



**Final Report of World Universities Congress (WUC)  
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**Theme 12: Protecting Cultural Heritage**

**“Cultural Heritage is the Common Memory of the Humankind”**

Cultural Heritage constitutes a common memory of the present civilization. However, as an asset it is vulnerable to be misused, to destruction or to be neglected. Heritage represents the past all management policies are designed to device means that would integrate the past with the present. Evidently ideal solutions are not possible and as time passes by inevitably the relics of the past are being destroyed or deformed.

It is of vital importance for a society to protect its cultural heritage, tangible as well as intangible, and its cultural diversity. This is an impossible task without an appropriate protective legislative environment in place. The conservation of cultural heritage is *“the real and primary investment”* of sustainable development of countries. Cultural property forms the material heritage of the communities, nations and humankind at large for future generations. Hence, cultural property and heritage as such must be protected in the most efficient way based on strong legislation and on best-practice implementation of this legislation.

Therefore,  
Considering that universities have as their mission  
“education and research” as well as  
“cultivation of the human mind”

Considering the key role of universities in our globalized age for the transfer of knowledge and technology, dissemination of knowledge, forming networks etc.

Considering the Joint Declaration on the European Higher Education Area, adopted in Bologna on 19 June 1999 by thirty-one European ministers of education;

We suggest that universities ( public and private) as well as military and police academies have a pioneering role in the preservation of the all kind of cultural heritage during peace time as well as before, during and after armed conflicts and natural as well as man-made disasters. They have an active role to inform public on the crucial importance of the protection of the cultural heritage.

To this extent both universities as well as military and police academies should include in their programmes a strong curricular compulsory component dedicate to Civil Military Cooperation in Cultural Heritage Protection component to be adopted as a normal practice.

Universities have to fulfill this mission;

- By forming a network of co-operation with civil society, communal, regional and national governmental authorities, business and industry, NGOs, as well as media sector
- By working closely together with various disciplines which deal directly and indirectly with archaeology, architecture, cultural heritage management , or indirectly (Law, Economy, Trade, E-Trade, Computers...) for the preservation of the cultural heritage
- By forming a network of cooperation with other universities in the world as well as by taking an active part in activities of international organizations such as the Forum UNESCO University and Heritage, the International Association of the Universities, ...
- By specializing in various subjects such as Urban and Non-Urban Archaeology, Conservation of Wooden Architectural Heritage, Conservation of 20th century Architectural Heritage, Advanced Technologies of Surveying Methods, ...etc.
- By integrating contemporary approaches, recommendations, measures, published in the international legislation, conventions, declarations, recommendations, guidelines, ethic codes etc. in their study programs,
- By having an active role in encouraging the government to sign and ratify the international conventions for the protection of cultural property, adopted by intergovernmental organization like UNESCO and other international organizations (e.g.: The 1954 Hague Convention, as well as its 1954 and 1999 first and second Protocols, Underwater Cultural Heritage UNESCO 2001, Intangible Heritage 2003, Cultural Diversity 2005, Faro Convention 2005, and CoE Ministers' Declarations)
- By continuing and improving the traditional methods used in the protection and producing of the cultural properties as well as traditional master's applications
- By delivering expert knowledge and teaching awareness of sophisticated scientific, technical research and analyses methods both to students, professionals and the general public.
- By enabling Cultural Heritage representatives to work with and realistically appraise any kind of data and information derived from working with and for Cultural Heritage Research and Protection. And by supporting the development of new and cost efficient technology for cultural heritage management and research.
- Local and regional Authorities shall encourage and support universities financially and structurally.
- By promoting advanced research and development to secure a more cost effective restoration, conservation of cultural heritage thus economically sustainable and widespread practice
- By creating the conditions for a stronger intercultural dialogue and social inclusion through cultural heritage
- Sustainability should be the common denominator in all academic aspect and especially in curricular planning to inspire restoration and conservation of cultural heritage accessible to every society.

- To this extend the universities also must immediately implement policies to minimize the generation gap that risks jeopardizing the continuity and the transfer to the next generation of knowledge and skills deriving from our cultural and intellectual heritage.

We must all be conscious that the destruction of heritage is a loss of our common knowledge and universities are endorsed the responsibility to maintain and to transfer it on to the future.