



The Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Fund: Major Needs and Available Resources

Conditions of the heritage sector
prior to the full-scale invasion

2025



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The Cultural Heritage of Ukraine in the Context of War

Movable Heritage:

540,942

preserved items were evacuated from the frontline regions and the most threatened regions [as of February 2025](#).

10.3 million

museum items of the state-owned part of the Museum Fund of Ukraine are located in non-occupied partst of Ukraine.

€500 million

a year over 10 years (€ 5 billion) will enable restoration of the cultural heritage damaged as a result of the Russian military aggression (as of early 2025), conservation measures in the collections coming back from evacuation, build depositories in the least-threatened regions, and develop the competencies of experts in the field of cultural heritage conservation and restoration.

152,000

state-registered cultural and historical heritage sites.

104,000

sites were in need of restoration before the full-scale invasion.

1,482

sites, as of May 25, 2025, were destroyed or damaged as a result of military actions, [according to the Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications](#).

At least €4 billion

is needed to address consequences of the war on cultural heritage as of the beginning of 2025).

6 million

sites [are in need of evacuation](#) (according to the data of the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, that is, in fact, the whole state museum fund of the left-bank Ukraine).



Urgent Needs

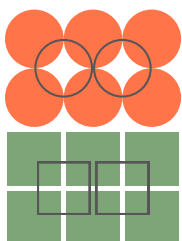
[As of April 12, 2025](#), there is an urgent need to evacuate of the museum stocks of the regions of Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Mykolayiv, Chernihiv, Poltava, Odesa, Donetsk, Kherson, Kharkiv, and Sumy regions due to the increased number of attacks and bombardments on the part of the Russian Federation amounting to to 6 million artefacts. See: [The Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications](#).

100,000 m² (300,000 m³)

– the construction of of specially equipped bomb shelters will help safeguard 6-7 million artefacts of the state museum fund (45 m³ are required per 1,000 items).

UAH 140 mln. per 1,000 m²

– the indicative cost of construction, together with special equipment (based on the figures mentioned by [the Head of the State Archive Service Anatoliy Khromov in his interview](#)). Thus, the overall need for the construction of bomb shelters for depositories requires some €326 million.



Losses of the Cultural Heritage Sector



[Damage to Cultural Infrastructure](#)

Immovable cultural heritage

152,000 cultural and historical heritage sites are registered in Ukraine; 56,000 are historical sites, 7,000 are monumental art sites, and some 15,000 are city planning and architectural monuments.



[Register of sites of national importance](#)



[Register of sites of local importance](#)

Over the course of full-scale invasion, the aggressor destroyed and damaged 1,419 cultural heritage sites. (Data from [the Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications](#) as of March 25, 2025.)

The Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications continues to record damage to cultural heritage sites and cultural infrastructure in Ukraine. Of the damaged cultural heritage sites, 139 are of national importance, 1,184 are of local importance, and 96 are newly discovered sites.

Movable cultural heritage

The state part of the Museum Fund of Ukraine is stored in **651 museums and reserves**. Among these legal entities, 593 are municipal 58 are state-owned, and 1,078 are museums functioning within institutions, enterprises, organizations, or educational institutions.

In the non-occupied part of Ukraine, **10.3 million museum items of the state part of the Museum Fund** of Ukraine are stored, including evacuated museum items. In the temporarily occupied territories, there remain 1.7 million museum exhibits. (This is according to data provided in the preamble to the Cultural Strategy for 2025-2030, prepared by the MCSC.)

Rapid Damage Assessment

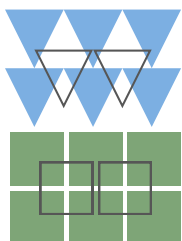
On February 25, the government of Ukraine, the World Bank, the European Commission, and the UN presented [the Fourth Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment regarding the restoration of Ukraine \(RDNA4\)](#). The report states the scope of funding required for the restoration and recovery as of December 31, 2024.

The presented [Rapid Damage Assessment](#) showed that over 2022-2024 the war brought damage to culture amounting to **\$3.46 billion**.

The losses of the cultural sector, including the earnings lost due to the armed aggression, make up **\$24.42 billion**.

Over the next 10 years, according to the RDNA, the reconstruction and recovery of culture and tourism will require **\$10.5 billion**. This amount has increased considerably due the scope of attacks aimed at cultural heritage, including UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Movable cultural values - museums, archives, libraries, and other collections - have been damaged to the amount of **\$193 million**.



International Funding over the Period of Full-scale War

[UNESCO World Heritage Fund](#). Eight World Heritage sites are located in Ukrainian territory. According to the UNESCO Facebook page in Ukraine, as of February 24, 2025, UNESCO mobilized more than **\$74 million** to provide assistance to Ukraine. Funds were mainly directed to cultural heritage safeguarding, support of journalists, restoration of scientific infrastructure, and ensuring continuity of education.

[Aliph](#) From the start of the full-scale invasion, the fund has attracted \$11 million, of which \$5 million are own funds, and \$6 million are partnership funding, according to the latest published [report](#) (June 2024).

In particular, the European Union allocated two grants for €2 million, Getty Foundation – \$1 mln., US State Department – \$645 thousand, Principality of Monaco – €40 thousand. Funding priorities were the following: means of museum, library, and archive protection; documentation and 3d scanning of the destruction of immovable heritage sites; stabilization and urgent safeguarding of such facilities; and financial support of experts.

Ukraine Art Aid Center. As of July 2023, [the center received donations](#) amounting to some €3.2 million (particularly from the German Government). As of the beginning of 2025, this NGO provided more than 500 museums with packaging materials and equipment.

[World Monuments Fund](#). Public sources indicate that **\$2.3 million** were allocated as of July 2023. The sum mainly aims at the reconstruction of buildings.

[US State Department](#). During the talk in August 2024, Ukrainian cultural actors together with the Department of Heritage announced assistance amounting to **\$10.5 million**. The money was aimed at safeguarding and restoring damaged cultural heritage sites and collections, digitizing archives, and strengthening public-private partnership with civil society in Ukraine.

[Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine](#). PFRU is a perennial multi-donor program, initiated and coordinated by the United Kingdom, with a budget of up to GBP 35 million. (The amount of the British contribution is £11.5 mln.) **£One million** were allocated over the two years of the program “Culture and Identity.” The program envisaged allocation of microgrants and holding of networking and educational events for cultural actors from frontline communities.

[The US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation](#). Since 2001, AFCP has provided more than \$1.7 million to 18 cultural heritage restoration projects in Ukraine, as of 2021. During 2022-2024, the US Ambassadors Fund allocated \$500,000 annually for cultural heritage restoration projects with a duration of up to 5 years and a cost of \$10,000 to 500,000.

The programme aims to preserve historical buildings and monuments, archaeological sites, museum collections, and forms of expression of traditional culture, such as the languages of indigenous people and crafts. It is not known whether the programme will be implemented in 2025, although a call for proposals has been made.

Projects implemented within the AFCP program include (partial list): National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (\$405,000, 2019) - Restoration of the Old Academic Building, 18th century, Lviv Historical Museum (\$275,000, 2016) - Preservation of the 16th-century Alberti House (the “Black Stone Building”) on Rynok Square in Lviv, National Reserve “Castles of Ternopil Region” (\$155,270, 2015) - Preservation of the 15th-century Vyshnevetsky Palace, National Reserve “Khortytsia” (\$69,170, 2014) - Restoration of Two Ancient Cossack Ships of the 18th and 19th centuries, Winner of the competition: “Drohobych Town Institute” (\$85,000, 2013) - Preservation of frescoes of the wooden St. George Church, 15th century.

[The Great Restoration](#) is a Ukrainian state program for funding cultural heritage restoration. As of August 2020, out of 130,000 cultural sites that were subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, more than 80% [were in need of](#) urgent repairs and restoration.

The state program Great Restoration over the first 4 years, starting with its launch, envisaged some **UAH 55 billion (€1,785 billion)**.

The Great Restoration envisages emergency-response works, restoration, and recovery of cultural monuments in the Ukrainian territory.

In 2021, **UAH 711.1 million** (some €23 million) were allocated. Money was allocated to implement a selected 57 projects, including 31 state-owned facilities (UAH 435.7 million) and 26 municipally-owned facilities (UAH 275.4 million.). These include such important facilities as Odesa Philharmonic Society, National Museum of Arts, and Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Kyiv, the Cathedral in Pidhirtsi, a complex on Khortytsia, and Khotyn fortress.

Over the next 3 years the Ministry intended to expand “The Great Restoration” project up to 150 sites. However, due to the start of armed aggression by the Russian Federation and Ukraine’s transfer of resources to defence capacity and critical infrastructure, the program was not implemented.



The program was not implemented due to the beginning of the armed aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the respective transfer of all development costs to the strengthening of the defence capacity of the state and securing the critical infrastructure.

The State Budget of Ukraine for 2025

Development Fund for Institutions of State Importance, Including Their Construction (3801280 0829 - the Program of Classifying the Costs and Credits of the State Budget).

2024 – UAH 261,884.3 thousand from the special fund – was not used.

Budget request for 2025–2027:

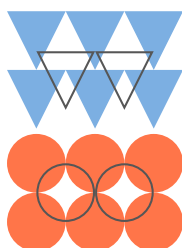
2025	2026	2027
UAH 259,141.0	UAH 154,688.3	UAH 159,119.3

The source of income - the fee for licenses in the field of activities related to the organization and holding of gambling, as well as licenses for lottery issuance and holding.

Thus, from 2025 to 2027, **the MCSC expects the funding amounting to UAH 834,832.9 thousand from the budget (€18.55 million).**

Objectives of the Ukraine State budget programme: restoration, conservation, and repair at cultural heritage sites, including castles, other fortification, defence, palace and park complexes; reconstruction, overhaul, construction, and improvement of cultural facilities and other state-owned facilities to be implemented under the “Large Construction” programme; development of relevant project documentation; and acquisition of fixed assets by enterprises, institutions and organisations belonging to the area of management of the MCSC.

Subvention program 3811070 from the state budget to local budgets for the implementation of projects dealing with repair, restoration, and conservation of cultural heritage sites in communal ownership. The programme has been cancelled.



Public Investment

Sectoral Public Investment Project Portfolios. The seventh meeting of the Strategic Investment Board, chaired by the Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal, took place on February 28, 2025. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the [Sectoral Public Investment Project Portfolios](#) based on the Single Public Investment Project Portfolio (SPP). This decision sets priorities for investment and promotes effective use of resources for the country's recovery.

Approved sectoral portfolios combine priority projects in strategically important areas:

- Social sector (housing, education, healthcare, social protection);
- Infrastructure (energy, transport, water supply);
- Humanitarian demining;
- Development of a system of safe shelters.

Priority areas for the protection and restoration of cultural heritage are not defined.

The [Single Public Investment Project Portfolio \(SPP\)](#) contains two projects where the main budget holder is the Ministry of Culture: (1) construction of the Depository for the National Museum of Folk Architecture and Rural Life of Ukraine in Kyiv, and (2) new construction of a dual-purpose building (with protective radiation shelter characteristics) with a capacity of 200 people (repeat use project. (Zaporizhzhia).

Recovery System State Management Tool.

[The state recovery management ecosystem DREAM](#) was established as a unique digital recovery tool for communities. Priority directions include restoration of critical infrastructure and long-term reconstruction and upgrading.

DREAM ensures transparency in the creation, development, prioritisation, financing, procurement, and implementation of each project at all levels.

DREAM presents a list of priority projects for the Government of Ukraine in line with the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA), and records financial and other assistance from partners. The platform informs citizens and offers a centralised record of all possible programmes - budget, credit, grant, volunteer, etc.

The platform allows for tracking of specific performance indicators as well as daily reports by sectors, communities, financial programmes, etc. It provides for a comprehensive risk assessment at the level of the customer, management body, ministry, and controlling body to improve the efficiency of project implementation and minimise corruption risks.

A support and user training centre has been created to help users work with the ecosystem.

This IT ecosystem could be a useful tool for the restoration of the cultural heritage sector. However, it is not a priority in the state's restoration strategy. Accordingly, projects can rely only on donor funds, not public ones.

Investment in Immovable Cultural Heritage from Private Owners and Concessions

Cases:

1. Groedel Palace.

In July 2024, [the first stage](#) of the restoration of the Groedel Palace in the town of Skole, Lviv region, was completed. The premises of the palace are leased on a long-term basis by the National Nature Park “Skolivski Beskydy.” The palace is intended to become a center for eco-education and the business card of the Skole Carpathians. Besides the office of the national park, the site will include an environmental and educational/visiting center, a cafe/restaurant, guest rooms, and other spaces useful for the community.

Some **€400,000** were allocated by a **private German donor via the Frankfurt Zoological Society**. The funds covered development of the estimates of expenditure, materials for the roof, the work of contractors, and timber materials, 90% of which were provided by the National Nature Park “Skolivski Beskydy”.

The development of the estimates of expenditure for the current repairs of the whole palace and the heating system is currently underway, and will be followed by the development of the palace concept and functions.

2. The Palace of the Rzewuski-Lanckoronski Family in Rozdil, Lviv region. Architectural monument erected in 1740.

The palace includes a main building of some 4,000 sq. m. and a second building of 1,308 sq. m. that includes a utility building, workshop, laundry, warehousing facility, two garages, and a boiler house. All buildings are located on a park with an area of 6.5 ha. The cost of acquisition by a private owner at the auction is UAH 17 million. The budget for comprehensive revitalization is assessed at USD 10 million.

Possible options for using it after the restoration include the establishment of a modern rehabilitation center here, for servicemen, opening of an English-type private school, or a five-star hotel.



Ukraine tried to count all palaces and castles in its territory several times. Researchers' estimates ranged 3,000 to 6,000. In the Lviv region alone, there are some 80 large historical and cultural sites in a critical condition.

Investment made by local authorities and state support

St. Trinity Church in Zhovkva. constructed in 1720 in the Lviv region, belongs to eight wooden temples of Ukraine included in the UNESCO Heritage list. [Restoration of the church](#) was launched in 2019, then suspended for 2 years. In 2022, **UAH 10.5 million were allocated from the state budget**. Planned restoration works were completed in the summer of 2023. Besides the building, the iconostasis (50 icons) was also restored by the National Scientific and Research Restoration Center of Ukraine, within a separate source of state funding.

The Maliyivtsi Palace in Khmelnytskyi region. A TB sanitarium during the Soviet era, the palace received the status of estate-museum at the end of 2021. The activist who engaged donor money and volunteers then became the director of the museum, while local authorities laid an asphalt road to the site, enabling tourism development. The museum is actively implementing different programs enabling it to cover current costs. But it requires capital investment to have a full-fledged restoration.

Concession experience

[Concession](#) is a form of public-private partnership that delegates certain rights from XYZ to a private operator. These may include rights to: (1) construct or renovate; (2) manage and maintain; and/or (3) oversee the provision of socially important services. Most operational, demand, or supply risks are borne by the concessionaire. In Ukraine, results have been mixed.

In 2010, the Lviv Regional Administration granted a 49-year concession for the Urbanski-Potocki Palace to entrepreneur Ihor Novosad, who aimed to restore and convert it into a tourist center. Bureaucratic hurdles stalled the project, and the agreement was dissolved in 2024.

That same year, the castle in Stare Selo was given to “Kris” Ltd., but faced similar challenges.

Conversely, **Radomysl Castle** (Zhytomyr region) stands out as a rare success story. Likewise, the lease of **Chynadiyovo Castle** by artist Jozef Bartosh since 2002 has proven sustainable.

A study of the ReHerit Project, [“What makes concession a success/failure”](#), reached the following conclusions:



“There are many reasons for concession failure, while the main one is that a concession operator cannot fulfil the undertaken commitment, and primarily this happens due to overestimation of own financial possibilities. Another concession risk is engagement of an insufficient number of qualified staff members who could restore the monument. As a result, even with financial resources available, historical and cultural uniqueness is lost. There are no developed mechanisms of control over how the concession operator restores and maintains the monument.”

– these are the conclusions of the study [“What makes concession a success/failure” of the ReHerit project](#)

Conclusions

Against the background of human losses, the devastating effects of war on monuments, museums, and other cultural resources present an unbearable burden on communities and the state.

Nevertheless, cultural heritage is an integral part of national and local memory and identity. Its restoration inspires people who fled their homes during the war, motivating them to return to their homeland.

Cultural heritage also constitutes a huge development potential in the regions that are relatively safe and have accommodated internally displaced persons and relocated businesses. Restoration of cultural heritage will create jobs, stimulate domestic philanthropy and investment, and become an inspiring and uniting factor for communities.

Restoring and preserving cultural heritage following the principles of the new European Bauhaus is an important component of Ukraine's revival and its European integration.

Ukraine's cultural heritage is an integral part of the European cultural heritage, which requires joint study, research, and integration into the academic discourse and EU tourist routes.

Safeguarding and restoration of cultural heritage constitutes one of the strategic objectives of Ukraine's [Cultural Strategy for 2025-2030](#), approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on March 28, 2025. This objective also corresponds to the program of financial support to Ukraine by the European Union - [Ukraine Facility](#). To achieve this goal, the Government of Ukraine intends to create a Coordination platform for engaging international aid in cultural heritage restoration. It is the search for tools for sustainable and solidarity-based international support that constitutes the goal of our initiative.