

# ICOMOS

international council on monuments and sites

## **Preserving endangered Ukrainian heritage: ICOMOS donates digitization equipment to Lviv Polytechnic National University Press Release, 12 May 2023**

Amidst the ongoing war in Ukraine, the country's heritage has suffered extensive damage and remains in constant danger. Safeguarding the archives linked to heritage places is of utmost importance as a resource for their future restoration and reconstruction; to ensure the continuity of knowledge and research and, in the extreme, as a record of permanently lost structures. To support this effort, ICOMOS has donated 15 000 € worth of equipment to the Centre for Digitization of Archival Architectural Documentation recently set up by Lviv Polytechnic National University (LPNU) in Ukraine.

This donation, which includes state-of-the-art digitizing and restoration equipment, was made possible thanks to generous funding obtained by ICOMOS Suisse from the Swiss Federal Office of Culture. The equipment was sourced by the ICOMOS International Secretariat – and then stored and transported to Lviv with the support of the Warsaw Rising Museum, in charge of such logistics for the Polish Committee for Ukrainian Museums.

The Centre for Digitization of Archival Architectural Documentation operates under LPNU's Department of Architecture and Conservation – with spaces and IT support staff provided by the University - and will involve students of the Department in the scanning and restoration of archival materials. The first collection of archival documentation that will be treated is the LPNU Institute of Architecture and Design Bureau's own collection of architectural drawings, field notes, and images gathered by faculty and students over the past 130 years. Discussions are underway regarding access to the extensive archive of drawings, research materials, restoration plans and documentation of the Western Ukraine Design and Restoration Institute (WUDRI), covering hundreds of structures in 9 regions of Ukraine. The digitization of these archives would safeguard valuable sources of contextual, visual, textual, and technical information to support the assessment, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings, neighbourhoods, and urban districts after the end of the war.

LPNU's involvement in the conservation and restoration of historical monuments dates back to the mid-19th century when many of the institution's noted faculty-architects were involved in these activities in Western Ukraine. Its Department of Architecture and Conservation, founded in 1992, is the first and leading education and research institution in its field in Ukraine.

With further international support, the establishment of the LPNU Centre for Digitization of Archival Architectural Documentation can serve as a pilot program and training facility for stewards of other archival collections in Ukraine and support the digitization of these collections as needed.

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**The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)** is a non-governmental, not for profit international organisation, committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage. With over 11,000 members, 100+ National Committees, 30 International Scientific Committees and several Working Groups, ICOMOS has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world. As an official advisory body to the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, ICOMOS evaluates nominations and advises on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. ICOMOS is a founding member of the Blue Shield. Since the start of the war, ICOMOS has assisted UNESCO, cooperated with its partner organisations and mobilized its Committees to provide support to the Ukrainian cultural heritage community.  
[www.icomos.org](http://www.icomos.org)

**ICOMOS Suisse** is the National Committee of ICOMOS in Switzerland.  
<https://www.icomos.ch/>

**Lviv Polytechnic National University (LPNU)** : [Department of Architecture and Conservation](#)

Support the [Polish Committee for Ukrainian Museums](#)

**ICOMOS contact:**

Yuna Mathan, Communications Coordinator - [yuna.mathan@icomos.org](mailto:yuna.mathan@icomos.org)