



Empowerment of civil society for the protection of cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict areas

“Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya”

Date:	April 2022 (27-28-29/04/2022)
Time:	(11:30– 16:30 CET)
Location:	Virtual Zoom Platform and YouTube
Trainers:	Heritage for Peace Organization and the Heritage Management Organization
Registration link	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJTxHZB68jF784V1deaGcyn6VL3-lmIxy5Q1acZCViQ995eg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Abstract

The so-called “the Arab Spring” spread across many countries in the Middle East and resulted in serious political change in countries like Egypt, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, and Tunisia. Countries such as Yemen, Libya, Syria, and Iraq suffered severe damage and turned into devastating civil wars that affected every aspect of life. Not only have the population of those countries suffered, but also the cultural heritage resources of those countries. Thus, the indiscriminate bombardment of urban city centers, using archeological sites for military purposes, trafficking of archeological remains, looting, and vandalism persuaded UNESCO to place several World Heritage sites on its danger list.

Worrisome information and reports about the destruction of heritage resources have approved the need for more significant efforts to protect heritage by all those involved in safeguarding cultural

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heritage. In line with the local community engagement, many international institutions and organizations played a prominent role in preventing further damage and vandalism, as well as monitoring trafficking and illicit excavations. In collaboration with partners, Heritage for Peace Organization conducted pioneered projects to protect cultural heritage in Syria and in the region, where the latest is the Arab network of Civil Society to safeguard Cultural Heritage (ANSCH), and funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH). ANSCH connects with governmental and non-governmental agencies, and civil society organizations and makes connections with the local communities to design protection projects needed in Arab countries. ANSCH's framework focuses now on cultural heritage zones in Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Yemen. However, in the absence of implementing national and international regulations that are concerned with safeguarding Heritage, there is an urgent need to address first-aid measures and principles to protect tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as to foster and empower the role of civil society organizations.

Description

The Arab Network of Civil Society Organizations to Safeguard Cultural Heritage (ANSCH) is a joint initiative of Heritage for Peace Organization (H4P) in coordination with several civil society organizations (CSOs) in different Arab countries (<https://ansch.heritageforpeace.org/network-of-csos/>). ANSCH was launched in 2020 and funded by the financial support of the International Alliance for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH). ANSCH works with government agencies, CSOs, and nonprofit organizations to identify, manage, plan, and conserve archeological sites, historic monuments, museums, and other cultural heritage resources.

After the recent destruction of cultural heritage in the Arab world and the absence of the management role of responsible authorities in those countries, ANSCH is leading a pioneer project to safeguard and protect heritage by employing the civil society organizations (CSOs) to play this

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role as a key instrument to raise awareness and take preventive and first-aid measures in preserving the cultural heritage. Taking into account that the cultural heritage assets are extremely valuable and irreplaceable losses, ANSCH considers that the power of these assets can form a prominent pivotal role in reconciliation, reconstruction, and peacebuilding in the post-conflict phase.

Emerging civil society organizations (CSOs) and authorities are the first and foremost players on the ground, and they can lead successful initiatives and projects. Through the ANSCH-Conference-2022, CSOs related to cultural heritage protection and preservation showed high motivation and willingness to help and collaborate with the aim to protect heritage from further loss and destruction. During the conference, international funding agencies and experts offered help and consultation in this regard, where the CSOs in the aforementioned countries are willing to learn from past experiences and further take a role in protecting their tangible and intangible heritage.

As ANSCH-Conference-2022, conducted on the 3rd and 4th of March 2022, formed the first activity of the project “Empowerment of civil society for the protection of cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict areas in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya”, this workshop forms the second activity of as it aims at training CSO's staff, governmentally and non-governmentally employees, responsible authorities, and interests in the cultural heritage sector. Therefore, the Arab Network of Civil Society Organizations to Safeguard Cultural Heritage (ANSCH) is partnering with the Heritage Management Organization that is specialised in Heritage Management capacity building in order to offer a three-day workshop, starting in April 2022, in regard to promoting cultural heritage as a tool of consolidation and reconciliation in the affected countries of (Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya).

The objectives of the workshop are to:

Organize a series of capacity-building sessions in Arabic for civil society organization members. These sessions will be mainly conducted online via Zoom and YouTube channel and in partnership

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with the *Heritage for Peace Organization* (<https://www.heritageforpeace.org/>) and *The Heritage Management Organization* (<https://heritagemanagement.org/>) and will cover the following topics:

- An introduction to project management including a) the project life, cycle, b) understanding project limitations, and c) elements of good practice.
- Community participation and engagement in heritage management in a post-conflict, peacebuilding, and reconciliation environment.
- A discussion of good practice and the role of stakeholders in conflict prevention and reconciliation.
- Elements of Strategic planning include defining the scope & key results, budget, writing a grant application, project risk management, monitoring time, costs, and quality of a project.

At the end of each session, there will be time for questions and answers.

The final configuration of modules/units will be defined through a participatory needs analysis with local actors. Each module will remain available for use on-demand, translated into Arabic, and delivered in modules using text, video, and visual graphic formats. One result of the training will be the identification of a group of trainers who can re-use these modules in similar workshops in the future.

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HERITAGE
THE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION



Expected outcomes

- An understanding of key elements of Heritage Project Management.
- Grant writing.
- Community engagement.
- Building capacities of civil society organizations.
- Create an educational resource in Arabic as a preliminary response to safeguard the endangered cultural heritage.
- Support social and local networks through ANSCH.
- Protect the cultural heritage through a good-management practices in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya from further destruction and loss.
- At the end of the workshop, each participant will receive a stamped certificate of participation from the Heritage for Peace Organization and its partner the Heritage Management Organization.

Note: Sessions in this workshop will be held in English and interpretations in Arabic will be available.

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Time table:

Date	Time (CET)	Session/s	Tutor/s
27.04.2022	10:00 – 11:00	Project Management Introduction	HERITAGE
	11:15 – 12:15		HERITAGE
	12:30 – 12:45		HERITAGE
	13:00 – 13:30	Exercises Q & A	H4P
	13:45 – 14:45		H4P
28.04.2022	10:00 – 11:00	Community engagement and participation	HERITAGE
	11:15 – 12:15		HERITAGE
	12:30 – 12:45		HERITAGE
	13:00 – 13:30	Exercises Q & A	H4P
	13:45 – 14:45		H4P
29.04.2022	10:00 – 11:00	Strategic planning	HERITAGE
	11:15 – 12:15		HERITAGE
	12:30 – 12:45		HERITAGE
	13:00 – 13:30	Exercises Q & A	H4P
	13:45 – 14:45		H4P

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