Threat of crime against cultural property

EU Member States
and selected countries of the Eastern Partnership
analysis 2007-2010

Brussels, 31 October 2011
Project objectives

- develop a common risk analysis;
- create a practical handbook;
- improve the cooperation of Member States with Interpol, Europol and Cepol;
Questionnaire objectives

- diagnose the phenomenon of crime against cultural property in Member States;
- determine routes and methods of smuggling cultural goods;
- modus operandi of perpetrators;
- assess the potential risks related to the organisation of large-scale events.
Respondents

Questionnaire:

- 27 EU Member States;
- 3 countries of the Eastern Partnership Programme (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine).

Answers:

- 23 EU Member States;
- 3 countries of the Eastern Partnership Programme (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine).
### Cultural Property Crimes

#### The number of offences in EU Member States:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EU Member State</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>missing data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>1527</td>
<td>954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2714</td>
<td>2223</td>
<td>1751</td>
<td>1442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>missing data</td>
<td>missing data</td>
<td>missing data</td>
<td>831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(171 items stolen)</td>
<td>(222 items stolen)</td>
<td>(204 items stolen)</td>
<td>(318 items stolen)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2265</td>
<td>2055</td>
<td>missing data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1132</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1085</td>
<td>1031</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>8747</td>
<td>8471</td>
<td>8597</td>
<td>6323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** Italy – number of thefts of works of art ***
Crime characteristics

Place of trade in cultural property from illegal sources

(statistics from 20 EU Member States):

- art auctions at auction houses: 19%
- antique shops: 11%
- art galleries: 18%
- flea markets: 16%
- the Internet: 24%
- other places: 12%
Crime characteristics

How perpetrators act?

- 16 MS; 67% in organised groups
- 8 MS; 33% individually

- 19 MS; 83% on commission
- 4 MS; 17% opportunistically (taking advantage of an opportunity, without prior preparation)
The most common objects of crime
(statistics from 21 EU Member States):

- Paintings: 21%
- Archaeological items: 11%
- Library materials (including archives): 9%
- Numismatics: 12%
- Artistic crafts: 10%
- Graphics: 10%
- Sculptures: 16%
- Other: 11%
Crime characteristics

Places where crimes against cultural property are committed

(statistics from 23 EU Member States):

- Private flats/homes: 18%
- Religious buildings: 11%
- Museums: 7%
- Antique shops: 6%
- Art galleries: 5%
- Cemeteries: 4%
- Palaces and castles: 12%
- Other: 11%
- Archaeological sites: 10%
- Other: 17%
- Private flats/homes: 8%
Cultural Property Crimes

Crime characteristics

Destination countries – 11 MS

Transit countries – 15 MS
The route of illegal transportation of cultural assets
(statistics from 17 EU Member States):
Cultural Property Crimes

Crime characteristics

The means of transport used for the purposes of illegal transport of cultural property (statistics from 15 EU Member States):

- Motor cars – 29%
- Trucks – 20%
- Buses/coaches – 15%
- Trains – 13%
- Aeroplanes – 13%
- Water transport – 9%
- Other – 1%
Current status

- Units to fight crime against cultural property: 16 Member States
  (9 MS have regional sections);

- Databases containing information on stolen/lost goods as a result of cultural property crime: 21 Member States;

- Storage facilities meant for protecting cultural property from crime: 7 Member States.
Current status

Steps used in EU Members States to detect property crime perpetrators (statistics from 20 EU Member States):

- web browsing: 16%
- checking for bids in auction catalogues: 14%
- searching computer databases: 17%
- checking museum registers: 9%
- reviewing data in the archives concerning excavations: 6%
- reviewing archaeological sites: 7%
- anonymous information: 15%
- other: 16%
Future perspectives

- Improvement of cooperation between the Member States and:
  - CEPOL – 20 MS
  - EUROPOL – 16 MS
  - INTERPOL – 20 MS

(answers from 23 EU Member States)
Cultural Property Crimes

Future perspectives

- Preferred range of the improvement of cooperation
  with EUROPOL, INTERPOL and CEPOL

*** answers from 21 EU Member States
Future perspectives

- Has a MS already implemented a uniform system of marking cultural property items?
  - Yes - 7 MS
  - No - 14 MS

- 14 MS see the need to introduce such a system.

- There is a need to create a practical handbook on crime against cultural property:
  - Yes - 17 MS
  - No - 3 MS
The range of subjects in the handbook should include:

- binding legislation
- the nature and scope of national law enforcement authorities involved in combating and preventing the above-mentioned crimes
- base of contacts
- other
Summary and proposals:

- introduce a uniform system of marking of cultural property in the EU Member States and selected countries of Eastern Partnership program (such as the Object ID Standard);

- develop and implement a standard form of describing the crime and stolen/lost items;

- possibility of including the problems of combating the illicit trafficking in cultural property in the existing multilateral exchange programmes;

- develop a practical handbook;

- create of thematic platform concerning crimes against cultural property in the Europol Platform for Experts (EPE);
Draft Council Conclusions on preventing and combating crime against cultural property (15236/11 ENFOPOL 342):

- document is based on the results of the questionnaire on the cultural property crimes (CM 1927/11), included in the “Analysis of the scale of the crime threat against cultural property in the Member States and the selected countries of the Eastern Partnership” (13867/2/11 REV 2 ENFOPOL 285);

- document includes the recommendations of the “Study on preventing and combating trafficking in cultural goods in the European Union” (CECOJI-CNRS UMR 6224 Contract n° Home/2009/ISEC/PR/019-A2);

- document is an attempt to involve all the institutions in actions aimed at preventing and combating crime against cultural property (Europol, Interpol, Cepol, Unesco, Eurojust).
Thank you!

**Speaker:** Marzanna Cieślak  
Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU  
e-mail: marzanna.cieslak@msz.gov.pl

**National expert:** Katarzyna Zielinska  
Criminal Bureau National Police Headquarters  
Warsaw, Poland  
Tel. +48 22 601 35 81  
e-mail: katarzyna.zielinska@policja.gov.pl