

**Strengthening Capacities of World Heritage Professionals for  
Cultural Sites in the Central, Eastern, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions**

**Workshop**

**8 to 12 May 2023  
Baku, Azerbaijan**

**Background**

The Central, Eastern, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions are home to 116 properties belonging to the Heritage of Humanity and which are inscribed on the World Heritage List. Although this number does not reflect the richness and diversity of cultural and mixed sites of potential Outstanding Universal Value located in this area, it provides some scope of its legacy for current and future generations of humanity.

These sites are protected by their status as World Heritage Sites under all requirements and mechanisms of the 1972 Convention, which implies insuring a high level of national protection and involving the efforts of the international community if need to be.

The global challenges facing World Heritage Sites in general and more specifically in the region, from climate change to uncontrolled development and tourism, dictate that more specialized expertise in certain aspects related to World Heritage is required today and in the future. Like all other regions of the world, there is a need to enhance and promote the development of such expertise in order to better identify, protect, and manage World Heritage sites.

As an initiative from the State Tourism Agency of Azerbaijan in collaboration with ICOMOS International, this Capacity Building programme for World Heritage Professionals aims at reinforcing the network of experts from the Central, Eastern, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions on whom States Parties, Advisory Bodies, and all World Heritage stakeholders will rely in the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

## Overall goal and objectives

The course will approach the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the different types of heritage existing in the Central, Eastern, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions and will consider regional specificities. The course will explore the concepts and tools in use under this Convention. It will provide an opportunity to learn how the Advisory Bodies are working on Evaluation of Nominations and on State of Conservation reports.

- Provide capacity building in the Central, Eastern, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions and enhance the skills of regional professionals;
- Improve the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in different States Parties of the region;
- Increase the participation of regional professionals to evaluation or monitoring tasks to the WH Committee (technical evaluation or monitoring missions, advisory work, desk reviews, etc.).
- Build a network of heritage professionals in the field of World Heritage with whom stakeholders can easily work in Region and beyond;

## Structure

The methodological approach of the 5-days workshop contains the following elements:

### Interactive lectures

- Lectures by resource-persons regarding the main concepts and mechanisms of the World Heritage Convention, the functions of Advisory Bodies and relevant thematic elements.

### Practical exercise

- Hands-on activities that will allow participants to exchange ideas and experience, and learn within working groups through practical information and knowledge related to World Heritage Sites state of conservation and case studies presentations by the participants;

### Study Tour

- Guided tour and field work during the visit of a World Heritage Site of *Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower*, as part of the training programme, to improve the understanding of protection and management of World Heritage Sites;

## Working language

The working language course is English. All the lectures, as well as the interactions with resource persons, will be in English.

### Selection Criteria of participants

15 to 20 participants from the Central, Eastern, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regions will be selected for the training, matching the following criteria:

- Have at least 3 to 5 years of experience working in the field of Cultural Heritage;
- Be fluent in English (oral and writing);
- A minimum knowledge of the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines is required;
- Be motivated, active, and be interested in engaging in the field of World Heritage through assisting the region and the Advisory Bodies in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
- Only experts from countries of the Region that have ratified the World Heritage Convention will be accepted;

### Participation cost

Participants are asked to **cover their international travel to and from Baku, Azerbaijan and dinners.**

The State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan **will cover the following course-related costs:**

- Accommodation (hotel including breakfast)
- Lunch
- Local transportation

### Feedback

The workshop will be subject to an anonymous evaluation process undertaken at the conclusion of the programme. This will incorporate a self-assessment before/after questionnaire, outlining changes in knowledge through the workshop, as well as a feedback questionnaire, evaluating the pre-delivery content, the programme content, and objectives of the workshop itself.

### Case study

Each participant is required to submit a one-page (maximum) Case Study describing a heritage site with which they have experience as a part of the application form.

This experience will be presented during the course and will provide the group with updated data on World Heritage Sites from the Regions. It will also give participants an opportunity to get a better knowledge on World Heritage within the Regions.

### **Registration procedure**

All applicants are kindly requested to [complete the application form](#) and e-mail it no later than [Sunday 19 March 2023](#) to the following e-mail addresses:

[icomos.wh-workshops@icomos.org](mailto:icomos.wh-workshops@icomos.org)

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**Course Application Form**

**1. Personal Information**

Please complete the basic information below

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Family name</b>	
<b>Nationality</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b>	
<b>Place of birth</b>	
<b>Institution</b>	
<b>Profession</b>	
<b>Telephone</b> (mobile or landline)	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Personal Address</b>	
<b>Passport n°</b>	

**2. Educational Background**

Academic qualifications		
Institution	Year	Degree (Please specify title and subject)
Other relevant qualifications/ courses		

### 3. Language skills

Please rate your language proficiency from 1 (poor) to 5 (very good)

	Spoken					Written					Understood				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
English															
French															
Others (please specify)															

### 4. Professional information

Describe your current responsibilities, professional activities, and connection to conservation, especially as related to World Heritage Convention, if relevant.

<b>Current position</b>	
<b>Institution</b>	
<b>Are you part of any:</b> ICOMOS National Committees or International Scientific Committees (If yes, please specify)	

### 5. Motivation Letter

Please explain (in approximately 500 words) why you are interested in participating in this training and how you are going to apply what you learn in the future to support cultural or natural heritage in your country and the Region.

### 6. Case study

Each participant is required to submit a one-page (maximum) Case Study describing a heritage site with which they have experience with this application.

This experience will be presented during the course and will provide the group with updated data on World Heritage Sites from the Region. It will also give participants an opportunity to get a better knowledge on World Heritage within the Region.

**The Case Study must contain, at a minimum, the following sections, under the same headings:**

- Description of the site (World Heritage context)
- Protection, conservation and management of the property
- Challenges facing the property

**7. Applicant Statement**

I declare that the above information is true and correct.

**Signature**

**Date**

**How did you learn about the course?**

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