



PRESS RELEASE

European Union supports establishment of Cultural Heritage Forum

Pristina, 28 January 2009

The first meeting of the Forum for Technical Information Exchange on Cultural Heritage was held today at the Museum of Kosovo. The Forum is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in cooperation with the European Commission Liaison Office (ECLO) and the Office of the European Union Special Representative (EUSR).

The Forum aims at bringing stakeholders in the field of cultural heritage together to facilitate information exchange. It will support relevant Kosovo authorities to meet their European Perspective challenges – thereby also enhancing the long-term sustainability of all Cultural Heritage sites in Kosovo.

The protection of cultural and religious heritage is part of the EU policy objectives in Kosovo. The ECLO believes that this particular project will help Kosovo authorities to foster the promotion of cultural diversity, which also remains one of the main aims of the pre-accession assistance.

The EUSR office will support authorities as they develop a multi-ethnic approach in the preservation and promotion of the rich variety of Kosovo cultural heritage in line with the overall European perspective.

Cultural Heritage in Prizren was identified as the topic of the next meeting of the Forum which will take place in March.

Note to the editor:

Cultural Heritage Forum

A Forum for Technical Information Exchange on Cultural Heritage in Kosovo

Numerous organizations and institutions are contributing to policies and projects related to the cultural heritage in Kosovo. Beside the relevant authorities in Kosovo, cultural heritage is also a relevant topic for a number of international development agencies, donors, diplomatic representations, religious structures and other non-governmental organizations.

In order to contribute to the overall coordination of activities related to cultural heritage, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) has established, together with the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo (ECLO) and the Office of the European Union Special Representative (EUSR), a “Forum for technical information exchange on cultural heritage in Kosovo”.

Participation

A basic principle of the Cultural Heritage Forum is to be open to all relevant technical stakeholders. Participants to the forum are linked by a common objective of preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

Technical Information Exchange

The Forum is not a decision-making body. Its primary objective is to facilitate information exchange among all the participants. Exchange of information will contribute to an improved coordination and therefore impact of all the interventions.

Focused on Cultural Heritage in Kosovo

The topic of the Forum is Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, with a special emphasis on the urban, architectural and archaeological heritage. Each session is dedicated to a specific geographical or thematic area.

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