



## **ICLAFI – ICUCH Symposium**

**Amersfoort, The Netherlands, 29<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands  
(Smallepad 5, 3811 MG, Amersfoort)

### **The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage: how do we make it work?**

The UNESCO Underwater Convention offers a legal framework to regulate activities that are directed at underwater cultural heritage (UCH) or incidentally affect it, especially in international waters. States Parties to the Convention are obliged to implement this framework into national legislation and to bring it into practice. In particular States Parties must make sure that their nationals and ships sailing under their flag report finds of cultural heritage to them and do not engage in activities that go against the rules of the Convention.

The Convention stresses the importance of cooperation between States Parties in the execution of the rules of the Convention. This begins with the sharing of information between all Member States and UNESCO. Furthermore, according to the Convention the decision making process in regard to a discovered ship wreck must be a joint process of the States Parties that have a verifiable link with the heritage concerned, including the coastal state, when the find is done within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)/the Continental Shelf. One State Party may be coordinating the execution of the jointly taken decisions, but it must always do so in a manner that is in interest of the international community.

However, for the Convention to be more than a piece of paper and be effective in the protection of the UCH, it is important that cooperation will be more than talks, responsibilities are taken and rules of the convention are enforced when necessary.

At the ILCAFI-ICUCH Symposium we would like to discuss the ways in which we can make the Convention truly work. How can the obligations and responsibilities of the Convention best be implemented within national legal systems, and equally important, in the working practice? How can we make sure that the legal aspects of the Convention match the practice of managing UCH? Finally, we would like to discuss in what ways States Parties can address each other when obligations, including enforcement, aren't met.

## **General Programme ICLAFI-ICUCH Symposium**

### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

10.00-12.00 ICLAFI members meeting  
12.00-13.00 Lunch  
13.00-17.00 ICLAFI-ICUCH Symposium

Evening Dinner

### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

09.00-17.00 ICLAFI-ICUCH Symposium

Evening Dinner

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

9.00-17.00 Excursion in and around the city of Utrecht

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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