

FOCUS ON PROCULTHER

Newsletter of the EU-funded Project on Protecting Cultural Heritage from the Consequences of Disasters

This is the **issue N. 1** of the **PROCULTHER Newsletter**. Each edition aims at disseminating **state-of-the-art methodologies and best practices** in the field of **cultural heritage safeguard in emergency**, and updating on **project's milestones** and **forthcoming events**.

Next issue of **FOCUS ON PROCULTHER** in **spring 2020**.

Past editions available through the section [NEWSLETTERS](#) of **PROCULTHER web site**.

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PROCULTHER is **co-funded** by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission-DG **ECHO** and **implemented** by a **Consortium** led by the Italian Civil Protection Department (**Italy**), and composed of the *Ministère de l'Intérieur - Direction Générale de la Sécurité Civile et de la Gestion des Crises* (**France**), the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Regional Government of Castilla y León (**Spain**), the Ministry of Interior-Disaster and Emergency Management Authority- **AFAD** (**Turkey**), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (**ICCROM**) and the Fondazione Hallgarten – Franchetti Centro Studi **Villa Montesca**.

PROCULTHER is running from **January 2019 to December 2020** and aims at **contributing to develop UCPM and Participating States capacities to protect cultural heritage assets during emergencies** by placing their protection at the top of national **European agendas** and making the enhancement of their resilience a **multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder goal**.



PROCULTHER

PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE
FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISASTERS

HIGHLIGHTS

Italy at the forefront of the protection of cultural heritage in emergency: 3 questions to the Head of the Italian Civil Protection Department, Angelo Borrelli

With PROCULTHER Italy reiterates its interest in the development of preparatory measures for the protection of cultural assets in emergency. How important is this project for the Department?



Angelo Borrelli

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Recent emergencies in Europe and worldwide have shown how fragile cultural heritage is in the event of a disaster. Recently, the European Union has given particular impetus to the development of preparatory measures for the safeguarding of cultural assets in emergency, the co-financing of this project is the proof and the objectives established by PROCULTHER are particularly close to the ambitions of the Department in this sector. Italy boasts 55 UNESCO world heritage sites and, at the same time, it is exposed to several risks: for this reason, during the various emergencies that we had to face, we developed an integrated system for the protection of the cultural heritage in emergencies that makes our Country at the forefront in this sector. For us, the safeguard of cultural heritage is important not only to preserve our cultural identity, but also to protect the tourism that is a key economic sector for our country. [...]

In the last years, Italy has experienced serious emergencies, from L'Aquila earthquake in 2009 to the most recent ones in Central Italy in 2016, which sorely tried and - at the same time - increased your

experience in the field of protection of cultural heritage. What is the know-how that the Country is able to offer to the project?

The skills we have developed so far are the result of a long path began in 1966, when the Arno flood caused serious and, in some cases, irreparable damage to the cultural heritage of the city of Florence. The appearance of the "Angels of the mud" (Editor's note: this was how were called the volunteers who came to the aid of the city of Florence) was so providential but also revealed the need for a coordinated and specialized intervention in the sector. Since then, Italy has been devoting efforts and resources to improve national and local capacities to protect damaged cultural heritage. Nowadays, the protection of the cultural heritage in emergency is possible thanks to an inter-institutional collaboration coordinated by the Department and which sees the participation of numerous actors, first the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities (MiBACT). The recent seismic emergencies (1997-2017) made possible the further increase of the national experience, including the design and test of new solutions.[...]

"[...]protection of the cultural heritage in emergency is possible thanks to an inter-institutional collaboration coordinated by the Department and which sees the participation of numerous actors, first the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities (MiBACT)"

PROCULTHER is setting rather ambitious results. What are the Department's expectations in this regard?

Since its very beginning, PROCULTHER has foreseen the involvement of the structures that are part of the Italian integrated system for the protection of cultural heritage in emergencies, thus undoubtedly giving us the chance to promote the Italian experience in the field also at international level.

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PROCULTHER following the way to the European response methodology for protecting cultural heritage during emergencies

From June to September 2019 the Civil Protection Authorities as members of the PROCULTHER Consortium have convened their respective national stakeholders involved in the safeguard of cultural heritage in both phases of preparedness and response, in accordance to the respective national institutional frameworks and emergency procedures.

This action is the first step for the setting up in France, Italy, Turkey and Spain of national working groups called to provide key elements to the project with the objective of developing a common European response methodology for protecting cultural heritage during emergencies. The participants were gathered in meetings in order to analyse the capacities that their Countries are capable and ready to deploy in the preparation and response phases and to specify the contribution they could offer at European and international level in this field.

“[...] convened their respective national stakeholders involved in the safeguard of cultural heritage in both phases of preparedness and response [...] to analyse the capacities that their Countries are capable and ready to deploy in the preparation and response phases and to specify the contribution they could offer at European and international level in this field.”

In order to support this joined assessment process, the PROCULTHER Consortium drafted an outline whose scope was to allow: a general understanding of the organization/status of cultural heritage policies in relation to protection and safeguard in the context of severe events in each of the partner countries; to identify and address operational aspects specifically related to existing national resources/equipment, to identify and exchange good practices developed at both European and international levels for possible integration into the project's partner countries, so as to increase the beneficiaries' response preparedness and promote European innovative approaches in the field of civil protection at international level.

All the national meetings were carried out following a similar work agenda [...]

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Clockwise from left: Ankara, Madrid, Paris and Rome

EXE FLEGREI 2019 - the Full Scale Exercise with a focus on cultural heritage protection



Field-Exercise Logo

“EXE FLEGREI 2019” is the national full-scale exercise that took place from 16 to 19 October 2019 in Campania Region (Southern Italy). The exercise saw the involvement of the Italian civil protection authorities at local, regional and national level: the municipalities in the red zone of the Phlegrean Fields, the Prefecture of Naples, the Campania Region, the relevant Centres of Competence of the Civil Protection Department (INGV, Study Centre Plinius - LUPT and CNR-IREA) as well as the Regions and Autonomous Provinces twinned with the municipalities of the red zone invited as observers.

EXE FLEGREI 2019 is the closing activity of a project, started some years ago, whose purpose was updating the emergency plans for the volcanic risk of the Phlegraean area; indeed the exercise included both large-scale and command post activities, for testing and improving the operational, procedural and methodological aspects of territorial and sector planning elaborated in the last years. The exercise scenario simulated a variation of the monitoring parameters and the occurrence of phenomena that led to a transition from the normal state of yellow alert of the volcano, to a situation of orange alert, up to a state of imminent eruption, i.e. a red alert level. It is worth mentioning that, among the main objectives of this exercise, some were strictly related to the safeguard of cultural heritage during emergencies [...].

“[...] EXE FLEGREI 2019 is the closing activity of a project, started some years ago, whose purpose was updating the emergency plans for the volcanic risk of the Phlegraean area [...] among the main objectives of this exercise, some were strictly related to the safeguard of cultural heritage during emergencies.”

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Clockwise from left: participants' registration, Italian Safeguarding Cultural Heritage Function at DI.COMA.C, briefing to CH experts, experts at work
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PROJECT OUTREACH ACTIONS: *PROCULTHER WAS THERE!*

PROCULTHER in Brussels among the European Cultural Heritage stakeholders



A photo shot from the Meeting

On **15-16 October 2019** PROCULTHER was launched for the first time at **European level**, the Italian Civil Protection Department (**DPC**) was in fact **invited** to the **First meeting of the Commission's Expert Group on Cultural Heritage**. The forum was established with the objective of **sharing experiences and lessons learnt** by **European stakeholders** involved in the development of national, European and international legislation, programs and policies **in the fields of art, culture and cultural heritage protection**. The decision to gather this group of experts emerged from the political dialogue developed during the **European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018)** with the intent of providing advice and expertise to the Commission.

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PROCULTHER opens up to the INSARAG community

From **24 to 25 October 2019** Poggioreale and Palermo (**Italy**) **hosted the INSARAG Africa - Europe - Middle East (AEME) Regional Meeting**. INSARAG is the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group **established** in **1991** whose primary purpose is to **facilitate coordination** between the various international Urban Search and Rescue (**USAR**) **teams** who make themselves available for deployment to countries experiencing devastating events causing structural collapse primarily due to earthquakes.

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Family Photo INSARAG AEME Regional Meeting 2019 © INSARAG Secretariat

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