Concept note of the International workshop

Defining European Technical and Operational Capacities for the Protection of Cultural Heritage at Risk of Disaster

7 and 9 June 2021

Last Update 10/05/2021

Background

The protection of cultural heritage is indissolubly linked to increasing the resilience of disaster-prone communities. Being an invaluable source of identity and evolution of society, cultural heritage is a vital catalyst for social cohesion and development. Therefore, addressing adequate measures toward its preservation and protection from natural and human-made hazards is essential to ensure sustainable development processes and effective disaster management operations. From a civil protection perspective, this can be translated into the inclusion of the protection of cultural heritage in all the phases of disaster risk management (DRM) cycle. Therefore, in line with the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)[1]*, the definition of cross-sectoral cooperation and synergies should be envisaged at each territorial level to ensure the necessary assumption of responsibilities in the definition of coordinated and effective actions to reduce the vulnerability of cultural heritage at risk.

In this sense, the PROCULTHER project- *Protecting Cultural Heritage from the Consequences of Disasters*, by pooling together the experience and competences of Italy, France, Spain, Turkey, ICCROM, Villa Montesca and with the collaboration of UNESCO (Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe), aims at contributing to the development of common European rules, shared procedures and operating standards to improve the safeguard of cultural heritage at risk of disaster by promoting a structured cooperation among cultural heritage and Civil protection actors at local, national and European level and the establishment of capacities able to support in a coordinated and effective way disaster management operations.

In particular, the project, implemented within the framework of a European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) initiative and co-funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), is intended to sustain and complement the efforts made by the European Union in strengthening cooperation between EU Members and 6 Participating States (Iceland, Norway, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Turkey) in the field of civil protection.

The UCPM plays a crucial role in providing for common standards enabling certified and well-equipped teams to work interchangeably in supporting Countries overwhelmed by the impact of disaster. Since its creation in 2001, the UCPM has responded to more than 420 requests for assistance inside and outside the European Union[2], some of which also related to the protection of cultural heritage. However, at this stage, the UCPM does not include any module[3], requiring registration by EU member States/Participating States, dedicated to protecting cultural heritage at risk of disaster and procedures should be identified to allow interoperability among existing UCPM modules in view of joint operations in Europe and at international level.

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[1] For more details see: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

[2] Last access on 27/04/2021. For more details see: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism_en

[3] Within the UCPM the term 'Module' is used to indicate the resources that one or more EU Member States or UCPM Participating States can deploy to contribute to the development of a civil protection rapid response capability. They are organised at the level of each Member States and subject to their direction and command. For more details see: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007D0779(01)&from=IT

Under this framework, the PROCULTHER project is promoting the development of technical and operational capacities to reinforce cultural heritage protection in emergency as well as to enable the effective activation and deployment of an interdisciplinary UCPM driven module able to support requesting Countries or interested International Organisations in the protection of disaster-prone or affected cultural heritage assets.

Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies

To reach the objective of building technical and operational capacities for the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster at European level, as a first step the project promoted a process of capitalization on the capacities, resources and practices that the PROCULTHER project partners can deploy in case of emergency to protect cultural heritage at risk. The scaling-up process, conducted in the early phases of the project, served as a basis to define the first draft of the document "**Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies**".

The objective of this document is to provide key operational and technical elements to advance preparedness and response activities to include cultural heritage safeguard in all the phases of the disaster risk management cycle at European level. In this sense, the contents are built on lessons learnt and best practices identified in the Countries members of the PROCULTHER consortium with the aim of developing a common and shared understanding of the subject at European level. The participatory approach, ensured throughout the elaboration phase, has allowed to highlight strengths and weaknesses of the national DRM systems currently in place and to identify margins of improvement to better advocate for a holistic and coordinated approach. In this sense, in order to build effective capacities in this field, the project has further explored many structural, technical and operational aspects on how to enhance the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster at each territorial level.

It is also worth mentioning that the document does not claim to thoroughly cover all issues related to the protection of cultural heritage but it proposes methods, languages, rules resulting from learning and capitalisation processes launched in the Countries involved in the project.

In particular, the document proposes and deepens the following issues:

- **Institutional framework**: this chapter focuses on main international regulatory and operational frameworks, actors to be involved and roles, elements for strengthening a cultural heritage governance both at national and European level.

- **Planning the inclusion of cultural heritage in all the phases of DRM**: this chapter provides strategic methodological and operational inputs for the

inclusion of cultural heritage in disaster risk management planning processes. It also includes an outline to guide the development of cultural heritage sector plan and site security plans. In addition, key operational planning elements are presented to define priorities for the protection/extraction/removal of cultural heritage in emergency, to identify and organize adequate storages for movable assets and to adapt early warning systems to the sector's needs.

- **Coordination structure**: this chapter emphasizes the role that a coordinated structure can have within an operational centre in improving disaster risk management capacities.

- **Teams**: this chapter addresses issues related to the establishment of objectives, rules and procedures of a team, to be converted in a Module/Other Response capacities within the UCPM framework, to ensure the safeguard of cultural heritage at European and international level in case of emergency.

- **Tools and data management systems**: this chapter proposes reporting tools for risk and need assessments, as well as the definition of IT systems for sharing data and information to improve operational capacities.

- **Training:** this chapter deals with the definition of training standards to be possibly included under the learning structures of the UCPM, in order to strengthen and test capacities in this field.

- **Exercises**: this chapter advocates on the importance of testing capacities to improve the safeguard of cultural heritage at risk of disaster. It proposes an outline to facilitate the organization of cultural heritage full-scale exercises and a list of materials that can serve for the preparation of the scenario.

- **Conclusion and recommendations**: in this conclusive part a comprehensive overview of the actions to be undertaken at each territorial level is addressed.

In order to consolidate a European perspective on the methodological and operational issues needed at European and international level to serve the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster, the PROCULTHER project has planned to invite all interested Countries and International Organizations to participate in an International Workshop to contribute with their own experience and practice to the further development and revision of the document.

Defining European Technical and Operational Capacities for the Protection of Cultural Heritage at Risk of Disaster: a two-day international workshop

With the aim of strengthening a European approach toward the protection of cultural heritage by taking into account all the practices that have proven to be effective in DRM processes so as to allow a wider contribution to the development and revision of the document "Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies" (hereinafter denominated 'methodological document'), the PROCULTHER project envisages the organization of a two-day international workshop during which interested Countries and International Organisations can contribute to the identification of key methodological elements to address cultural heritage protection issues through their own perspective and practice. In this sense, the international workshop will provide for a space of discussion to revise the elements currently proposed by the PROCULTHER project, as well as to discuss the inclusion of other practices that can enrich and make a European DRM approach more effective besides reinforcing Cultural heritage protection.

Due to the European focus of the project, the international workshop is particularly addressed to EU Member States and UCPM participating States and International Organisations, interested to contribute to the processes undertaken by the PROCULTHER project. Nevertheless, the workshop will also be open to non-European countries and concerned actors with relevant practice in the development of methods/tools in this field or simply willing to be part of the event's objectives.

There are no registration fees or other charges for this event. Interested workshop attendees should register online before the deadline of **25 May 2021**. The registration form will also include a questionnaire that will serve to identify any practice that can feed the process of building technical and operational capacities at European level in the field of Cultural heritage protection and to confirm interest of the attendees to participate in the processes undertaken by the PROCULTHER project.
The event will be streamed live, so participation will also be possible for those non-registered who will be able to interact with participants through the messaging services provided by the video-conference platform.

The agenda of the event has been conceived to cover the two objectives foreseen by the international workshop: 1) pooling of extra-project practices that can feed the revision of the methodological document, 2) revision of the first consolidated draft of the methodological document.

During the **first day of the workshop**, extra-project case studies will be presented so as to have more elements for the discussion on the revision of the methodological document. In particular these will focus on the chapters of the methodological document, namely Institutional framework, Planning the inclusion of Cultural Heritage in all the phases of DRM, Coordinated structure, Teams, Tools and Data management systems, Training and Exercises.

On the **second day**, the issues addressed during the first day will be capitalised and presented in order to provide a basis for the discussion among all participants on the contents of the methodological document. Six separate working sessions will be dedicated to the discussion of the chapters of the methodological document. In order to gain valuable insights from the audience in a timely and effective manner, comments and suggestions from the session will be further investigated and systematized through a SLIDO questionnaire that will allow quantifying and qualifying, for each session, the general agreement on the revisions proposed by the actors participating in the workshop.

Agenda of the international workshop

Defining European Technical and Operational Capacities for the Protection of Cultural Heritage at Risk of Disaster

Last update: 10/05/2021

1st day: Capitalising on existing experiences to build shared European tools to protect cultural heritage at risk of disaster
7/June/2021

Time slot	Activity
Opening remarks and chair introductions	
13:30-13:45	Welcome
13:45-14:00	Presentation of the PROCULTHER project and introduction to the International workshop
14:00-14:15	The UCPM framework and its functioning
Existing capacities at European Level	
14:15-15:45	Presentation of existing practices at European level
15:45-15:50	Q&A
15:50-16:00	Break
Existing capacities at international level	
16:00-17:30	Presentation of existing practices at international level
17:30-17:45	Q&A
17:45-18:00	Wrap up and conclusions

2nd day: Building on existing technical and operational capacities at international and European level

9/June/2021

Time slot	Activity
9:00-9:15	Introduction to the webinar
Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies	
9:15-9:45	Main contents of the document
9:45-10:00	Participatory session: objectives and rules
Revision of the European methodology proposed by the PROCULTHER project	
10:00-10:30	Table 1 Topic: Institutional framework
10:30-11:00	Table 2 Topic: Planning the inclusion of cultural heritage in the DRM cycle
11:00-11:30	Break
11:30-12:00	Table 3 Topic: Coordinated structure
12:00-13:00	Table 4 Topic: Teams
13:00-14:00	Break
14:00-14:30	Table 5 Topic: Tools/formats useful to provide an effective data collection and management on CH at risk
14:30-15:00	Table 6 Topic: Training and exercises
15:00-15:30	Presentation of the results of the participatory session Wrap up and conclusions

The questionnaire

In order to guide the possible contributions of interested stakeholders, a questionnaire has been set up so as to collect other experiences gained in the field of cultural heritage protection and to assess their interest to contribute to the revision of the document "Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies**"**.

The objective of the questionnaire is to facilitate the scaling up of practices and lessons learnt to improve the protection of cultural heritage in emergency. This will mainly serve to extend the capitalisation process to other national and international actors having consolidated practices, languages, rules in this field and who are interested to feed the document "Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies**"** proposed by the PROCULTHER consortium.

The target audience of the questionnaire are Civil protection/DRM authorities and Cultural heritage representatives of EU Members, UCPM participating States, Non-European Countries and International organisations working on the protection of Cultural heritage at risk of disaster. Each civil protection authority will be asked to ensure cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural affairs, or with other relevant actors, by compiling a single questionnaire per Country focused on the practices developed to reinforce the protection of Cultural heritage in emergency.

The practices shall be proposed following the questionnaire structure and these will cover the chapters composing the document "Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies", i.e. Legal Framework, Planning, Coordinated Structure, Teams, Tools and IT databases, Exercise and Training.

Even if the Project considers relevant any practice that can serve to improve technical and operational capacities in the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster, the most explanatory examples will be presented during the first day of the international workshop, based on the following criteria:

- **Cross-sectoral cooperation and interoperability**: the practice establishes a strong link between the action of Civil protection/DRM authority and Cultural heritage actors and demonstrates interoperability and quality advancements resulting from the inclusion of the protection of cultural heritage in the DRM cycle.
- **Consolidated approach and ownership**: the practice is based on consolidated in-field performances and grounded at each territorial level.

- **Innovation**: the practice addresses innovative useful methods/tools to include the protection of cultural heritage throughout the DRM phase and contains elements to reinforce climate change adaptation, DRR-oriented land management, private-public partnership, etc.
- **Context-based approaches and cross-cutting issues:** the practice emphasizes the importance of addressing a people and community centred approach.

We kindly request you to submit the questionnaire along with the registration form by 25 May 2021.

ELECTRONIC CONSENT: I hereby give my consent to the processing of the data and information provided in this questionnaire to the extent necessary for the achievement of its purposes, according to the rules set by the Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725. Regarding my personal data and e-mail address, I am aware that these will be kept only if PROCULTHER needs to follow up with my answers. By clicking on the "agree" button below you indicate that you have read the above information and voluntarily agree to participate.

☐Agree
☐ I disagree

A. About your involvement in the PROCULTHER project

A.1 Name of the person responsible of completing the questionnaire

A.2 Are you participating in representation of the Civil Protection/DRM authority and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs or on behalf of other institution, organisation

Note: for the scope of the questionnaire and the international workshop it is strongly recommended that the practices to be scaled up are defined in agreement between Civil Protection/DRM institution and Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

☐In representation of Civil Protection/DRM authority and Ministry of Cultural Affairs
☐Other (please specify)

A.3 Institution or organization responsible of filling in the questionnaire

A.4 Country proposing the practice(s)

A.5 Your position in the institution or organization

A.6 Please kindly provide your email address in case we need to follow up with your responses

A.7 Please add, if any, the names, e-mail addresses and institutions/organisations of the other experts who contributed to the completion of this questionnaire. All reported contacts will automatically be registered to the workshop.

A.8 Would you be interested in providing a presentation during the International Workshop?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐Someone else will do it. Please specify the name if already known

A.9 Are you and/or your country interested in participating on the second day of the international workshop to contribute to the discussion on the content of the "Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies"

☐ Yes

☐ No, please specify the reason(s):

A.10 Would you like to propose the involvement of some other governmental institution besides the Civil protection authority and the Ministry of Cultural affairs?

☐No

☐Yes, please specify which one and the reason(s)

A.11 Would you like to be involved in other activities foreseen by the project?

☐Yes

☐No, thanks

If no, please specify the reason(s):

A.12 If yes, please specify which one(s) is/are of interest to you. Tick as many that apply

☐Final revision of the document "Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies"

☐Training

☐Pilot utilisation of the tools produced by the PROCULTHER project

☐ Participate as observer in the exercise foreseen by the project

☐ Final outreach conference

☐ Other (please specify)

A.13 Would you like to sign up to the PROCULTHER newsletter?

☐ Yes

☐ No, thanks

A.14 Do you have any other comments you would like to share about this questionnaire?

B. Technical and operational practice(s) you would like to valorise at European level

B.1 **Legal frameworks**
Have you developed legal instruments/formal agreements/memoranda of understanding at regional/national level, specifically dedicated to collaboration and coordination between emergency authorities and cultural heritage authorities, aimed at intervening in emergencies to safeguard cultural heritage assets at risk of disaster?

☐No

☐Yes

If yes, which one(s)? Describe the contents, the actors involved, the duration and possible examples of application (max 2500 characters including spaces)

B.2 **Planning the inclusion of cultural heritage protection in disaster risk management processes**
Have you developed or participated in the elaboration of any DRM plan(s) specifically dedicated to safeguarding cultural heritage, not only referred to single specific sites or buildings?

☐No

☐Yes

If yes, which one(s)? Describe the main contents (type of risk, target area, summary index of the plan, possible applications) (max 3000 characters including spaces)

B.3 **Specialised teams**
Have you established intervention teams at regional/national level specifically dedicated to intervene for safeguarding cultural heritage in an emergency?

☐No

☐Yes.

If yes, which one(s)? Briefly describe their composition, purpose, level of intervention (local/regional/national), coordination and recruitment system. (max 2000 characters including spaces)

B.4 **Tools and data management systems**
Have you developed support tools for emergency activities, such as damage survey forms, safety forms, vulnerability assessment forms, information tools for data management in emergencies, specifically dedicated to the intervention on cultural heritage assets at risk of disaster?

☐No

☐Yes

If yes, which ones? Indicate their purpose, the final users, type of formats used, and the main topics covered. (max 3000 characters including spaces)

B.5 Training and exercises

Have you performed training programmes specifically dedicated to the safeguarding of cultural heritage in emergencies, which may also include the exercise phase?

☐No

☐Yes

If yes, which one(s)? Describe the main contents, duration, target audience, type of training envisaged (theoretical/practical), type of exercise included (if any) (max 2500 characters including spaces)

B.6 Early warning system applied to cultural heritage protection

Can you mention any available early warning system specifically dedicated to the safeguarding of cultural heritage assets at risk of disaster?

☐No

☐Yes

If yes, which one(s)? Indicate the system(s)' essential content, the risk/s addressed, how it/they are activated, main actors involved and their role. (max 1500 characters including spaces)

B.7 Lessons learnt

Please specify any lessons learnt to draw from for the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster, clearly connected with one or more issues mentioned above. (max 2500 characters including spaces)

B.8 Cross cutting issues and other relevant topics

Please specify other topics you deem relevant to be addressed. (max 1000 characters including spaces)

B.9 Do you have any comments or questions about PROCULTHER's objectives?

B.10 Do you have any comments or questions about your participation in the international workshop?

Ready to fill in the Questionnaire?

Click here to access the on-line version!