



Thematic Expert Consultation meeting on sustainable management of World Heritage properties of religious interest:



Focus on South-Eastern and Mediterranean Europe

UNESCO Headquarters, 7 Place de Fontenoy, Paris 7e

16 – 18 February 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

! The meeting will be held with simultaneous interpretations in English and French.

BACKGROUND

The World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011) requested the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to elaborate a thematic paper proposing to States Parties general guidance regarding the management of their cultural and natural heritage of religious interest, and in compliance with the national specificities, inviting States Parties to provide voluntary contributions to this end.

In this regard, UNESCO, by launching the Initiative on Heritage of Religious Interest, plays a leading role in the development of such guidance and coordination of the implementation of concrete related activities world-wide.

In the long-term, the Initiative on Heritage of Religious Interest is intended to help integrate a number of guiding principles for PRI-SM (Properties of Religious Interest – Sustainable Management) into cultural policies at the local, national, regional and international levels so as to contribute to the rapprochement of cultures and harmonious relations among peoples.

Further to the consultation process between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the elaboration of the thematic paper will be ensured in three phases: (i) preparatory activities, including regional thematic consultations; (ii) inventory, research and data analysis; (iii) consultation/production of thematic paper.

In 2013, it was announced by the World Heritage Centre, that a cycle of Thematic Consultations should be launched world-wide, through a selected sample of representative case studies, for addressing sustainable management and use of properties of religious interest.

Following the thematic and regional activities, such as the International Seminar for religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties (Moscow, Russian Federation, 2013), the Multidisciplinary Workshop on the Strategic Framework for the Conservation and Management of the Mount Athos Cultural and Natural Heritage (Thessaloniki, Greece, 2013), ICCROM Forum on Asian Buddhist Heritage (Seoul, Korea, 2013), IUCN World Parks Congress (Sydney, Australia, 2014), the UNWTO Congress on Tourism and Pilgrimage (Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 2014) and the UNWTO Conference on Religious Heritage and Tourism (Elche, Spain, 2014), UNESCO decided to organize a Thematic Experts Consultation Meeting on sustainable management of the World Heritage properties of religious interest.

Thanks to the support of Bulgaria, a cycle of Regional Thematic Consultations on sustainable management of the World Heritage properties of religious interest towards the elaboration of the above-mentioned paper will be launched at UNESCO with a first Thematic Expert Consultation meeting focused on South-Eastern and Mediterranean Europe.

This meeting could be seen as a model for future regional consultations in support UNESCO's work to implement the World Heritage Committee Decision on heritage of religious interest.

PURPOSE

Overall Objective

The main objective of this Expert Meeting would be to contribute to the development, by the World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies Steering Group on Heritage of Religious Interest, of the thematic paper proposing to States Parties general guidance regarding the management of their cultural and natural heritage of religious interest, and in compliance with the national specificities, as requested by the World Heritage Committee.

Expected output

The main output of the meeting shall be draft recommendations for development of the above mentioned general guidance.

SESSIONS

The participants of the meeting will be invited to discuss the following issues during 3 Plenary Sessions and 3 Working Sessions, to develop recommendations to be adopted at the closing session of this consultation meeting. For more information, please see the meeting's programme and the concept note, available on <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1276/> - Password: **PRISM 2016**.

DOCUMENTATION

All relevant information concerning this meeting, including its concept note, provisional programme, list of participants and background documentation, is available on the webpage of the Initiative on Heritage of Religious Interest (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/religious-sacred-heritage>) as well as on the webpage of the meeting (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1276/> Password : **PRISM 2016**).

PARTICIPANTS

Experts designated by the States Parties in the region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Holy See, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Turkey) will present their case-studies in order to illustrate the main challenges in governance, management and use of World Heritage properties of religious interest.

The **representatives of religious communities** living/managing/using World Heritage properties are also invited to participate in the meeting and present their examples of involving religious communities in the management and use of World Heritage properties.

International experts in the field of cultural and religious heritage will present their studies.

Moderators will present the Plenary and Working Sessions.

A **Drafting Group**, consisting of members of the World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies Steering Group on Heritage of Religious Interest and international experts, will finalise, after debates, the final text of recommendations for adoption.

Guidance documents for moderators and participants will be circulated in the weeks before the meeting.

REGISTRATION AT THE MEETING

Registration Desk to the meeting

The meeting Registration Desk will be located in the UNESCO main entrance (7 place de Fontenoy, Paris 7e) and will be opened on 16 February 2016 from 09:00 to 09:45 morning onwards. Please note that every participant should bring her/his ID card or passport for registration.

Badges

Upon registration, an Identification badge will be delivered. The badges are not transferable. For security purposes, the badge is required to gain entry to UNESCO and must be visibly worn at all times.

The entrance to the meeting room will also be secured. Only participants with a meeting badge, UNESCO staff and invited members have access to the meeting room.

Seats

When arriving in the meeting room, all invited participants should take their nominal seats. There will be a map with indications of the seats at the entrance of the meeting room.

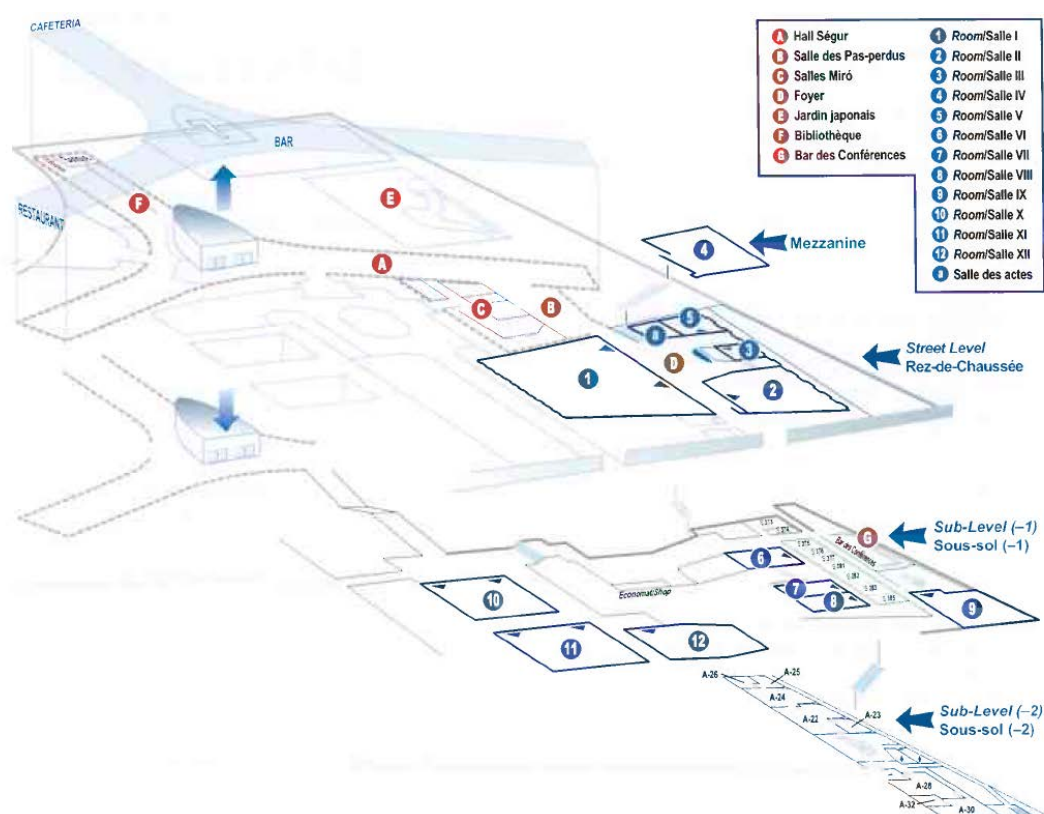
DATES AND VENUE

- 16 February from 10:00 to 18:00 (registration from 09:00 onwards)
- 17 February from 10:00 to 18:00
- 18 February from 10:00 to 15:00

Address: 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

Venue: Sub-Level -1, Room IX - UNESCO HQ, Fontenoy Building

When entering the UNESCO Fontenoy Building, please follow the indication panels "Thematic Expert Consultation Meeting PRI-SM". Room IX is located on minus one, next to the Bar des Conférences.



How to reach UNESCO Headquarters

By metro:

The closest metro stops to UNESCO HQ are Cambronne (line 6), Segur (line 10). Information about the Paris metro is accessible here: <http://www.ratp.fr/fr/>. There are numerous metro maps that can be downloaded to a mobile device. A one-way Metro ticket costs €1.80.

Metro map: www.ratp.fr/informer/pdf/orienter/f_plan.php

From the airports:

Participants should make their own transportation arrangements from Charles de Gaulle - Roissy International Airport to their hotel and UNESCO HQ. The journey from the airports to UNESCO HQ and surrounding hotels will take approximately 45-60 minutes in normal traffic.

➤ **From Charles de Gaulle Airport - Roissy**

- Participants can choose from the following traffic options: By **Air France Shuttle Bus**, every 30 minutes. Line 2 connects Charles de Gaulle Airport and “Etoile/Champs-Élysées”. Travel time: approximately 1 hour. One-way ticket: €17. Line 4 connects Charles de Gaulle Airport and “Montparnasse”. Travel time: 1h15. One-way ticket: €17.5. For more information, please visit: <http://en.lescarsairfrance.com/les-navettes-roissy-cdg.html>
- By **RER B** (2 stations within the airport zone: Charles de Gaulle airport 1, and Charles de Gaulle airport 2 - TGV). You may also notice the term "Roissy-Rail"; this is sometimes used to name the part of the RER B line between Paris Gare du Nord and the Charles de Gaulle airport. Travel time: approximately 35 minutes to the “Gare du Nord”. Train intervals: 10 - 15 minutes on weekdays. Price: €9.75. For more information, please visit: <http://www.aeroportsdeparis.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/public-transport/rer-b>
- A **metered taxi** from the airport to the vicinity of UNESCO HQ. Estimated price: €60.

➤ **From Orly Airport**

Participants can choose from the following traffic options:

- By **Orlybus**, a special bus service that links the Orly airport to “Denfert-Rocherau”. From “Denfert-Rocherau”, you can take the Paris Metro. Map: www.ratp.fr/informer/pdf/orienter/f_plan.php. Buses come every 8-15 min at a price of 7.70€. For more information about Orlybus, please visit: http://www.ratp.fr/en/ratp/r_61866/orlybus/
- By **Orlyval**, a light rail transit line that connects the Orly airport with Antony RER station. From “Antony RER Station”, you can then take the RER B to Paris and then the Paris Metro. Map: www.ratp.fr/informer/pdf/orienter/f_plan.php. Travel time: approximately 25-30 minutes to Paris. An Orlyval ticket costs €11.65, but an additional cost will then be charged for the journey from “Antony RER Station” to Paris. A total of €12.05 will be charged for the journey from Orly Airport to Paris. For more information about Orlyval, please visit: http://www.ratp.fr/en/ratp/r_61864/orlyval/
- A **metered taxi** from the airport to the vicinity of UNESCO HQ. Estimated price: €40.

SERVICES AT UNESCO

Internet

There is WIFI available in the meeting rooms.

Network: hq-air

Password: uneswifi

Telephone Calls

Local (and within-house calls) may be made by participants themselves from the telephone booths outside Room I or underground near to the Economat or Room X.

Coffee/Tea

Coffee and tea will be served daily at approximately 11:15 and 16:15.

Lunches

On 16 and 17 February from 13:00 to 14h30, two lunches will be offered by UNESCO to all participants at the UNESCO Restaurant. The UNESCO Restaurant is located on the 7th floor of the Fontenoy Building, on the right side when stepping out of the elevators.

on 18 February from 12:00 to 13:30, all participants will be offered sandwich lunch boxes and coffee, tea and juices.

Medical Service

A medical service and a nursery are located on the 2nd Floor of the Fontenoy Building.

Bank

The Société Générale has a branch on the left of the reception desk at the main entrance, ground floor. Opening hours:

- Ordinary banking: Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 12:15 and 13:15 to 17:15
- Exchange operations: Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 12:00 and 13:15 to 17:00

This branch also provides a Cash point/ATM.

OPENING TIMES IN PARIS

Most companies open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Administrative offices generally close at 5 p.m., except for post offices, which are sometimes open until 6.30 p.m.

Boutiques and shops are open continuously from 9 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. with late closings, "les nocturnes", on certain days in department stores. Shops are traditionally closed on Sunday.

Banks are generally open from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and closed on Saturday (some open in until 4 p.m.) and Sunday. There is a bank Société Générale in UNESCO.

Museums and monuments usually open between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. and close on Monday or Tuesday, although the schedule can vary for monuments depending on the season.

Discover the best of Paris on the Official Website of the Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau: <http://en.parisinfo.com/>

HEALTH

Visitors from the European Community can benefit from the same health services as French citizens. For this, you need to obtain a form E111 at home in your local health centre. Other visitors are recommended to take out a travel insurance policy.

The Medical Europe Centre proposes various low-price consultations: 44, rue d'Amsterdam 75009 Paris, Tel: 01 42 81 93 33

There is a medical service and a nursery in the UNESCO HQ, located on the 2nd floor of the Fontenoy Building.

Hospitals where English is spoken:

The American Hospital in Paris

63 boulevard Victor Hugo, 92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine
Tel: 33 1 46 41 25 25 (*metro: Anatole France /Pont de Levallois*).

The Hertford British Hospital

3, rue Barbès, 92300 Levallois-Perret
Tel: 33 1 46 39 22 22 (*metro: Anatole France*).

Useful telephone numbers:

Emergency telephone numbers at UNESCO:

Medical service: +33-(0)1-4568-0867

Reception: +33-(0)1-4568-0350/1/2/3

Security: +33-(0)1-4568-1637/48/49

External emergency telephone numbers:	(Emergency number in English)
- S.A.M.U. : 15	- S.O.S Help: 01 47 23 80 80
- Police: 17	- Anti-poison Centre: Tel. 01 40 37 04 04
- Firemen: 18	- Ambulances Tel. 01 43 78 26 26
- S.O.S doctors: 01 43 37 77 77	
- S.O.S dentists: 01 43 37 51 00	

USEFUL CONTACTS

Should you need any assistance please contact:

- Ms Lise Sellem Tel.: +33 (0)1 45 68 14 40 E-mail : l.sellem@unesco.org
- Mr Timo Vantyghem Tel.: +33 (0)1 45 68 10 08 E-mail: t.vantyghem@unesco.org

We look forward to welcoming you at UNESCO!