



**WHC@50 – Forever Young: Celebrating 50 Years of the World Heritage Convention**

**Second WHC@50 Seminar:**  
***Illicit Trade as a Threat to World Heritage***

**by Prof. dr. Bert Demarsin, dr. Anna Mosna and Prof. dr. Marie-Sophie de Clippele**

***Abstract:***

Illicit trafficking of cultural objects and wildlife is one of the most serious threats to world heritage, protected under the 1972 UNESCO Convention. The illicit trade in heritage depletes cultures of their identity, it endangers the planet and helps to finance terrorism and organised crime. In spite of numerous efforts, the problem seems to have been growing surreptitiously across the globe. Therefore, we decided to devote an entire WHC@50 seminar to the enormous problem of illicit trade. In doing so, we will discuss a series of international legal instruments and policy initiatives, such as the 1972 World Heritage Convention, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the CITES Convention system and the 2017 Nicosia Convention. The panel will look for synergies among these different international instruments in order to strengthen the fight against illicit trade in cultural and natural heritage.

**Wednesday 5 October 2022 at 12h30-14h00 CET.**

The WHC@50 seminar will be held on MS TEAMS by clicking the following link

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

***The WHC@50 Una Europa Seed Funding Project***

In 2022 the **World Heritage Convention (WHC)** celebrates 50 years. Thanks to its 194 State Parties, the WHC represents a major tool for International (Cultural Heritage) Law, a powerful promoter of cultural identity, and a formidable boost for national economies.

The **Una Europa Seed Funding Project “WHC@50”** aims to retrace how the WHC was conceived, to present its current formulation and application in practice, to illustrate its meaning for the preservation and enhancement of world heritage governance, to analyse its strengths and weaknesses, and to indicate its needs for reviews and reforms.

By combining the **insights of jurists, political scientists, historians, architects, and economists**, WHC@50 embarks on a multi-perspective analysis through a series of eight WHC@50 seminars. All these seminars are open to scholars affiliated to the UNA Europa partner universities.

***WHC@50 Scientific Committee***

Elisa Baroncini, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna (WHC@50 Coordinator)

Bert Demarsin, KU Leuven (WHC@50 Academic Lead)

Ana Gemma López Martín, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (WHC@50 Academic Lead)

Ruxandra-Iulia Stoica, University of Edinburgh (WHC@50 Academic Lead)



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