaint lodging ↕
1	Borka Avramova	Slavko Janevski	puna plastika-patinirani gips	37x30x34	1959	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
2	Nada Falaut Vuksanović	Portret I. Kuljevića	olovka	50x50	1975	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
3	Vera Ficher	Lea Deutch	ulje na platnu	25x35	1959	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
4	Josip Grčević (Grgević)	Barba Martin	gips	30x25x20	1967	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
5	Petar Jelisić	Portret Ismeta Mujezinovića	bronza	-	1975	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
6	Vlado Puljić	Ivo Andrić	ulje na platnu	74x48	1974	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
7	Ante Starčević	B. Bulić	bronza	57x40x27	1974	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
8	Dimitrije Sretenović	Poluprofil žene	olovka	20x29	1987	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
9	Dragiša Trifković	Ivan Marković Irac	gips	40x22	1954	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
10	Dragiša Trifković	Juro Kerošević	gips	29x17	1965	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
11	Dragiša Trifković	Veljko Čubrilović	gips	48x26x24	1971	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
12	Miroslav Vertažnik	Portret gospođe B. Božičković	gips	34x119x13	1980	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
13	Ismet Mujezinović	Meša Selimović	crni tuš	59,5x42	1948	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
14	Ismet Mujezinović	Niko Andrija Meša Selimović	olovka tuš	80x60	-	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
15	Ismet Mujezinović	Mješalica (studija za sliku)	olovka	49,5x33,2	1947	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
16	Ismet Mujezinović	Odmor na Olovu	tuš	20,5x39,5	1945	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
17	Ismet Mujezinović	U slavu boraca Sutjeske (detalj)	flomaster	22,5x40	1957	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
18	Ismet Mujezinović	Konj u kasu	tuš	31x46	1958	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
19	Ismet Mujezinović	Osiobođenje Jajca (skica)	olovka i flomaster	24,4x34	-	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
20	Ismet Mujezinović	Logorovanje (skica za bojenje)	tuš	18x28	1943./44.	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
21	Ismet Mujezinović	Djeca	ulje na kartonu	70x50	1920	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.
22	Ubrich Waibel	Ljudski portret u prostoru i vremenu	kreda	70x100	1990	Međunarodna galerija portreta	1992-2010.	26.05.2011.

Database of stolen / missing artworks in Bosnia and Herzegovina

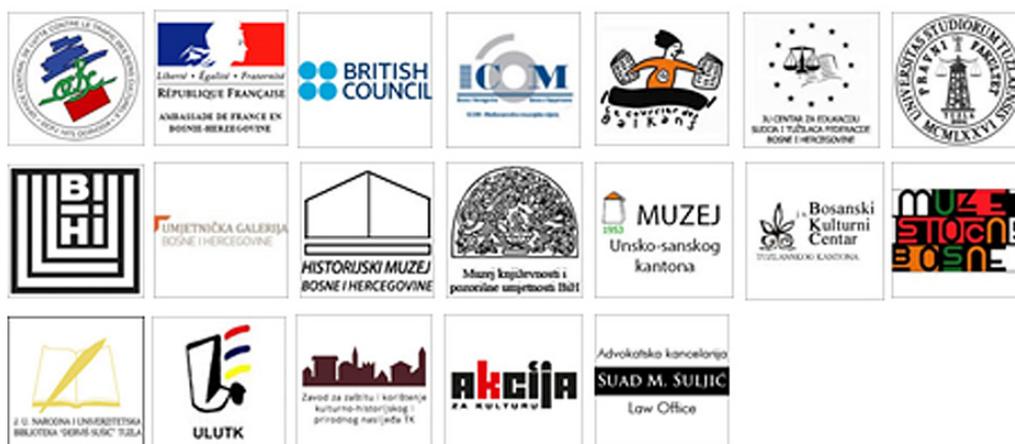
**Participation in various seminars / conferences as speakers**, among the most important: the ARCA Conference (Association for Research Into Crimes Against Art) in Italy, where the CPKU was the only representative of South-eastern Europe (June 2017 ) and the Seminar of the National Institute of the High Studies in Security and Justice (INHESJ) in Paris as part of the 1st International Session “Security and Justice” intended to security experts from Middle East (January 2018).



ARCA Conference

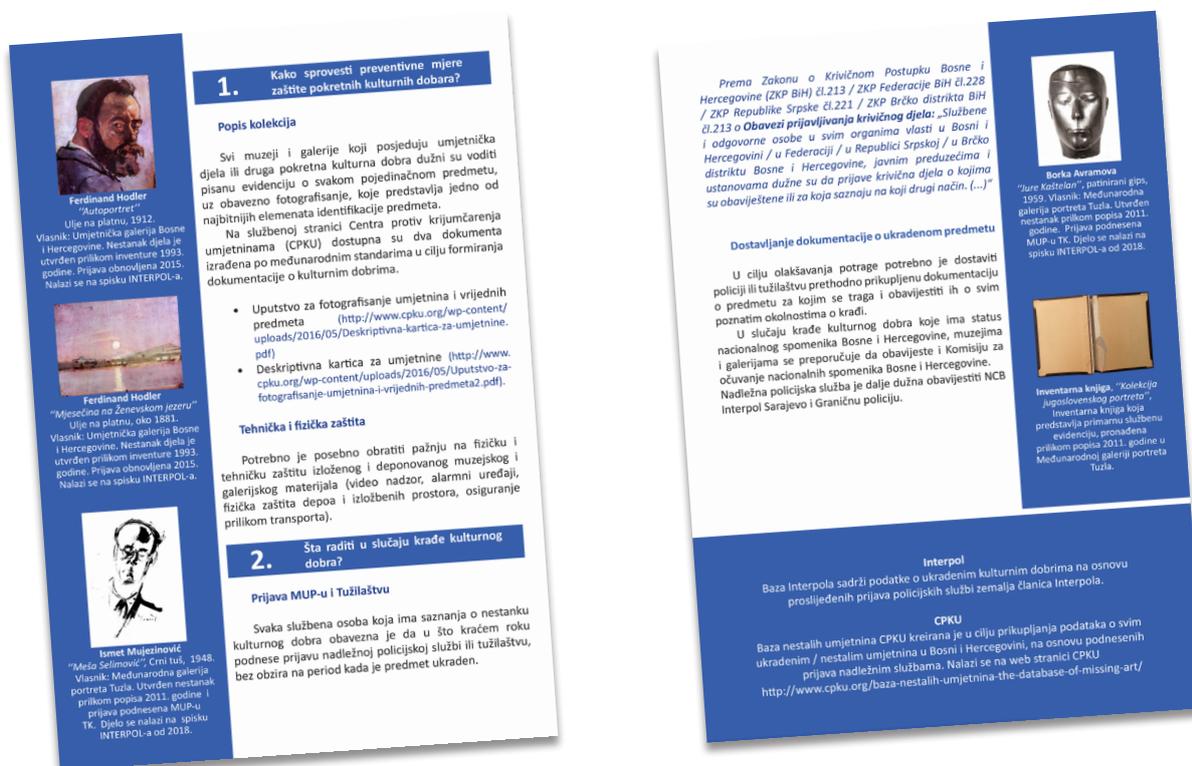
**Regular cooperation with judicial institutions in B&H** (Prosecutors of the Canton of Sarajevo and Tuzla, Tuzla Municipal Court), working as experts in cases of theft and counterfeiting of artworks (for ex. The case of the Holiday Inn in 2016).

**Signature of a large number of cooperation protocols** with national and foreign organizations and institutions (National Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ICOM BiH, Faculty of Law of Tuzla University, Association of Artists of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Museum of Eastern Bosnia, BKC Tuzla, Una-Sana County Museum, Le Courier des Balkans, NGO Akcija za kulturu, Museum of History of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Museum of Literature and Theater Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and many others).





Brochure „Thefts in museums“



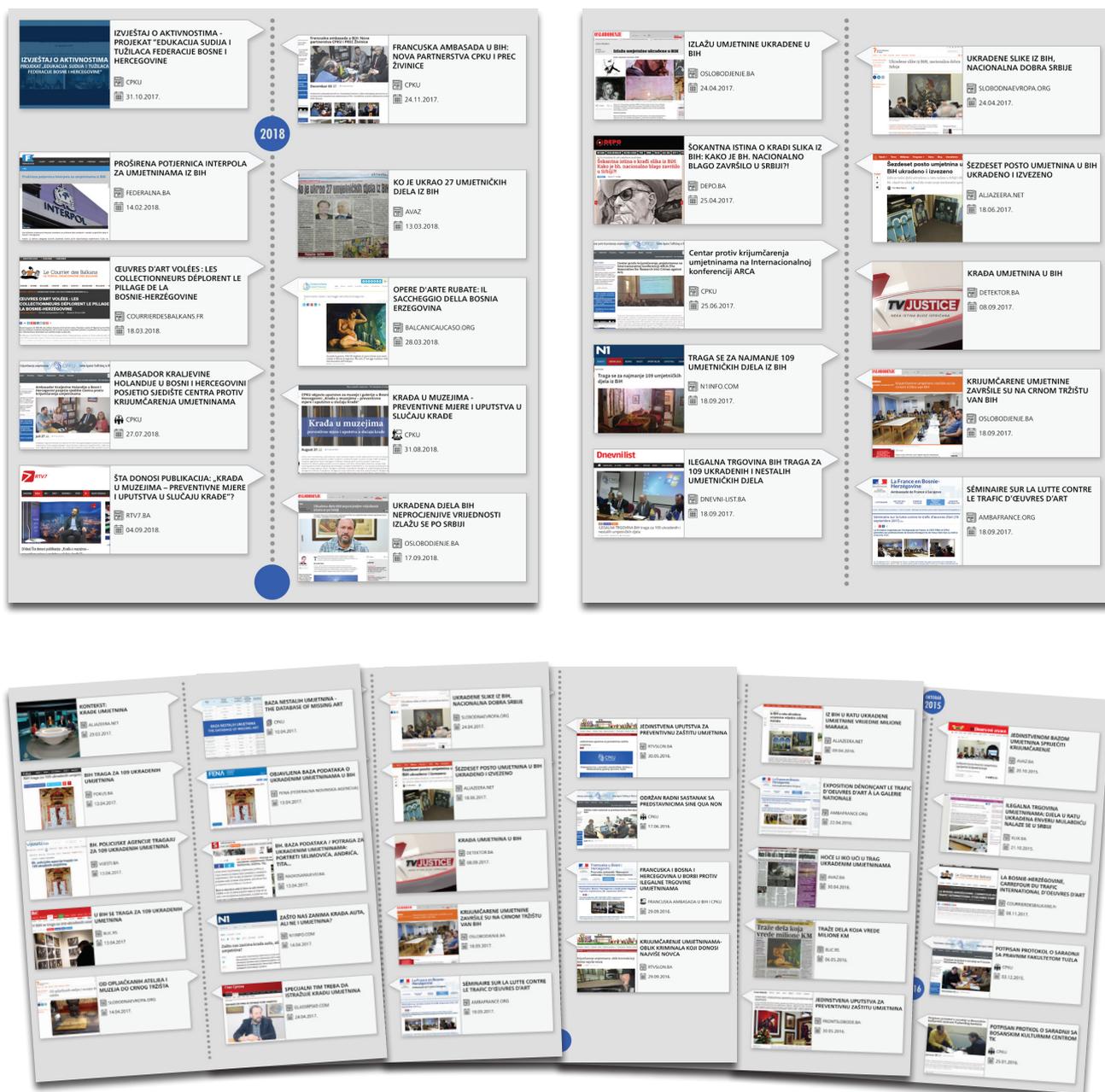
From the brochure „Thefts in museums“

In the illegal art trade, the international factor is almost always involved. This is why the CPKU has, since the beginning of its activities, given an important place to international cooperation. Our foreign partners are:

- OCBC - Central Office for the fight against trafficking in cultural goods (French specialized police service).
- ICOM - International Council of Museums (Paris) through their platform “Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods” which brings together all the actors and information related to the fight against trafficking in works of art at an international level. The CPKU is listed as the only point of contact in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- ARCA (Association for Research into Crimes Against Art)
- ARTIVE, provenance research and global database with the latest technologies.
- Various partners and experts in the field of the fight against art trafficking.

Publication of the brochure „Thefts in museums - Preventive Measures and Recommendations in case of theft“, as a preventive tool intended for museums and galleries in Bosnia and Herzegovina, giving practical advice in case of theft and good practices in terms of preservation of collections.

In addition, we actively cooperate with the media that relay all our activities and now publish regularly on the theme of art traffic in general. The media is one of our strategic partners in raising awareness of the local population and lobbying the public authorities. Since its creation, CPKU's work has been monitored by more than 70 media in the country and abroad.



Press reviews on CPKU activities

All documents / manuals and press articles on CPKU activities are available on our website (<https://www.cpk.u.org/>). These same documents are already used by certain organizations and ministries as well as by the owners of works of art.

In the coming months, the CPKU plans to organize training for judges and prosecutors, border police, customs and police, as well as the extension of its database of missing / stolen artworks in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Conference „The illicit art trade”, October 2018



Conference „The illicit art trade”, 2018



Conference „The illicit art trade”, 2018



Conference „The illicit art trade”, 2018

The conference „The illicit art trade in Bosnia & Herzegovina” was held on October 18th 2018 in Tuzla, during the 17th INTERBIFEP Biennial festival, and brought together private collectors, representatives of the protection of the cultural and historical heritage, representatives of law enforcement agencies and foreign organizations: Embassy of France in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Cooperation Attaché and Deputy Security Attaché), OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (Good governance in the security sector - Security cooperation unit), Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (State Investigation and Protection Agency SIPA - Intelligence and Criminal Investigation Department), Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Investigation Department, Central Investigation Bureau), Administration of Indirect Duties of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Administration of the Federal Police (Tuzla Office - Investigator for property crimes), Ministry of the Interior of the Canton of Sarajevo (Criminal Police Department - Criminal Intelligence Unit), Ministry of the Interior of the Canton of Tuzla, Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Center for the Training of Judges and Prosecutors of the Republika Srpska, Association of Artists of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Museum of Eastern Bosnia in Tuzla, private collectors, curators, international experts in the field of cultural heritage protection and CPKU representatives.

A large number of media also followed the conference.



*Conference 2018, Interviews*



*Conference 2018, Interviews*



*Conference 2018, Interviews*



*Conference 2018, Interviews*



*Conference 2018, Interviews*

Dženan Jusufović, President of the CPKU, Danis Fejzić, President of the Association of Artists of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Catherine Palpant, Cooperation Attaché of the French Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina gave the opening speech. Participants also had the opportunity to watch a ten-minute video presentation about CPKU's activities.

On this occasion, a new cooperation agreement was also signed between the CPKU and the French Embassy, which marks the continuation of the Embassy's support for CPKU activities.



*Conference 2018, signature of the cooperation agreement*

During the conference, Eléonore Loué-Feichter, lawyer, journalist and founder of the CPKU, presented the activities of the CPKU since its creation in 2014 until 2018. Helen Walasek, Honorary Associate Research Fellow of the University of Exeter, UK, expert on cultural heritage issues and author of the book „*Bosnia and the Destruction of Cultural Heritage*“ (Routledge 2015), presented the potential for the unresolved question of cultural property looted during the 1992–1995 Bosnian War to cause legal and political challenges in the present. Saida Hasanagić, art historian and external associate of the CPKU in United Kingdom, focused on the issue of repatriation and restitution of stolen art and cultural property. Lucia Gigli, Italian expert in the field of museum and gallery inventories, made participants aware of the importance of inventories and the development of official documentation as one of the essential prerequisites for the prevention of art theft. Pierre Courtin, curator and private collector, shared his experience in customs procedures relating to the transport of artworks and in legal protection of artworks on digital media (video and photography). Enver Mulabdić, private collector, spoke about the problem of restitution of artworks as part of a private collection enjoying the status of national heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He reminded that the works of his collection, stolen during the war and searched by Interpol, were currently still illegally held by a collector in Novi Sad (Serbia). Andrew Lawler, as a British expert on heritage monuments, presented the results of his research on Bosnia and Herzegovina about monuments in public places that have been destroyed or stolen, as well as on the issue of their formal protection and social reception. Dr. Yuri Stoyanov, Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London and Senior Fellow at the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem, presented the issue of cultural heritage protection in the South-East European Context.



Conference 2018, participants



Conference 2018, participants



Conference 2018, participants



Conference 2018, participants



Conference 2018, participants



Conference 2018, participants



Conference 2018, participants



Conference 2018, participants

After the presentations, a discussion was initiated to adopt the recommendations and conclusions. The police and the investigating authorities confirmed that this area was unknown to them. The participants proposed the creation of specialized police units, the creation of a national register of missing artworks and the training of museum staff, as well as the updating and proper management of official documentation by each owner of cultural objects. At the end of the conference, preliminary proposals and conclusions were sent to all participants for their suggestions, after which a final list of proposals was drawn up.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Establishment of a state register of missing cultural properties in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, in accordance with international standards, in order to summarize the exact situation in this field as well as the exact number of artworks stolen from the territory of Bosnia Herzegovina.
2. **Establishment of a joint commission** to initiate negotiations with the countries of the region on the restitution and repatriation of cultural property classified as national heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina and artworks illegally removed from public and private collections during the period 1992 -1995, in coordination with the Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
3. **Strengthening the commitment of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the UNESCO in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the ICOM Bosnia and Herzegovina**, as well as other relevant institutions and institutions, in line with the 2015 Recommendation of the UNESCO concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society, applicable in all member states, stating that: „A key component of collection management in museums is the creation and maintenance of a professional inventory and regular control of collections. An inventory is an essential tool for protecting museums, preventing and fighting illicit trafficking, and helping museums fulfil their role in society. It also facilitates the sound management of collections mobility.”
4. **Coordination and exchange of information** between stakeholders in the fight against illegal art trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the region and in EU member states (and non-EU countries) and the different information networks on cultural objects at risk which are subject to illicit trafficking and smuggling, in cooperation with the CPKU.
5. **Organization of trainings** for investigative services and magistrates, in cooperation with the CPKU.
6. **Creation of specialized police units**, as a key to successful and efficient disclosure of criminal groups and networks, as well as the increase of information exchange between the investigative bodies in the case of existing reports about stolen artworks.
7. **Intensification of the investigations** based on criminal reports submitted by museums, galleries, private collectors, artists, private ateliers, associations and others in order to retrieve the artworks and to return them to their legal owners.
8. **Intensification of the cooperation between INTERPOL National Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the relevant investigative bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, as well as the addition of new objects in the INTERPOL database, on the basis of existing reports.
9. **Harmonization of the legislation** in the field of museology at the different administrative levels (cantons, district, entities, national level) in terms of categorization of cultural property and harmonization of criminal legislation to facilitate the investigations and the implementation of tougher penalties for this type of criminal offenses.
10. **Recommendations to the relevant ministries** to monitor through periodic reports, the state of cultural institutions in terms of collections, inventories, human resources and physical and technical protection of exhibition sites and reserves.
11. **Creation of an initiative to the relevant ministries in order to complete the list of judicial experts** in the fields of financial evaluation, authenticity and origin of artworks.
12. **Publication of detailed instructions on the export procedures of cultural property**, intended for individuals and legal entities.
13. **Awareness-raising of the population through specific programs and actions** (brochures, exhibitions, conferences, workshops, cooperation with the media...) in order to strengthen the importance of preserving the cultural, historical and artistic heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina.