



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Expertise in the context of cultural and world heritage impact assessments

(Heritage Impact Assessment – HIA) with a special focus on World Heritage Sites

Venue: Online sessions and an in-person workshop in Kuldīga, Latvia

(online: 27 and 29 October 2026, in-class: 2-4 November 2026)

The course will be presented in English.

COURSE OUTLINE

BACKGROUND

In order to protect a heritage site, it may be necessary to prepare special evaluation reports in the course of the planning process, the *Heritage Impact Assessments* (HIA). The [*Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*](#), in the currently available 2022 version, was developed as part of the *World Heritage Leadership Programme* together with UNESCO (as well as the World Heritage Advisory Bodies ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN) for the preparation of heritage impact assessments that are robust in the long term.

This *Guidance and Toolkit* is the base for the course aimed at decision makers and consultants who are entrusted with carrying out such assessments to learn about the process. The course will introduce the contents of the *Guidance* and teach the participants how to use the *Toolkit* for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in the context of World Heritage. The principles and processes of the HIA presented through the *Guidance* are likewise applicable for heritage places that are not on the World Heritage List and to heritage issues in wider Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

HIA - HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are a vital tool in the management of heritage properties. World Heritage sites (referred to officially as ‘properties’) face increasing pressures and threats arising from proposed change, especially including development, which, if not properly planned and assessed, can cause severe damage to the attributes which support their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), sometimes irreversibly. Proposed actions, including new infrastructure or construction projects, can be crucial for conservation, management and/or to provide economic and social benefits, and therefore the goal of impact assessments is not to prevent change, but to support well-informed decision making and sustainable outcomes. HIAs provide a logical and rigorous framework for identifying ways in which adverse impacts may be avoided or mitigated and for determining whether an action or a project should proceed in the planned manner.

COURSE OBJECTIVES



The main objective of the workshop is to provide participants with know-how and procedural guidance to learn the tools to conduct a useful Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). It aims to impart basic knowledge on how to prepare an HIA in accordance with the current UNESCO criteria for World Heritage properties. After completing the course, participants should have an understanding about the importance of HIAs as an essential planning tool and be able to establish the essential principles for an HIA. They should be in a position to assess the impacts of a project in relation to the OUV, other values and attributes of a World Heritage site and determine whether there is a potential threat that could adversely affect the attributes that make up the OUV of cultural and World Heritage properties. The seminar will also provide a basic understanding of the planning, examination and assessment of projects in World Heritage properties, their buffer zones as well as in their wider setting.

CONTENT

The modules of the training will deal with basic HIA principles and processes and introduce the World Heritage concepts of OUV, attributes, authenticity, integrity, and protection and management. Heritage Impact Assessments will be presented as an important management and protection tool for cultural and World Heritage properties. As stated above, the aim of this impact assessment provides a framework for identifying ways in which adverse impacts may be avoided or mitigated and for determining whether an action or a project should proceed.

TARGET GROUP

Planners in architectural and engineering firms, staff of public and local authorities, managers and staff of cultural and World Heritage properties and properties in Tentative list involved in EIAs and HIAs, investors and developers and members of ICOMOS.

METHODOLOGY

The course will introduce the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in the World Heritage Context* and explain its principles and procedures through a mix of presentation-based teaching combined with interactive discussions and exchange, as well as some group exercises to provide participants the opportunity to apply these principles and procedures outlined in the *Guidance* to a locally relevant (but fictitious) case study.

PREREQUISITES FOR PARTICIPATION

Basic understanding of cultural heritage places and their preservation, including through relevant legal issues or practical experience.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The course has a multi-phase structure and comprises 4 phases in which the basic principles and processes for the preparation of an HIA in the context of World Heritage properties are taught and developed using case studies.

Phase 1

Online Modules 1 and 2 are conducted online to create a common understanding of the requirements for World Heritage and the identification of OUV, other values and their attributes.

Phase 2

The in-person workshop teaches the entire impact assessment process through the use of a fictitious development case study at or within the setting of a real or fictitious World Heritage property.

An outline impact assessment will be developed by the participants. Participants will produce a scoping report based on the OUV and attributes analysis from Phases 1 and 2, and will be supported through a consultation session with the resource people which the participants may utilize optionally.



Phase 3

The presentation of the final summary impact assessment report, where participants will become peer reviewers for other presentations, will mark the last phase.

DATES AND SCHEDULE

Module 1: 27 October, 10.00-13.00 EET, online

Content: Kick-off, welcome, introduction to the programme

Procedure, tasks, introduction to the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in the World Heritage Context, 2022*

Module 2: 29 October, 10.00-13.00 EET, online

Content: World Heritage concepts, HIA and national/local heritage

Outstanding Universal Value (OUV - three pillars: criteria and attributes, authenticity and integrity, protection and management), obligations under the 1972 *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (in particular Articles 4 and 5), *Operational Guidelines* (in particular paragraphs 118bis, 172), the role of ICOMOS, case study presentation, presentation *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in the World Heritage Context, 2022*, basics of impact assessment: The 11 Steps, screening, determining whether an impact assessment is required and scoping the HIA terms of reference, generic terms of reference

Module 3: 2 November, 9.00-19.00, in-person workshop, Kuldīga, Latvia

Content: visit to case study site, Statement of OUV (SOUV), basic evaluation, OUV, other values, attributes, limits, *Tool 1*

Basic assessment, OUV, other values and attributes, use of *Tool 1*, example from the region, factors influencing the property, facilitated discussion on establishing the baseline, analysing the SOUV for the case study property and restructuring the attributes into the table format, attributes, OUV, understanding context, boundaries, World Heritage property, its buffer zone, wider setting, case study as an example

Module 4: 3 November, 9.00-19.00, in-person workshop, Kuldīga, Latvia

Content: group of interest, determining the effects, *Tools 2 and 3*

HIA process, input rights holders and stakeholders, stakeholders and methods of engagement, identification and prediction of potential impacts and mapping of attributes in *Tool 2* table format, review by site manager of case study property, mitigation and enhancement, iterative process of using *Tool 3* for project planning, topic workshops in groups

Module 5: 4 November, 9.00-19.00, in-person workshop, Kuldīga, Latvia

Content: application of *Tools 1-3* and legal basis, final report

Resumé *Tools 1, 2 and 3*, mitigation and enhancement, iterative process of using *Tool 3* for project planning, reporting, review, decision making, Yes/No decision, paragraph 172, technical reviews, legal contexts and triggers for HIAs, legal situation on the ground, group workshop writing the final report of the HIA case study based on guide and toolkit accompanied by the trainers

Online consultation session on 12 November, 14.00-16.00 EET

Online groupwork presentation on 16 November, 14.00-16.00 EET

CERTIFICATION

Participants who successfully complete the course receive a Certificate of Completion from ICOMOS.



LANGUAGE

The course will be held in English.

TEAM

The individual modules are led by experienced ICOMOS members from around the world. The contributions on the local context and the property selected as a local case study are presented by members of ICOMOS Latvia (see details of Trainers at the bottom).

COSTS AND INCLUDED SERVICES

Standard price EUR 1.000,-

Members of ICOMOS EUR 600,-

ICOMOS Latvia is not liable to VAT.

The costs include the teaching materials, lunches and coffee breaks during the in-person modules, the dinner on the last day (without drinks) and the certificate of completion.

REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Registration via email to icomos.latvia@gmail.com with attached Registration form or using form: <https://forms.gle/kZcgS7kC4Ef5sP419>

Registration deadline is 25 September 2026. The number of participants is strictly limited.

Further information is available also via email to icomos.latvia@gmail.com

Please note that participation in the course is only possible with a valid booking confirmation. All registered participants will receive detailed information on the event organisation by email before the start of the event.

All participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements, including hotels and visa requirements.

Selection of participants will give preference to candidates from the Baltic States and Nordic countries.

ORGANISED BY ICOMOS AND ICOMOS LATVIA

The Course “Expertise in the context of cultural and world heritage impact assessments” The course is supported by the State Culture Capital Foundation of Latvia.



THE TRAINERS

INTERNATIONAL TRAINERS

Nicholas Clarke



Nicholas Clarke is an architect, academic and director of Heritage Futures, a heritage consultancy based in the Netherlands. He obtained his professional degree from the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and continued his studies at the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) before defending his PhD thesis at Delft University of Technology (Netherlands). He has worked in practice in South Africa, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and taught at the University of Pretoria (South Africa), Delft University of Technology (Netherlands) and TUWien (Austria). In 2023 he was a visiting professor at La Sapienza University in Rome, Italy and is currently a research fellow at the University of Pretoria. His publications include award-winning books on architectural heritage and its conservation. His architectural practice includes restoration, adaptive reuse and impact assessment with a particular focus on cultural heritage and sustainable development, as well as World Heritage. Nicholas serves as an ICOMOS World Heritage Advisor, including presenting ICOMOS before the World Heritage Committee at its annual meetings since 2020. He has undertaken numerous World Heritage missions for ICOMOS since 2014, prepared desk-top reviews, and contributed to statutory guidance documents. Nicholas is the current Vice-president of ICOMOS South Africa.

Riin Alatalu



photo: Toomas Tuul

Riin Alatalu is an Estonian cultural heritage expert, researcher and lecturer with extensive experience in heritage management, World Heritage and international conservation policy. She holds a PhD from the Estonian Academy of Arts, where she also coordinated the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Studies. Alatalu is Vice-President of ICOMOS and has served on its Board since 2017, with additional



involvement in several international scientific committees. Her work focuses on heritage management, urban conservation, dissonant and twentieth-century heritage, sustainable development, community participation and cultural rights. Heritage Impact Assessment is an important part of her professional activity, including its methodology, governance and application in decision-making. She has led and contributed to research projects on the sustainable management of historic urban areas, renovation of heritage buildings, port-city development and cultural heritage digitisation. Her international experience includes cooperation with UNESCO and European institutions, as well as work on heritage protection in crisis and conflict situations. This combination of academic expertise, policy experience and practical heritage management makes her particularly well qualified to contribute to professional HIA training.

NATIONAL TRAINERS



Jana Jākobsone

Jana Jākobsone is a Latvian architect, heritage expert, researcher and educator with extensive experience in historic urban conservation, municipal planning and World Heritage management. Since 2009, she has headed the Kuldīga Municipal Construction Board and has been responsible for strategic planning, development control, architectural review and the management of the built and natural environment in Kuldīga. Since 2023, she has served as Site Manager of the UNESCO World Heritage property “Old Town of Kuldīga”, overseeing management processes, planning documentation and communication with national and international institutions. From 2017 to 2023, she led the preparation of Kuldīga’s UNESCO World Heritage nomination, including research coordination, expert cooperation, the technical evaluation mission and communication with ICOMOS during the evaluation process. She holds a PhD in Architecture from Riga Technical University, with research focused on the integration of cultural heritage into the contemporary urban environment. Jākobsone is also a lecturer and researcher at RISEBA University of Applied Sciences, where she teaches cultural heritage integration in contemporary urban development. Her professional expertise includes conservation planning, restoration, adaptive reuse, historic urban landscapes, building regulation and the practical management of change in heritage areas. She served as Chair of ICOMOS Latvia from 2014 to 2021 and has been a member of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH) since 2018. Since 2017, she has also worked as an ICOMOS desk reviewer for World Heritage nominations, giving her direct experience with the international evaluation of Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, integrity and management systems. Her combination of municipal decision-making, architectural practice, academic research and direct World Heritage management



experience makes her particularly well qualified to contribute to Heritage Impact Assessment training, especially in relation to urban development, planning, conservation policy and the assessment of change in historic environments.

Katrīna Kukaine



Katrīna Kukaine is a Latvian cultural heritage and cultural policy professional with extensive experience in heritage management, spatial planning, international cooperation and institutional development. Since 2020, she has served as Director of the Development Department at the National Library of Latvia, following more than a decade of senior-level work at the National Heritage Board of Latvia, including as Deputy Head of the institution from 2014 to 2020. Her responsibilities have included heritage policy development, assessment of development projects and municipal spatial plans, coordination of international and national heritage projects, and cooperation with international organisations. She has been actively involved in ICOMOS Latvia since 2014, serving as a Board member, Chair from 2020 to 2023, and currently as Membership Coordinator. She has also contributed to the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) as a member of its Executive Committee. Her international heritage experience includes work related to UNESCO World Heritage, the European Heritage Label, the Baltic Sea Region cultural heritage network and several EU and EEA/Norway Grants programmes. She has undertaken specialised training in World Heritage management, cultural landscape, heritage risk management and disaster preparedness, including programmes organised by ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN and Ritsumeikan University. Her academic background includes a professional Master's degree in Spatial Development Planning from the University of Latvia, as well as studies in communication, European affairs and cultural heritage-related fields. She has also lectured on historic urban revitalisation and published on cultural heritage, spatial planning and the historic environment. Her combination of policy, planning, World Heritage and institutional experience provides a strong professional basis for contributing to Heritage Impact Assessment training, particularly in relation to governance, planning processes, heritage policy and the integration of heritage considerations into development decision-making.



REGISTRATION FORM

Personal information

1. First name:

2. Last name:

3. Title:

4. Email address:

5. Country of residence:

6. Organisation or institution:

6. Current position or professional role

Professional background and motivation

7. Please briefly describe your relevant professional or academic experience.

Approximately 400–700 characters (around three sentences).

8. Please briefly explain your motivation for participating in the course.

Approximately 400–700 characters (around three sentences).



ICOMOS membership

9. Are you an ICOMOS member?

- Yes
- NO

If yes:

9.1. ICOMOS membership card number:

9.2. ICOMOS National Committee:

10. Participant confirmations and consent

Please confirm each of the following statements:

☐ I understand that I am responsible for paying the course participation fee, which covers the online and in-person learning activities, as well as catering provided during the in-person programme.

☐ I understand that I am responsible for arranging and covering the cost of my own visa, travel and accommodation during the in-person activities.

☐ I consent to being photographed during the course and to such photographs being used for ICOMOS communication and publicity purposes.

☐ I consent to the processing of my personal data for the purposes of assessing my application, organising the course, communicating with participants and administering participation.

☐ I confirm that the information provided in this form is accurate and complete.

11. Additional information, accessibility requirements or dietary requirements

Signature and date:

Thank you for your application. Please note that submission of this form does not constitute confirmation of participation. Applicants will be informed by email whether their place has been confirmed.