



Applying New Solutions for Cultural Heritage protection by
Innovative, Scientific, social and economic Engagement

Training Programme models

Provenance Research

*Provenance research and the
fight against illicit trafficking
of cultural goods*



Funded by
the European Union

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1 Module identification and context

- **Module name:** Provenance research and the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods
- **Target community:** Researchers
- **Responsible partner:** École du Louvre

This training programme takes a thematic approach rather than building a training plan for one specific professional community. It focuses on the topic of provenance research, which is inherently linked to the fight against illicit trafficking and therefore has to be addressed by all professional communities involved in it.

Accordingly, this module presents two key specificities. First, it has been designed by an external partner with recognised expertise in provenance research: the École du Louvre. Secondly, it is intended to be disseminated across different professional communities.

As such, this module illustrates a training programme that can be integrated into different types of educational and professional training contexts, bridging academia and professional practice as well as diverse professional communities. It thus reflects the flexibility and adaptability that underpin the design principles of this curricula guidebook.

With its dual specificity, this training programme also exemplifies cooperation between different partners and fosters further exchanges between the various professional communities.

2 Format and audience breakdown

For the one-day format, the below proposes that the same structure be used as a base for the different communities' training program, and the proportion of the content be adapted for each community (see below and notes after "Content Structure"). Due to the short length of the one-day format, the emphasis is on understanding (with some practice in skill building). The 30-hour format puts an emphasis on skill-building, and the 60-hour format does both at a student level.

Archaeology, Museums: focus on provenance research.

Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA): focus on risk mapping.

Art Market: focus on risk mapping.

Provenance Research: focus on using resources and developing research protocol.

2.1 One-day format (6 hours)

Learning objectives:

- Understand the key terms as well as the legal and ethical frameworks and obligations that apply to your community.
- Understand the difference between your local/national, European, and international frameworks and obligations.
- Understand the key roles and responsibilities of other communities in protecting cultural heritage against looting and illicit trafficking of cultural goods.
- Understand how to locate and use specialized resources and documentation, including databases and digital tools, to investigate provenance.
- Understand how to assess and analyze cultural goods and documentation (or lack thereof), including spotting "red flags".
- Be able to identify risks and conduct a risk assessment of goods and documentation.
- Be able to conduct a needs-based assessment of one's institutional or operational priorities.

Content structure:

- Topic 1: Fundamentals of (national, European, international) heritage law and community obligations.
- Topic 2: Introduction to provenance research methodology.
- Topic 3: Practical exercises using legal databases and existing provenance research case studies (local, European, international examples).
- Topic 4: Provenance research protocol/risk mapping and assessment workshop.

Depending on the community, the amount of course time allocated to the topics may vary. For instance, the Art Market format would have a longer Topic 1 that focused on their community's obligations, as well as a focus on risk mapping applied to the art market.

The content and supporting materials could also be tailored to each community, especially as not all communities have access to the same materials/resources. For instance, for Provenance Research, if this course was offered to independent provenance researchers, the emphasis might be put on OSINT tools vs. specialized databases that are only available to Law Enforcement Agencies and some Museums and/or Archaeology community member.

Teaching methods:

- Lectures.
- Case studies: facilitator-lead presentation, analysis, discussion.
- Practical exercises in the form of pair or small-group workshops to practice risk assessment.
- Peer assessment of risk-assessment practical exercise results.

Required materials:

- Academic articles, references to legal or policy text related to the material listed in learning objectives (could be assigned as reading in advance, or as resources to "go further" after the workshop).
- Press or media samples (news articles, short video, etc.) about specific cases of protection of cultural heritage against looting and illicit trafficking of cultural goods.
- Examples of provenance documentation and resources (physical or shown online).
- Computer/Internet connection/projector to explore databases and specialized tools.

Assessment method:

- Final exercise: establish a provenance research protocol and/or risk assessment for your institution/project/etc.

Expected outcomes:

- Acquire or refresh a foundational understanding of the learning objectives listed above.
- Build or expand network by meeting and interacting with facilitators and other participants.
- Acquire the capacity to establish a provenance research protocol and/or risk assessment.

2.2 One-week format (30 hours)

Museums and archaeology

Learning objectives:

- Study of national and international law relating to cultural property and circulation of cultural heritage at the local, European, and international level.
- Learn how to use specialized databases.
- Understand how to conduct a risk assessment for the acquisition.
- Meeting experts from other communities and make contact points with LEAs.
- Encourage interdisciplinary cooperation.

Daily programme structure:

- Day 1: Legal context and required due diligence.
- Day 2: Methodology: establishing a chain of provenance.
- Day 3: Professional presentations (police, customs, art market professionals).
- Day 4: Focus on sensitive goods.
- Day 5: Workshops on analysing risks before an acquisition.

Art Market

Learning objectives:

- Advanced understanding of national and international law relating to cultural property, anti-money laundering.
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of other communities in protecting. cultural heritage against looting and illicit trafficking of cultural goods.
- Learn how to use specialized databases.
- Identify risks.
- Understand how to conduct a risk assessment for the acquisition and circulation of cultural heritage at the local, European, and international level.

Content structure:

- Day 1: Legal context and required due diligence.
- Day 2: Provenance research methodology.
- Day 3: Professional presentations (police, customs, museum professionals).
- Day 4: AML-CFT compliance.
- Day 5: Workshops on analysing risks prior to a transaction.

Press/Media

Learning objectives:

- Acquire knowledge of new solutions in cultural heritage protection, gain understanding of issues surrounding cultural heritage protection.
- Understand and be able to differentiate between different types of provenance research (ex. colonial contexts, looting and art theft during World War II,
- Understand different types of transactions and transfers of cultural heritage and the risks or vulnerabilities associated with each type of transaction/transfer.
- Be able to conduct a risk assessment.

Content structure:

- Day 1: Words matter: history and vocabulary of illicit trafficking and provenance research.
- Day 2: National, European, International law, anti-money laundering, circulation of cultural property, criminal and civil responsibility.
- Day 3: Provenance research methods, tech tools and the notion of due diligence.
- Day 4 : Professional presentations (police, customs, museum professionals).
- Day 5: Practical exercises/risk assessment.

Law Enforcement Agencies

Learning objectives:

- Advanced study of national and international law relating to cultural property, anti-money laundering.
- learn how to use specialized databases.
- Identify risks.
- Understand how to conduct a risk assessment for the acquisition and circulation of cultural heritage at the local, European, and international level.
- Exchange best practices for the conduct of investigations concerning cultural properties (if time allows).
- Encourage international cooperation.

Content structure:

- Day 1: International law, anti-money laundering, circulation of cultural property, obligations of the art market (criminal and civil responsibility).
- Day 2 : Provenance research methodology.
- Day 3: Professional presentations (Museums, other LEAs, art market professionals).
- Day 4: Practical exercises using legal databases and provenance research.
- Day 5 : Risk mapping workshop / practical cases based on real investigations .

2.3 Semester format (60 hours distributed)

Students only:

Integration objectives:

- The following curriculum could be taken as an elective for students in the humanities or social sciences, business, or communications programs. It could also count as a “core course” for art history, archaeology, museum studies, and history programmes.

Weekly structure:

- Two 2.5-hour sessions per week. One session is dedicated to “theory”, the second dedicated to “practice” (working with case studies and participative exercises, museum or site visits, etc.) based on the material covered in the “Theory” course of the week.

Session breakdown:

- See notes in “weekly structure” above. For example, during the “Fields of provenance research” weeks, the first session would be a lecture with the coordinator/professional guests, the second session could be a museum visit.

Note: the topics correspond to the different learning objectives for course participants, which are to 1) acquire an understanding of provenance research and heritage protection in the context of the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, 2) understand the legal frameworks that apply to the actions and measures taken to protect cultural heritage in the past and in the present, 3) be able to contextualize and distinguish different categories of cultural heritage, 4) learn what actors and networks exist and how they cooperate, 5) learn about and practice using provenance research methods, 6) learn about and be able to undertake a risk mapping exercise, 7) understand how the need to protect heritage is ongoing and evolutive, and can take many forms, from restitution to increased security and careful storage.

This is reflected in the following weekly topics:

- Week 1: Intro to provenance research and heritage protection: increasing awareness of the fight against trafficking in cultural property (due in part to press, social media, publicity campaigns, exhibitions, other communication initiatives), misconceptions and need for innovative engagement
- Week 2: Legal frameworks I: European international standards
- Week 3: Legal Frameworks II: National and/or local standards
- Week 4: Categories of provenance research & heritage protection I : colonial contexts and World War II-era claims, human remains
- Week 5: Categories of provenance research & heritage protection II: modern-day looting & theft (conflict & peacetime), fakes, thefts...
- (CHOOSE TOPIC FOR FINAL PROJECT)
- Week 6: Actors and networks: a shared responsibility

- Week 7: Provenance Research Methods I (Methodology applied to provenance research (legal, art history, art market sources))
 - Week 8: Provenance Research Methods II (databases, other technology, OSINT sources)
- (SELECT PROVENANCE RESEARCH METHODS FOR FINAL PROJECT)
- Week 9: Risk mapping I: What skills are needed? Object expertise? Identifying and filling the gaps
 - Week 10: Risk mapping II: Data and resource organization: best practices
- (WORK ON RISK MAPPING FOR FINAL PROJECT)
- Week 11: What happens next: returns, restitutions, site & object security and/or storage
 - Week 12: Presentations of final projects

Prerequisite courses:

- Required prior coursework: undergraduate degree in art history, archaeology, museum studies, cultural studies, heritage studies, history, law, information and library science, or a related field. Master's degree (same fields as undergraduate degree) or a related field.

Connection to main curriculum:

- Depends on the degree program -- for some programs, it could count as elective credit towards completing the degree. If the course can count toward a program requirement, students would fulfil a program requirement as well as earning credits towards completing their degree.

Independent study component:

- Possible to assign reading or other independent study activity before each "Theory" class or as preparation for the "Practice" class.
- Also possible to have a "Go further" set of additional assignments/exercises/case studies for students to complete at their own pace and to further their knowledge outside class.

Supervised project:

- Over the course of the course, and in small groups, pitch and draft 1) project topic/idea 2) outline of provenance method(s) and sources to be used 3) conduct risk mapping. All three to be assembled into a final project 'portfolio' that 1) justifies the choice of topic and provides context for the choice, 2) explains selection and implementation of provenance methods and challenges/discoveries, 3) results of risk mapping as well as next possible steps/needs for further research. Portfolio to be presented during the last week of the course.



Discover more about the ANCHISE project on our website: <https://www.anchise.eu/>



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