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PROCULTHER-NET is **co-funded** by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations - **DG-ECHO** under the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism - **UCPM**, and implemented by a **Consortium** led by the Italian Civil Protection Department (**Italy**) in collaboration with 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

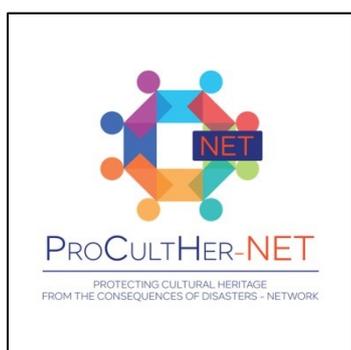
PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE
FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISASTERS - NETWORK

Building on **PROCULTHER** project, whose it is a natural continuation, **PROCULTHER-NET** is running from **January 2022** to **June 2023** and aims at consolidating a **thematic community** focused on the **protection** of **cultural heritage** at risk of disaster within the **Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network - KN** and increasing **UCPM interoperability standards** by reinforcing **know-how transfer** and learning processes on the **inclusion of cultural heritage protection** in **disaster risk management** processes within the **KN**.

[Click here](#) to join the KN and find out more on **PROCULTHER-NET!**

PROJECT AT STAKE

FROM PROCULTHER TO PROCULTHER-NET: BUILDING A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOR PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE AT RISK OF DISASTER



PROCULTHER-NET Logo

PROCULTHER-NET, Protecting Cultural Heritage from the Consequences of Disasters-Network, is an initiative co-funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations-DG ECHO in the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism - UCPM that aims at consolidating a **thematic community** focused on the **protection of cultural heritage** at risk of disaster within the EU Civil Protection Knowledge Network - KN and at fostering **multidisciplinary and risk-based exchange practices** to support and complement the efforts made by the European Union **in the field of civil protection**.

Launched in **January 2022**, PROCULTHER-NET will be implemented until **June 2023** under the coordination of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Civil Protection Department (**Italy**) by 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*-**DGSCGC (France)**, the Fondazione Hallgarten - Franchetti Centro Studi **Villa Montesca-FCSVM**, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Region Government of Castilla y León - **JCyL (Spain)**, the Federal Agency for Technical Relief - **THW (Germany)**, the Suor Orsola Benincasa University - **UNISOB (Italy)** and the University of Porto - **UPORTO (Portugal)**.

The impact of natural and anthropic hazards on cultural heritage, exacerbated by the increasing effects of climate change and recently by the COVID-19 pandemic, is endangering and making cultural heritage more fragile, increasing the underlying disaster risk drivers. The Notre-Dame of Paris fire in 2019, the explosion in the Port of Beirut and the Izmir earthquake in 2020, the wildfire that devastated the Jagger Library of the University of Cape Town in 2021, the impact of the Russian invasion on Ukrainian cultural heritage, are only some of the most meaningful disastrous events stressing the urgency of increasing interoperability standards for the inclusion of cultural heritage protection within the operational structures of the UCPM.

In the last years, many steps forward have been made to identify common European elements of action and to draw shared technical and operational approaches to sustainably include the protection of cultural heritage in disaster risk management processes at national and European level. In particular, a part from the context of increasing natural and man-made risks, the PROMEDHE (2016 - 2018) and the [PROCULTHER](#) projects (2019 - 2021) have demonstrated the

increasing need of encouraging cross sectoral cooperation among disaster risk managers, cultural heritage actors and knowledge holders to reduce risk of disaster.

Meanwhile, the PROCULTHER Consortium Partners¹ worked proactively in a process involving cultural heritage and disaster risk management actors from European Union Member States and UCPM Participating States as well as experts from international organisations active in both cultural heritage and disaster risk management. This consultative process has allowed, among other actions, to identify the “Key elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies” and to the elaboration of the minimum requirements of a UCPM-driven response module able to intervene and support national response actions worldwide for the protection of cultural heritage at risk.

In this sense, PROCULTHER-NET, eager to consolidate the results achieved so far, will draw on the extensive network of contacts and technical and operational content built up through the PROCULTHER project for ensuring a sustainable and comprehensive network-based exchange on issues that can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of civil protection and disaster risk management actions, as well as to inform decision makers and advocate for the inclusion of cultural heritage in disaster risk management processes at each territorial level.

To this end, PROCULTHER-NET will enlarge the thematic community focused on the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster and share knowledge, lessons learnt and best practices with a multi-risk approach to inform the KN.

¹ The Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Civil Protection Department (Italy), as Consortium coordinator, the Ministère de l'Intérieur - Direction Générale de la Sécurité Civile et de la Gestion des Crises - DGSCGC (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- FCSVM, with the participation of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

PROJECT AT STAKE

PROCULTHER-NET ACTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The PROCULTHER-NET project actions aim at the achievement of two main objectives:

- To **establish a European thematic community**, within the **Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network**, focused on the **protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster**, gathering and involving the largest number of actors and stakeholders active in the field, through a multidisciplinary approach to enhance cooperation and to support and complement the effort made at European level.
- To **increase UCPM interoperability standards** by reinforcing **know-how transfer** and **learning processes** on the inclusion of cultural heritage protection in disaster risk management processes **within the KN**.



PROCULTHER-NET logo black

First **PROCULTHER-NET core actions** will focus on **enlarging the extensive network of experts established through the PROCULTHER project** by increasing **awareness** on the importance of including cultural heritage protection in all disaster risk management process, and also **encouraging new actors** to join, inform and sustain the thematic community of experts focused on the protection and preservation of cultural heritage at risk of disaster **within the KN**. This will include the organisation of **workshops** and **seminars** as well as the issuing of bulletins on the **thematic priorities** selected by the community of interest that will be also shared through the KN.

The networking actions will adopt a **bottom-up approach** starting from the reinforcement of **national working groups** in the project partner counties, called to identify and disseminate best practices, lesson learned and strategies relevant to improve the protection of cultural heritage in other Countries interested in being a part of the process. This approach will also allow the establishment of formal relations and exchanges among **civil protection authorities, cultural affairs ministries, humanitarian actors and knowledge holders**. In addition, in order to facilitate the **involvement** of **additional stakeholders** - including all UCPM Member and Participating States and eligible non-EU Countries -, **Community management guidelines, Memoranda of Understanding** and **agreements** on hosting and accommodating the PROCULTHER-NET Community **within the KN** will be elaborated to enable its efficient functioning, as well as a systematic and sustainable scaling up and dissemination of good practices and lessons learned.

As a **preparatory activity**, PROCULTHER-NET launched a **questionnaire** - addressed to the UCPM Member and Participating States, as well as to other relevant actors active in the field of cultural heritage protection - whose results will feed into an ex-ante **feasibility study** aimed at providing an overview of the state-of-the-art regarding disaster risk management

methodologies in use at local, European and international level to ensure the protection and preservation of both tangible (movable/immovable) and intangible cultural heritage assets.

Finally, the definition of an **engagement plan** will support the widest multinational and multidisciplinary participation and contribution so as to further expand the thematic community on cultural heritage protection within the KN.

Capacity building activities will be undertaken to increase **UCPM interoperability standards** by reinforcing **know-how transfer** and **learning processes** on the inclusion of cultural heritage protection in the disaster risk management phases at European and national level.

The PROCULTHER-NET Consortium will also define a **survey** to be shared among UCPM Member and Participating States, an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance beneficiaries and European Neighbourhood Policy Countries, to assess the **interest** of concerned actors, namely civil protection authorities, disaster risk managers and humanitarian stakeholders in **joining the capacity-development processes** carried out by the project. This activity, with the findings of the ex-ante feasibility study, will serve to identify **needs-based solutions** for the development and **dissemination of knowledge** related to the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster to achieve better coordination, cooperation and interoperability within the UCPM framework.

To this end, PROCULTHER-NET will propose **training of trainers/ad hoc training** initiatives whose thematic priorities will be defined to both reinforce **sustainable learning processes** at European level, stressing a **bottom-up and science-based** approach, and **advocate** for an increasing **capacity-development** to produce change at individual, organisational and systemic levels. Moreover, a special focus will be devoted to the good practices having a **multi-risk/systemic risk approach** that can foster the resilience of communities as an essential premise to anticipate the effects of climate-change related hazards and geological hazards. Being the objective of the trainings the reinforcement of capacities in the field of cultural heritage protection as well as the adoption of standards to guide disaster risk management operations in a coordinated and sustainable way at national and European level, these activities will target civil protection and disaster risk management stakeholders, as well as interested humanitarian actors, and will be carried out taking into consideration the UCPM training programmes in place or under development.

Finally, the PROCULTHER-NET project will also define a feasibility study for the conception of a **virtual reality instrument**, as well as for the installation of a **learning platform** to be integrated in the KN online collaborative platform. Aware of the important role that these technologies are playing in mitigating the impact of Covid-19 on in-person meeting/exchanges and convinced that the protection of cultural heritage should be combined and tested together with other civil protection actions in emergency, the study will serve to inform and **advocate** for the **integration** of a **virtual cultural heritage scenario** within the tools for **virtual civil protection exercises** in use or under development, such as the MODEX and other KN projects aimed at this objective. Among the most important issues to be explored by the study, there will be technical specifications on **compatibility** with the **systems** to be adopted by the **UCPM** or by other

relevant actors, the elaboration of evaluation **criteria** to enable a **standardised measurement** of the **progress** achieved by the **tested teams** not only in the specific area of CH but also in terms of **interoperability** with the other **UCPM modules or teams**, and the definition of the **modalities** to allow and **integrate** activities such as post-event **damage and risk assessments** specifically related to the protection of **cultural heritage** in emergency. The study will also serve to define the technical characteristics to further develop a platform to ensure sustainable cultural heritage-based learning processes within the KN.

The expected **involvement of academics/scientists and humanitarian stakeholders** in the PROCULTHER-NET Community will reinforce mechanisms of support to vulnerable countries but also take advantage from the expertise and findings coming from the research world as well as from the experience gained in this field by humanitarian clusters and disaster preparedness and risk reduction projects.

PROJECT AT STAKE

PROCULTHER-NET LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF A CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION COMMUNITY

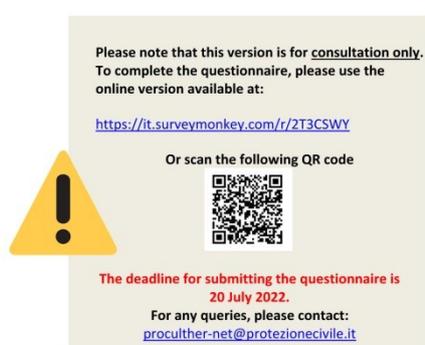


Co-funded by the European Union



BUILDING A **THEMATIC COMMUNITY** FOCUSED ON
THE **PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AT RISK OF
DISASTER** WITHIN
THE **UNION CIVIL PROTECTION KNOWLEDGE
NETWORK**

The **QUESTIONNAIRE**



The Questionnaire

The **PROCULTHER-NET Consortium** is launching a **questionnaire** to facilitate the identification of the contents and processes on which to **build** the experience of a **cultural heritage** protection **community** within the **Knowledge Network**.

The questionnaire, elaborated by the Suor Orsola Benincasa University - **UNISOB** in close cooperation with the other PROCULTHER-NET Partners, was circulated to the different contact points of the UCPM Member and Participating States, as well as to other relevant actors active in the field of cultural heritage protection. However, to guarantee that full feedback - both in the field of disaster risk management and cultural heritage protection - are reflected and represented within the KN, the **target audience** of the questionnaire aims at a broader public to include the involvement of **civil protection/disaster risk management authorities** and the main **cultural affairs actor** (e.g., Ministry of Culture/Cultural Affairs). At the same time, for a

consistent and comprehensive identification of new actors and stakeholders, all interested actors (universities, regions, municipalities, NGOs, etc.) having case studies to share at European level and interested in participating in the KN are free to fill in the questionnaire.

Around 60 questions will address specific topics taking in consideration tools, methods, procedures related to the following elements:

1. **Prevention**, all those activities and measures to avoid existing and new disaster risks,
2. **Preparedness**, that is the knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters,
3. **Response**, the actions taken directly before, during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected,
4. **EU Civil Protection Knowledge Network and Thematic Community**.

The questionnaire will facilitate stakeholder mapping and will help to collect information and feedback on legal frameworks, policies and planning, the role and involvement of the scientific community and technical resources, international exchanges and support, tools and resources



to ensure the protection of cultural heritage assets, training programmes and exercises, including communication to the public on cultural heritage protection.

Furthermore, all participants are strongly encouraged to provide any comment or suggestion on **criteria and elements** that can serve to **build** a sustainable and effective **cultural heritage protection** focused thematic **community** within the **KN**.

Questionnaire findings will merge in the PROCULTHER-NET **ex-ante feasibility study** that will guide project activities for the months to come as it is aimed at collecting information on 3 fundamental fields:

1. **Interests and needs** existing at European level to ensure the inclusion of the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster in disaster risk management.
2. **Capacities**, as well as best practices and lessons learnt existing at European level to ensure the inclusion of the protection of cultural heritage in disaster risk management processes.
3. **Stakeholder mapping** relevant for the objectives of the project, including civil protection and cultural heritage authorities, academia/scientific centers as well as international and humanitarian organizations.

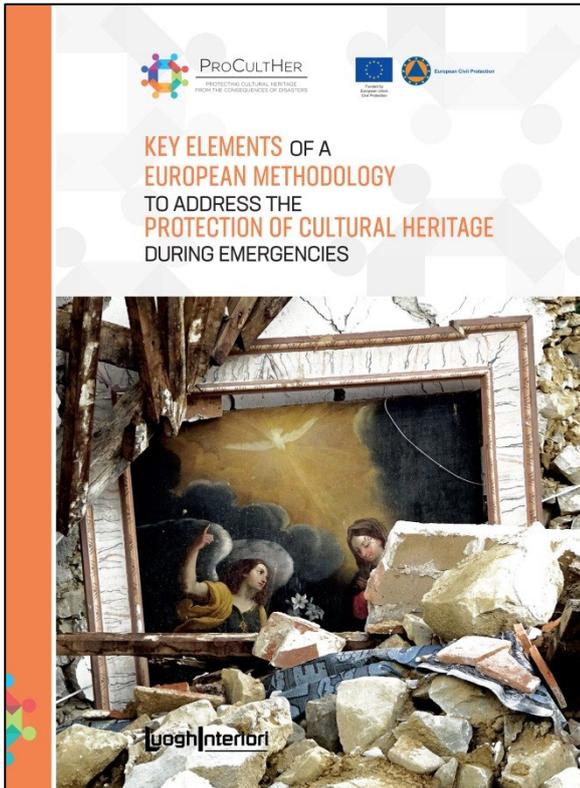
Are you ready to lay the foundations of the Cultural Heritage protection community within the KN?

If you prefer to read all the questions to prepare your answers, [click here](#) to access its consultable version. To fill in the questionnaire by 20 July 2022, [access here the online version](#) or simply scan the QR code below.



ACTING FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

THE “KEY ELEMENTS OF A EUROPEAN METHODOLOGY TO ADDRESS THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE DURING EMERGENCIES”: A SHARED TOOL FOR AN EFFECTIVE RESILIENCE OF DISASTER-PRONE CULTURAL HERITAGE



Cover of the Methodology

Recognizing that the urgency of taking adequate measures towards the preservation and protection of cultural heritage from natural and man-made hazards has considerably increased due to the growing effects of climate change, rapid urbanization and more recently the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, from 2019 to 2021, PROCULTHER has advocated for a paradigm shift on the importance of including cultural heritage protection in the disaster risk management process through the definition of common technical and operational languages, tools, standard operating procedures at national and European level with the overall purpose of strengthening technical and operational capacities through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism – UCPM. All this has been consolidated through the elaboration of the document: “Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies”. This

Methodology, built on lessons learnt and best practices of the project Consortium Partners, provides for a set of elements to advance preparedness and response activities with the purpose of including cultural heritage safeguard in all disaster risk management processes.

The inclusive consultation process that brought to the drafting of the Methodology started with the establishment of national working groups in each partner country, involving all public and private stakeholders in charge of the safeguard of cultural heritage in emergency management, with the scope of collecting, in a participatory and comparable way, all the resources and practices that the project partners are ready to deploy in case of an emergency abroad to protect cultural heritage at risk of disaster.

In December 2019, the main findings emerging from this joint consultation were shared at international level with experts coming from Civil Protection Authorities and Ministries of Culture of the PROCULTHER Partner countries, UNESCO-Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, ICCROM and Villa Montesca, who were called to identify the weak points to

THE “KEY ELEMENTS OF A EUROPEAN METHODOLOGY TO ADDRESS THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE DURING EMERGENCIES”: A SHARED TOOL FOR AN EFFECTIVE RESILIENCE OF DISASTER-PRONE CULTURAL HERITAGE

be strengthened by each project partner to improve national capacities in the field of Cultural Heritage protection so as to define the key elements for the elaboration of the Methodology.

Successively, the Partners' advocacy actions - mainly addressed to EU Member States and UCPM Participating States - went beyond the borders expected thanks to the implementation, in June 2021, of the virtual international workshop “Defining European Technical and Operational Capacities for the Protection of Cultural Heritage at Risk of Disaster”. This event allowed to gain a perspective on the activities undertaken by extra-project stakeholders on the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster, and gather more elements for the revision of the document with the nearly 100 experts from over 30 countries (including 18 EU Member States² and 4 UCPM Participating States, Argentina, the Caribbean region, Israel, Mexico, Palestine, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America), and the 16 speakers from civil protection authorities, ministries, governmental and research institutions including the European Commission Directorates DG ECHO, DG EAC and international organisations, such as UNESCO and ICCROM that attended this workshop.

In this sense, the Methodology, relying on a common and shared understanding of the subject at European level, aims at providing key operational and technical elements to address cultural heritage at risk of disaster, offering an overview of the main actions that should be taken into particular account to advance preparedness and response activities for the inclusion of cultural heritage safeguard in disaster risk management processes at both national and European level. Many structural, technical and operational aspects on how to enhance the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster at each territorial level have been explored in order to produce a document which concisely points out the elements that are crucial in disaster risk management operations: from the existing institutional framework to the inclusion of cultural heritage in planning processes, from the needed coordination structure and supporting team to the tools and data management system in support of the experts deployed on the field, as well as training sessions and exercises focused on the protection of cultural heritage at risk. In order to provide for specific references and further analysis, the document also reports ten case studies on the practices already developed by the PROCULTHER partners in terms of institutional framework, planning, coordinated structure and teams. Finally, it concludes the actions to be undertaken to achieve an effective protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster.

It is worth mentioning that the contents of the Methodology were also tested through the implementation of the Virtual International Training Module on the Protection of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Emergency organized in November 2021. Actually, the purpose of this event was twofold: it allowed to test the module following the training programme proposed by the Methodology, and to provide PROCULTHER Partners and stakeholders with the opportunity for its further improvement and deeper analysis, thanks to the feedback and insights by about 40 disaster risk management and cultural heritage experts, coming from 15

² In the workshop intervened the following European Member States/UCPM participating States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Montenegro, Norway and Serbia.

THE “KEY ELEMENTS OF A EUROPEAN METHODOLOGY TO ADDRESS THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE DURING EMERGENCIES”: A SHARED TOOL FOR AN EFFECTIVE RESILIENCE OF DISASTER-PRONE CULTURAL HERITAGE

different UCPM Member and Participating States, that took part in the training and discussion-based exercise dealing with cultural heritage protection that closed the event.

The elaboration of the “Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies” has paved the way for a new era for the enhancement of the European capacities for protecting cultural heritage at risk of disaster. With the closure of PROCULTHER, the project Partners’ job is not finished; until 2023, PROCULTHER-NET will consolidate its technical and operational approach, allowing the transition from theory to practice and ensuring adequate learning processes through the creation of a dedicated thematic community within the European Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network- KN. Consequently, the Methodology, precisely because of the approach adopted by those who drafted it and as a result of the inclusive process of confrontation through which it was drawn up, is intended as a living working tool, tested in the field and adapted to contingencies, and finally enhanced by the contributions from disaster risk managers and cultural heritage protection experts eager to join and consolidate the PROCULTHER-NET Community established within the KN.

[Download the **Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies**](#)

ACTING FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

A GERMAN LOGISTIC NETWORK SENDS SUPPLIES TO PROTECT UKRAINIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE



Packaging and aid materials are collected in Germany to support the protection of Ukrainian cultural heritage © DAI, Eva Götting

In June 2022, 165 pallets of packaging and aid materials are shipped to Ukraine through the logistic network set up by KulturGutRetter (KGR), the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) – both PROCULTHER-NET project partners – to protect highly endangered museums, archives, libraries and monuments.

Churches destroyed, archives in flames, collections and monuments damaged – the Russian military aggression in Ukraine is not only causing human suffering but is also leading to the destruction of the rich cultural heritage

of Ukraine. Seven world heritage sites, over 400 museums and 3,000 cultural sites are currently at risk because of the war. In response to Ukraine's appeals for international aid via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), German cultural institutions have come together to offer assistance within the Netzwerk Kulturgutschutz Ukraine (Network for the Protection of Cultural Property in Ukraine). Their goal is to support their Ukrainian colleagues in protecting their cultural heritage. Among other things, monuments in Ukraine must be scaffolded and paintings, archival records and archaeological objects must be protected from destruction. To this end, donations of materials such as bubble wrap, cartons, boxing, packaging paper, plastic sheeting, sandbags, carbon dioxide extinguishers, fire-retardant textiles and other aid supplies are being collected, packed and safely shipped to Ukraine.

Logistic network for cultural heritage preservation

The logistics network was established for this purpose by the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and KulturGutRetter (KGR) with its partners the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum – Leibniz Institute for Archaeology (RGZM) – together with Blue Shield Germany, the DGKS (a registered association for cultural heritage protection), the Guidelines for the Protection of Cultural Property (known by the German acronym SiLK) and with the Notfallverbände (emergency response organisations) in Munich, Stuttgart, Cologne, Halle/Saale, Weimar, Dresden and Berlin – is used for the collection and forwarding of relief supplies.

Following a Germany-wide call for donation, extensive financial and material support has already been collected for the protection of Ukrainian cultural heritage. In June 2022, the first shipment of 165 pallets of aid materials has been sent to Kyiv, and donations continue to arrive. THW is offering its considerable logistical experience in the field of humanitarian aid, while the

RGZM is contributing its expertise in boxing and consolidating primarily archaeological cultural assets. Experts in the preservation of cultural heritage at the DAI and in KGR coordinate the transport logistics, advises storage areas and forward transport data to the central THW logistics centre in Hilden (DE). From there, the materials are delivered to Ukraine, where they are distributed to the institutions concerned.

The logistics network can be deployed reliably and sustainably thanks to its embedding in the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The initiative supplements measures taken as part of the Netzwerk Kulturgutschutz Ukraine, which was established by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media in association with the Foreign Office. The work of the DAI and KGR is supported by the Federal Foreign Office.



Relief supplies are collected in the central THW logistics centre in Hilden (DE) © DAI, Eva Götting

KulturGutRetter (KGR)

The project "[KulturGutRetter](#)" - An emergency mechanism for cultural heritage in crisis situations" is carried out by the DAI, THW (both project partners of PROCULTHER-NET) and the RGZM. The project is developed out of the Archaeological Heritage Network.

The German Archaeological Institute was founded nearly 200 years ago and is a globally active scientific institution. Operating as a federal agency within the area of responsibility of the Federal Foreign Office, it is committed to protecting, preserving and disseminating information about cultural heritage.

For over 70 years the Federal Agency for Technical Relief has provided technical and humanitarian aid in crises and natural disasters in Germany and abroad on behalf of the federal government. It falls within the area of responsibility of the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

PROCULTHER-NET OUTREACH ACTIONS

PROCULTHER AND PROCULTHER-NET AT THE 7TH EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION FORUM

After two years of absence due to the pandemic crisis, finally next 28-29 June, the European Commission DG ECHO will be pleased to gather in Brussels civil protection practitioners and decision-makers to attend the 7th edition of the European Civil Protection Forum,



Banner of the 7^o European Civil Protection Forum

dedicated to the topic entitled: “Towards faster, greener and smarter emergency management”. PROCULTHER and PROCULTHER-NET have been invited by DG ECHO to participate among the exhibitors at the SQUARE Centre to share those experiences that led to establish a thematic community focused on the protection of cultural heritage within the European Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network- KN and to advocate for the participation of new interested actors in this initiative. Is the Union Civil Protection Mechanism - UCPM ready to respond to new complex disasters triggered by the increasingly extreme weather events caused by climate change? How to improve regional and international cooperation in the area of civil protection with the UCPM as a catalyst for other EU instruments? How can the pooling and exchange of our knowledge contribute to a stronger evidence-based, innovative and greener European Civil Protection? How can the UCPM stimulate cross-sectoral cooperation to face the changing risk landscape? These are the thorny issues that experts, agencies and institutions will be called to address through their engagement in the European Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network and the enhancement of the European reserve of assets (“rescEU”), the two instruments that UCPM conceived for improving the European preparedness capacities to face future large-scale emergencies.

The participation of PROCULTHER and PROCULTHER-NET in the Forum will be focused on advocating for the consolidation of the thematic community within the KN able to build and share technical and operational knowledge and capacities for the inclusion of cultural heritage protection in all disaster risk management phases. Furthermore, experts who have participated in the development of the “Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies” will assist the visitors by sharing contents, materials and technical advice on all issues that can help disaster risk reduction in this field.

Visit us at stand n. 18 and join the PROCULTHER-NET Community within the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network to achieve a better protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster together!

#EUCivPro #CPForum

EU Civil Protection Forum Website https://ec.europa.eu/echo/partnerships/civil-protection-partners/7th-european-civil-protection-forum_en

PROCULTHER-NET OUTREACH ACTIONS

16 JUNE 2022: THE PROCULTHER-NET COMMUNITY'S CALL REACHES THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MINISTERS OF CULTURE AT THE NAPLES CONFERENCE

The Ministry of Culture of Italy convened, in coordination with the French Presidency of the European Union, the Conference of the Ministers of Culture of the Euro-Mediterranean region, the first Culture Ministerial meeting of the EU-Southern Partnership. The conference was hosted by the city of Naples, on 16 - 17 June 2022, and was held in hybrid format (in-presence and virtual).



The evolution from PROCULTHER to PROCULTHER-NET in a slide

PROCULTHER and PROCULTHER-NET have been invited to a high-level discussion panel on Thursday 16 June that dealt with the topic “Joint response mechanisms and regional coordinated action to safeguard cultural heritage in disasters and crisis scenarios”.

Mr. Giovanni De Siervo, PROCULTHER-NET project director, informed decision-makers on the results of PROCULTHER and seized the opportunity to promote the PROCULTHER-NET

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Community among the Countries of the EU-Southern Partnership, namely its role within the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network. In particular, he introduced the available tools and mechanisms in the Euro-Mediterranean region to safeguard culture and cultural heritage in case of an emergency and explained how the Euro-Mediterranean partnership can facilitate their efficient deployment in case of urgent need. Finally, De Siervo shared some insights on how to nurture solidarity schemes at regional level and strengthen and consolidate thematic communities.

The meeting covered the topics of cultural heritage protection in the face of international crises and from illicit trafficking; the contribution of the cultural sectors to the fight against climate change; the role of culture in sustainable development and the achievement of the objectives of the UN Agenda 2030; the international mobility and training of artists and culture professionals. Ministers and leaders from the European Union and Southern Neighbourhood partner countries, International Organisations such as UNESCO, the Union for the Mediterranean, UNODC, ICCROM, ICOM, ICOMOS, the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) exchanged future perspectives that merged into a final declaration adopted on the margins of this high-level meeting.

[Press release of the Conference](#)

[Video of the PROCULTHER-NET intervention \(starting from minute 49\) on the official channel of the Italian Ministry of Culture](#)

PROCULTHER-NET OUTREACH ACTIONS

PROCULTHER-NET OTHER NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY EVENTS

From the very beginning of project activities, the PROCULTHER-NET Community is fully working on creating synergies with other initiatives carried out in the field of the protection of cultural heritage at risk. Here below the networking and advocacy activities undertaken by the project and its partners



A snapshot of PROCULTHER-NET background experience

On **23 February**, the PROCULTHER and PROCULTHER-NET projects were invited in the Workshop organised in the framework of the **CRAFT Project**³ “**Developing a Novel Climate Change Risk Assessment Framework for Cultural Heritage in Turkey**”, an initiative funded by UK Arts and Humanities Research Council and implemented by a Consortium composed of the Durham University (UK) together with AFAD, which is also a PROCULTHER-NET Partner, the Middle East

Technical University - METU, the Yildiz Technical University and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Mr Giovanni De Siervo, Project Director, intervened to share best practices and lessons learnt with academic and research stakeholders participating in the event; this participation allowed to advocate on the importance of including cultural heritage protection in disaster risk management processes and to promote the inclusion of academia and research in the PROCULTHER-NET Community in order to further enrich the project's know-how so as to feed and inform the KN.



Brainstorming at EUMODEXLEON22 © J. Martinez-UGRECYL and C. Escudero-UGRECYL

³ Info about CRAFT project: <https://ce.metu.edu.tr/en/announcement/new-international-project-climate-change-and-cultural-heritage>

From **9 to 12 May**, **EUMODEXLEON22**⁴, an international field exercise focusing on forest fires, took place in the Autonomous Region of Castilla y León and represented another valuable opportunity to share the expected results of PROCULTHER-NET as well as to test operational procedures for the safeguard of cultural heritage in emergency.

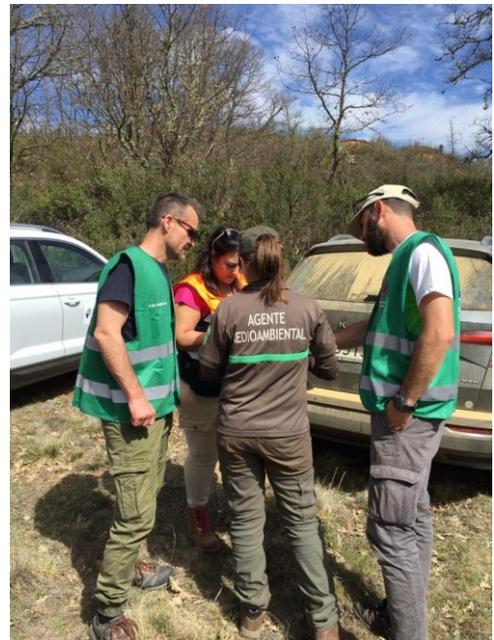


Field activities at EUMODEXLEON22
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The Regional Ministry for the Environment, Housing and Town Planning, the Sub-directorate General for Forestry Policy and Combating Desertification of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge - MITECO, the technical staff of the Forest Fire Prevention and Extinguishing Operation of Castilla y León and the Centre for Fire Defence of the Community were the main organisers of this international exercise aimed at improving knowledge, awareness and management in terms of risk prevention and protection, response and mitigation methods and activities, as well as promoting environmental policies and strategies. According to an interinstitutional and multidisciplinary approach, EUMODEXLEON22 foresaw also the participation of the Regional Civil Protection Agency and included a cultural heritage scenario that requested the application of the emergency protocol with the activation of the Emergency Unit for Cultural Heritage of the Region Castilla y León - UGRECYL

that has been represented by Ms Cristina Escudero, UGRECYL coordinator, and by Jimena Martínez - from Fundación Las Médulas- regular collaborator of this unit.

The exercise was carried out on an unprecedented scale for the Region, in an area located between the towns of Astorga and Tabuyo del Monte, in the province of León, and gathered a total of approximately 400 participants, in addition to 10 fire engines, 4 airborne resources, 4 drones and 30 light vehicles, the PMA (Advanced Command Post) and associated logistical teams. From the European Union side, 4 UCPM ground modules (2 Portuguese, 1 Greek and 1 French), 1 Italian air force module and 1 Croatian drone module joined the exercise to test procedures and interoperability of the forces displayed on the field.



Field activities at EUMODEXLEON22
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⁴ Source

https://comunicacion.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/Comunicacion/es/Plantilla100Detalle/1284663638052/_/1285167252753/Comunicacion

In order to ensure an effective coordination system for preventing and better facing forest fires, the Junta de Castilla y León maintains active and tests periodically the protocols and collaboration agreements with border regions and with Portugal in fire emergencies, as well as with different institutions and organisations at all governance levels, e.g., MITECO, the Spanish Military Emergencies Unit - UME, town councils, provincial councils, etc.



Ms Escudero talking at the Congress © Carmen Gloria Rodríguez Santana

Ms Cristina Escudero, PROCULTHER-NET expert from the Junta de Castilla y León and coordinator of the UGRECYL, intervened with the presentation “Integration of Risk Management into Cultural Heritage Conservation Approaches: from Prevention to Response” at the **3rd Congress of the Museums of Canary Islands⁵**, organised from **25 to 27 May** in Santa Cruz de la Palma by the Government of Canarias. In her lecture, she explained that natural and man-made hazards, such as floods, earthquakes,

volcanoes and fires, put the preservation of cultural heritage at risk and advocated for the inclusion of cultural heritage protection in emergency planning. In addition, Ms Escudero took the chance to share PROCULTHER’s lessons learnt and results and introduced PROCULTHER-NET objectives with about 170 participants among museum professionals, practitioners and researchers attending this event.

⁵ Website of the 3rd Congress of the Museums of Canary Islands <https://congresodemuseosdecanarias.com/>

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