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ProCulTher

PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE
FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISASTERS



OBJECTIVES

Building upon recent experiences on the protection of cultural heritage (CH) in emergency, Italy, France, Spain and Turkey, and on the available tools and methods developed by relevant international organisations such as ICCROM and Villa Montesca, and with the participation of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe,

THE PROCULTHER PROJECT AIMED AT



Developing and test a common European methodology along with Standard Operating Procedures for protecting CH at risk of disaster



Improving national preparedness arrangements in this sector in the UCPM Participating States



Creating a capacity led by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism-UCPM able support affected countries during emergencies and to provide guidance for the development of preparedness measures for the protection of CH



Promoting European innovative approaches in the field of civil protection at international level



RESULTS



Increased international dialogue at European level on the importance of protecting CH during emergencies.



Improved national preparedness arrangements for the protection of CH during disasters.



Enhanced interoperability of national capacities of UCPM member and participating States during emergency response.



Established initial arrangements for UCPM driven support in disaster response to protect affected cultural heritage during large scale emergencies.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS



BUDGET AND DURATION

The implementation of the PROCULTHER project began in January 2019 and ended in December 2021 with a budget of 799.076,00 EUR (EC financial contribution 599.307,00 EUR)



INVENTORY & CONSULTATIVE ASSESSMENT PHASE

From March to September 2019, the Project Partners Countries established working groups gathering the national stakeholders involved in the safeguard of cultural heritage to analyse the capacities their Countries could account for in terms of deployment in the preparation and response phases and to specify which contribution/s they could provide at European and international level in this field. On December 2019, the Partners' national stakeholders and experts from UNESCO-Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, ICCROM and Villa Montesca met in Rome to review the national reports endorsed by the working groups and to collect elements for the elaboration of a shared European methodology to address protection of cultural heritage during emergencies. In June 2021, the international virtual workshop "Defining European Technical and Operational Capacities for the Protection of Cultural Heritage at Risk of Disaster" provided the opportunity to PROCULTHER's Consortium to expand the discussion forum for the final revision phase of this methodological document with experts from over 30 countries (including 18 EU Member States and 4 UCPM Participating States, as well as from Europe, Asia and the Americas), speakers from civil protection authorities, ministries, governmental, research institutions, and from the European Commission Directorates DG ECHO, DG EAC, UNESCO and ICCROM.

TRAINING MODULE AND COMMON METHODOLOGY

Further findings for the revision and test of the training programme proposed by the Methodology were provided by the pilot "International Training Module on the Protection of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Emergency" and discussion-based exercise with a cultural heritage scenario both held virtually in November 2021. Additional exchanges allowed for the definition of a toolkit collecting all the outlines and instruments developed by the project Partners to operationally include the protection of cultural heritage at risk in all the disaster risk management phases. Moreover, PROCULTHER Partners shared the terms of reference, legal arrangements and guidelines for the setting-up of a UCPM-driven module able to reinforce disaster preparedness and, in case of emergency, to support national response actions of affected countries. Finally, all Consortium Partners focused on the finalisation of PROCULTHER's main legacy: the "Key Elements of a European Methodology to address Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies", officially presented during the Final Outreach Conference in December 2021.



KEY ELEMENTS OF A EUROPEAN METHODOLOGY TO ADDRESS THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE DURING EMERGENCIES



FROM PROCULTHER TO PROCULTHER-NET

All throughout the 36 months of project activities, PROCULTHER has advocated for a paradigm shift on the importance of including cultural heritage protection in the disaster risk management - DRM process through the definition of common European technical and operational languages, tools, standard operating procedures at each territorial level. Thanks to the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network - KN, established by Decision No 1313/2013/EU to strengthen the UCPM by promoting collaboration and sustainable knowledge sharing among civil protection and disaster management actors, a dedicated thematic community will be consolidated to promote a growing, sustainable and shared knowledge exchange aimed at the protection of cultural heritage prone to disasters. This process will be facilitated through the PROCULTHER-NET Project that will be implemented by a Consortium represented by the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Civil Protection Department, as coordinator, the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property - ICCROM, the Ministry of Interior-Disaster and Emergency Management Authority - AFAD (Turkey), the German Archaeological Institute - DAI (Germany), the Ministère de l'Intérieur - Direction Générale de la Sécurité Civile et de la Gestion des Crises (France), the Fondazione Hallgarten - Franchetti Centro Studi Villa Montesca, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Region Government of Castilla y León (Spain), the Federal Agency for Technical Relief - THW (Germany), the Suor Orsola Benincasa University - UNISOB (Italy) and the University of Porto - UPORTO (Portugal).



PROCULTHER-NET COMMUNITY

Building on the outcomes of PROCULTHER, the PROCULTHER-NET- Protecting Cultural Heritage from the Consequences of Disasters-Network project, co-funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations from January 2022 to June 2023, aims at strengthening a European thematic community focused on the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster within the KN and increasing UCPM interoperability standards by reinforcing know-how transfer and learning processes. PROCULTHER-NET Consortium Partners that have already laid the foundations of a thematic community focused on the protection of cultural heritage at risk: Disaster Risk Management Authorities, Cultural Heritage Protection Institutions, Academics, Researchers, Humanitarian actors and knowledge holders from UCPM Member and Participating States and third Countries are now called to join and consolidate the PROCULTHER-NET Community so as to contribute to the efforts of the UCPM to include cultural heritage protection in the disaster risk management in order to sustainably increase our society's resilience. Follow us #ProcultNet



PRO-CULTHER-NET

PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISASTERS - NETWORK

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