

**State of Conservation Report  
of the UNESCO World Heritage Site  
«Historic Center of Odesa» (Ukraine)  
(C 1703)**

**1. Executive Summary of the report**

During 2024, the Odesa City Council continued to work on the implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO Committee provided to the State Party Ukraine by Decisions 18EXT.COM 5.2, 46 COM 7A.6, and was guided by the letters of the UNESCO World Heritage Center (hereinafter referred to as UNESCO) dated 06.02.2023 № CLT/WHC/NOM/23/6, dated 07.09.2023 CLT/WHC/NOM/23/110, dated 23.02.2024 CLT/WHC/NOM/24/59 (copies of the letters are attached).

The approval by the UNESCO WHC of the proposed expansion of the boundaries of the UNESCO World Heritage Property «Historic Center of Odesa» (hereinafter referred to as the World Heritage Property) allowed to proceed to the next stages of implementation of UNESCO's recommendations, namely:

1. Prepare a request for minor changes to the boundaries of the buffer zone of the World Heritage Property in accordance with Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, as well as develop a map with the amended (expanded) boundaries of the buffer zone covering the World Heritage Property from all sides.

2. Work to strengthen the legal protection of the World Heritage Property and its buffer zone and improve the mechanisms for the conservation of the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Property.

In accordance with paragraphs 107, 164 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, a statement on minor changes to the boundaries of the World Heritage property (buffer zone) was prepared according to the model in Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines.

The military aggression by the Russian Federation poses a significant threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property. The aggressor country continues to carry out destructive drone and missile strikes on the city of Odesa. During 2024, three large-scale attacks were carried out on the territory of the World Heritage Site and its buffer zone: in March, April and November. Utility companies and other city services carried out extensive work to record the damage and take priority measures to overcome the consequences of emergencies arising from attacks on historic buildings and to carry out emergency work.

Despite the difficulties associated with the martial law, the municipality of Odesa Municipality, together with the Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications of Ukraine, are making efforts to use all opportunities to preserve, protect and research the UNESCO World Heritage Property «Historic Center of Odesa» and to expand the circle of stakeholders interested in the successful realization of the historical and cultural potential of Odesa.

Based on the terms of reference prepared by the Odesa municipality, the Public organizations developed three important documents within the framework of the project «Support to the Implementation of the Odesa Cultural Development Strategy» supported by the European Union: «Odesa Cultural Development Strategy 2025-2035», «Handbook for the Preservation of Odesa's Cultural Heritage», and «Guidelines for the Arrangement of Good Odesa Signage».

Based on the application prepared by the State Party, the Odesa City Council in cooperation with the municipal institution Odesa Literary Museum, the architectural monument of national importance, the Prince Gagarin Palace, was granted enhanced protection on December 11, 2024, during the 19th meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Thus, four buildings-monuments are already under enhanced protection within the World Heritage Property.

In addition, during the reporting period, cooperation with ICOMOS and UNESCO's WHS was launched within the framework of the international technical assistance project JFIT20240207 «Support to Ukraine in the field of culture and education through UNESCO», supported by the Government of Japan. The result of the project will be the addition of new components to the Management Plan, namely the Response Plan, as well as the definition of the desired state of conservation and a program of corrective measures to remove the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.