

### Concept note

The impact of Russia's full-scale war of aggression on the culture sector of Ukraine has been devastating, including for historic cities, cultural sites, and built heritage, as well as for cultural institutions, museums and collections, the creative sector, and the practice and transmission of intangible cultural heritage, that are at the heart of social cohesion.

The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine and UNESCO have steered the international coordination efforts through the International Coordination Meetings for Culture in Ukraine and the efforts of dedicated working groups to jointly develop and update an *Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine* in response to the evolving context and needs. It responds to the priorities of the Government of Ukraine, in particular, those of the *Recovery and Development Plan for Ukraine* presented at the Lugano Conference on the Recovery of Ukraine in 2022.

The international conference "*Towards the Recovery of the Culture Sector of Ukraine*" hosted by the Republic of Lithuania, in close cooperation with Ukraine and partnership with UNESCO, would aim to raise awareness about the impact of Russia's war of aggression on the culture sector of Ukraine and consolidate international support for stabilization and recovery of Ukraine from the effects of the war.

The discussions at the Conference will be organized into two sessions. The First session will aim to take stock of the impact of the war on the culture sector and is expected to result in better-coordinated efforts and initiatives underway, as well as to present the updated *Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine*.

The Second session will be co-chaired by the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania and a high-level representative of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine and will aim to provide a platform for high-level representatives to share their insights and/or announce concrete pledges towards the recovery of the culture sector of Ukraine.

At the end of the Conference, we would aim to adopt the *Vilnius Call for Action on the Recovery of the Culture Sector of Ukraine*.

We would invite your respective delegations to observe the suggested format (1+2). Travel and accommodation expenses of participants are to be borne by their respective States.

The working language will be English with simultaneous interpretation into Ukrainian.

We would kindly ask you to confirm your participation and whether you wish to be included in the List of Speakers for the Second session at [conference@unesco.lt](mailto:conference@unesco.lt) by **30 April 2024**.

An online registration link with practical information will be available in due course.

For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact [conference@unesco.lt](mailto:conference@unesco.lt)