



#EWRC

During the European Week of Regions and Cities 2026 in Brussels, Region Västra Götaland (Sweden) warmly welcomes you to the seminar:

When Culture is at Risk: Safeguarding Heritage and Empowering Creative Voices in Wartime

When: Monday 12 October 2026

Time: 17.00 Registrations and light refreshments
17.30-19.15 Programme

Venue: Nordic House, Rue du Luxembourg 3, 1000 Brussels. Ground floor

Please register via email (name, function, organisation) to ellie.lonnberg@vgregion.se by 25 September.

About the seminar

In times of war, culture is both a target and a vital form of resistance. From the looting and illicit trafficking of museum collections and artefacts from archaeological sites to the disruption of artistic creation, cultural life is placed under severe threat. Yet across Europe, and in Ukraine in particular, institutions and individuals are mobilizing to defend, protect and sustain it.

This seminar brings together experts and practitioners working on the frontline of these efforts. It explores how international cooperation, museum networks and cultural authorities are combatting the illegal trade of cultural objects and safeguarding heritage at risk. At the same time, the seminar highlights how filmmakers and cultural actors continue to create under extreme conditions, supported by residencies and cross-border collaboration that provide space, safety and resources for artistic expression.

Participants

Alex Bergström, president of the Cultural Affairs Committee in Region Västra Götaland – Welcome announcement

Part 1 – Safeguarding Cultural Heritage

Anders Wikström, Museum Development Officer, Region Västra Götaland
(Moderator)

Anastasiia Cherednychenko, Historian, Museologist and Chair of ICOM Ukraine, Kyiv

Maria Dahlström, Curator, National Museums of World Culture, Sweden
(Provenance, repatriation and combating illicit trafficking)

Mariusz Wiśniewski, Chief Specialist for Research, Verification, Art Market Monitoring and the IMI Coordination. Division for Restitution of Cultural Goods. Department for Cultural Heritage, Poland

Part 2 – Filmmaking and Residencies in Wartime

Camilla Larsson, Program Manager, Gothenburg Film Festival (Moderator)

Olya Chernykh, Film Director and Artist-in-Residence 2024 at Gothenburg Film Festival

Background

Since 2022, Region Västra Götaland in Sweden has funded around thirty residency placements for artists, including many filmmakers, as well as museum professionals from Ukraine. The aim is to offer a respite from the war, while also providing access to professional networks and support tailored to the participant's specific interests and needs.