

## Press release – ICOM France

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### Third convoy of preservative equipment for Ukrainian museums

Since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, ICOM France has been working to help Ukrainian museum professionals and support them in preserving their museum heritage.

Many museums and landmarks have already suffered significant damage or have even been destroyed<sup>1</sup>. At the end of April, the Ukrainian Minister of Culture denounced the damage suffered of at least 242 cultural heritage sites<sup>2</sup>.

Since 8 March, ICOM France has opened a dialogue with its counterparts in Ukraine and Poland. In partnership with Blue Shield France and with the help of the transporter Chenué, ICOM France mobilised to gather materials to protect endangered heritage.

Some forty French museums and institutions immediately collected and donated conservation and protection materials. Two convoys, each with 15 tonnes of material, arrived at their destination at the end of March and April.

The third convoy arrived on 4 May, at Młyny, Poland, close to the Ukrainian border: 15 tonnes of heritage preservation material will be immediately redistributed to Ukrainian museums through the HERI (Heritage Emergency Response Initiative)<sup>3</sup> organisation.

Donations for this latest convoy were made by the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BNF), the museums of the cities of Colmar, Épinal, Longwy, Nancy, Sarrebourg, the museum of Dieppe, the museum of Grasse, the Musée des Beaux-Arts of Lyon, the Musée des Confluences of Lyon, and the Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac.

The teams of ICOM France (Juliette Raoul-Duval and Anne-Claude Morice) and ICOM International (Alexandra Fernandez) escorted this last convoy to the Ukrainian border to show their full support to their Ukrainian colleagues.

ICOM France is planning a fourth convoy for June. Last April, in dialogue with their Ukrainian and Polish colleagues, ICOM France and Blue Shield France agreed to provide support for the restoration operations and online training of Ukrainian conservators-restorers.

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<sup>1</sup> Unesco Press release, “Endangered heritage in Ukraine: UNESCO reinforces protective measures”, 8 March 2022.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/endangered-heritage-ukraine-unesco-reinforces-protective-measures>

<sup>2</sup> Ukrainian government source:

[https://mkip.gov.ua/news/7078.html?fbclid=IwAR2n8LRr2CRpHBWwMbrhKkaNyg\\_O3ropWpALcXngtS1CSd5eHST2Wyy5ULk](https://mkip.gov.ua/news/7078.html?fbclid=IwAR2n8LRr2CRpHBWwMbrhKkaNyg_O3ropWpALcXngtS1CSd5eHST2Wyy5ULk)

Traduction: The Kyiv Independent Desk, “Culture Ministry: Russia committed 242 crimes against Ukraine’s cultural heritage.”, 23 April 2022.

<https://kyivindependent.com/uncategorized/culture-ministry-russia-commited-242-crimes-against-ukraines-cultural-heritage/>

<sup>3</sup> Presentation of the HERI’s project [on the Maidan Museum’s website](#).



Loading of the semi-trailer at the premises of the carrier Chenue in Paris, 2 May 2022.



Arrival and unloading of the truck at the Ukrainian border in Młyny, Poland, 4 May 2022.



Unloading the convoy on 4 May 2022, with, from left to right, Gaël Bourson (Chenue driver), Marius (HUB SOS UA), Juliette Raoul-Duval, Lhaoucine Bourhim (Chenue driver), and Anne-Claude Morice.

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