TO address heritage looting, the capacity of local authorities must be strengthened and demand for heritage objects curbed. To this end, two EU-UNESCO joint projects are being implemented:

• The first is engaging the European art market in the fight against the illicit trafficking by focusing on reinforcing due diligence and raising awareness of the implications of illegal trading.

• Secondly, relevant EU enforcement authorities are being trained on the legal framework as well as practical ways of investigating heritage-related crimes.

KEY DATES:
• December 2017
  ‘Training to enforcement authorities’ EU-UNESCO initiative launched
• 20 March 2018
  EU-UNESCO workshop on Engaging the European art market in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, Paris (France)
• 30-31 May 2018
  TAIEX-PI Workshop on the Protection of Iraqi Cultural Heritage and Fighting Terrorism, Brussels (Belgium)
• October/November 2018
  "Legal Measures & Practical Tools to fight the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property - A Toolkit for EU judiciary and law enforcement officials" will be published both in hard copy and e-learning modules
• 26-28 November 2018
  EU-UNESCO Training for European judiciary and law enforcement officials on the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property, Paris (France)
COMPONENT III –  
IMPROVING EVIDENCE AND SHARING EXPERIENCE

Managing risks affecting heritage

Natural disasters can significantly affect cultural heritage sites, and Member States must be fully prepared. In March 2018, the Commission published a study that shares best practices, identifies effective ways of protecting cultural heritage at risk and paves the way for improved cooperation.

Better understanding illicit trade in cultural goods

Two research actions will achieve a better understanding of the illicit trade in cultural goods:

• A Commission led (DG EAC) study on trafficking and the use of new technologies to combat illicit trading will achieve a deeper understanding of the routes and volumes used by traffickers to enter the EU, and how these operations can be stopped.
• A Horizon 2020 (DG RTD) social platform on cultural heritage in danger will be set up to bring together EU and international researchers, public and private actors, and policymakers on issues related to the illicit trade of cultural goods.

KEY DATES:
• 2017/2018
  Start of the joint EU-UNESCO project ‘Protecting Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies for Stability and Peace’
• 2018/2019
  Publication of the study (DG EAC) on ”Improving knowledge about illicit trade in cultural goods in the EU, and the new technologies available to combat it”

PARTNERS
• Within the European Commission, services dealing with culture, external relations, research and innovation, taxation and customs
• EU enforcement authorities, the art market
• UNESCO

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