

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Recognition of Zinc Roofers and Ornamentalists by UNESCO**

On December 4, 2024, in Asunción (Paraguay), the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO added the "Know-how of Parisian Zinc Roofers and Ornamentalists" to the Indicative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. VMZINC®, a long-time partner in this UNESCO candidacy, joins in the joy and pride of the roofing and ornamentalist community. The company and its teams are thrilled that such prestigious recognition is being given to these professions.

After 7 years of work, the GCCP\* (the body leading the candidacy), supported by Delphine Bürkli, Mayor of the 9th arrondissement, and the support committee made up of VMZINC and a dozen other industrial companies, have succeeded!

This third candidacy is the one that enables the recognition of these heritage professions, which represent a unique know-how: the art of roofing with the five main materials—zinc (battened roofing), slate, lead, tile, and copper—decorating them with dormers, bull's-eyes, friezes, or ridge finials.

This art, which originated in the 19th century, is passed down from generation to generation through roofing training centers in Paris and across France. This traditional craft is also looking to the future, contributing to the fight against climate change through the installation of insulation and the implementation of efficient air circulation systems.

Every morning, more than 500 young roofers are missing from the rooftops of Paris, and thousands more across France. May this UNESCO recognition raise awareness of the professions of zinc roofers and ornamentalists and inspire new vocations!

VM Building Solutions, under its VMZINC brand, thanks UNESCO for recognizing these professions as part of the heritage of humanity and thanks the GCCP, Delphine Bürkli, and the support committee for their dedication and perseverance in driving this candidacy. This recognition honors all the building professions in France within this chain of excellence and high standards.

(\*) The Syndicate of French Companies in Climate Engineering, Roofing, and Plumbing.