Training to counter antiquities trafficking in the Mashreq (2018)

To counter the phenomenon of illicit trafficking of antiquities and to protect cultural heritage, UNESCO organized the training workshop “Countering Antiquities Trafficking in the Mashreq – A training programme for specialists working to deter cultural property theft and the illicit trafficking of antiquities”, from 16 to 20 April 2018, in Beirut (Lebanon). With the support of the Heritage Emergency Fund, the programme aimed at providing governmental authorities, art professionals, academics and decision-makers who work in fragile countries affected by cultural property theft and illicit trafficking of antiquities, with professional skills to counter such phenomena. 31 professionals from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, including 11 women, benefitted from the training. The 5-day training, animated by experts from the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), INTERPOL, the International Council Of Museums (ICOM), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as well as the Association for Research into Crimes against Art (ARCA), was structured around four modules, each designed to address issues of common concern in affected source and transit countries.