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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

## Follow up of the project Initial Planning Meeting

**PROCULTHER-NET Partners met to define the way forward to a cultural heritage focused community within the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.**

On last 20-21 September, the Italian Civil Protection Department-DPC, as PROCULTHER-NET coordinator, met in Rome with the Project Partners and main representatives from the national working groups for the Initial Planning Meeting entitled “Building a Cultural Heritage Protection focused thematic community within the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network”.



PROCULTHER-NET Family

The Project Consortium representatives (1), together with experts from the Civil Protection Authority of the Region Castilla y León-Spain, the Portugal National Authority for Emergencies and Civil Protection (ANEPC), and from the Ministries of Culture of France (also representing the Center for Research and Restoration of French Museums-C2RMF and Blue Shield France) Portugal, Spain and Turkey, were the 35 participants who appreciated the first event held in presence since the beginning of this initiative and seized this wonderful chance to share their vision of the thematic Community for the protection of cultural heritage at risk within the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network- KN.

After the institutional greetings from Ms Giulia Temperini, Coordinator of the International Activities and Relations Unit of the DPC, Mr Giovanni De Siervo introduced the participants to the core topics at stake and the expected results from the meeting. Before getting to the crux of the matter, two speakers from the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations- DG ECHO, Ms Giulia PIZZIO, Project officer of PROCULTHER and currently focal point for cultural heritage protection, and Mr Guillermo Griem, PROCULTHER-NET project officer within the KN, intervened in virtual mode to inform on the priorities and actions that the thematic Community should address in the short and long-term also considering the latest challenges faced by the European Union in this field.

Then the floor passed to the Partners and stakeholders that shared their respective national and institutional/organizational perspectives and exchanged elements to elaborate on the objectives, structure and content to be promoted within the PROCULTHER-NET Community.

Afterwards, Ms Silvia Chiesa and Mr Dario Irrera, from UNISOB, completed the preparatory framework with [the presentation of the findings from the survey](#) circulated in June to collect and identify the needs, priorities and suggestions for developing the technical and structural elements to be addressed by this thematic Community.

The Participants were then ready to exchange ideas in the framework of a session dedicated to “Pointing out the key element for setting up the PROCULTHER-NET Community” organised in parallel with the main meeting in order to outline its objectives, governance, structure and functioning, as well as the conceptual and operational elements that the Community will be called to deal with. Whatever its structure and functioning, its design will be aimed at satisfying needs and interests in view of its existing and developing capacities, best practices and lessons learnt at European level, as well as the proactive engagement of all actors and stakeholders relevant to the objectives of the initiative, namely civil protection and cultural heritage authorities, academia and scientific centres, international and humanitarian organisations.

The second day, 21 September, opened with a presentation on PROCULTHER-NET’s new set of objectives, and related technical, administrative and communication challenges. Based on the survey findings and the meeting conclusions, Partners and stakeholders’ insights suggested a way forward to the PROCULTHER-NET Community, then a last joint work session allowed the participants to agree upon the roles and responsibilities for carrying out the project activities and adapting the work plan according to the next actions.

- (1) The Italian Civil Protection Department, as coordinator, ICCROM- International Center for the Study of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of the Interior-Authority for Disaster and Emergency Management-AFAD (Turkey), German Archaeological Institute-DAI (Germany), Ministry of the Interior-Directorate General of Civil Security and Crisis Management-DGSCGC (France), Fondazione Hallgarten-Franchetti Centro Studi Villa Montesca- FCSVM, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Government of the Castilla y León Region-JCyL (Spain), Federal Agency for Technical Relief-THW (Germany), UNISOB-University Suor Orsola Benincasa (Italy) and University of Porto-UPORTO (Portugal).

# PROJECT AT STAKE

## A needs-driven approach: the PROCULTHER-NET survey

Laying needs-driven foundations of the PROCULTHER-NET thematic community within the Knowledge Network-KN.



Pointing out key element for setting up the PROCULTHER-NET Community

The elaboration of the Ex-ante Feasibility Study - drafted by the Università Suor Orsola Benincasa, in collaboration with the project management team - aimed to facilitate the identification of the contents and processes on which to build the experience of a best-practice incubator through the establishment of the PROCULTHER-NET community within the KN.

Starting in June 2022, the PROCULTHER-NET Partners began to gather elements for guiding and facilitating the implementation of the activities that will support the achievement of the project objectives; following a needs-driven approach, they embarked on a path of investigation then complemented by an analysis of the results and concluded with a consultative process that brought to the elaboration of an Ex-Ante Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a Thematic Community within the KN.

This Feasibility Study was then supplemented with:

- the results of the [survey shared with the KN](#) and circulated to the different contact points of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Member and Participating States-UCPM MS/PS, as well as to other relevant stakeholders for having an overview of the state of the art regarding disaster risk management-DRM 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.
- the reflections made by the Partners during the Workshop “Pointing out the key element for setting up the PROCULTHER-NET Community” that was organised back-to-back with the [Initial Planning Meeting](#) to exchange perspectives and opinions about the characteristics that should distinguish this Community, namely its objectives, contents/tools, governance and structure.

The survey addressed specific topics, taking into consideration tools, methods, procedures related to the prevention, preparedness and response activities and measures put in place by all concerned stakeholders as well as their level of awareness on the objectives of the KN and their potential interest in joining the thematic community. In particular, the 65 questions proposed dealt with the legal framework, policies and planning, scientific community, international exchange and support, tools and resources to ensure the protection of cultural heritage assets, stakeholder mapping, human resources, training and exercise, and the communication to the public. 75 contributions were received from 28 different Countries (1) and, out of the 46 completed questionnaires received, a 35% came from National Civil Protection/DRM Agencies, a 17% were contributions from National representatives of both Cultural Affairs and Civil Protection/DRM Agencies, 15% from National Cultural Heritage/affairs Agencies, followed by Private entities (13%), academic/research sector (9%) the rest being International organisations/NGOs, and finally Local Cultural Heritage/affairs Agencies (4%). The territorial scope of the respondents can be reported in percentage as follows: 64% National, 14.67% International, 10.67% Sub-national/regional, 5.33% European, 1.33% Municipal, 4% other.

The high level of participation and information gathered provided further impetus for the enlargement of the PROCULTHER-NET thematic community within the KN: indeed, 90% of those who completed the questionnaire showed great interest in becoming part of it.

Moreover, the first findings of the survey shared by UNISOB during the Project Initial Planning Meeting held on September were analysed by the partners during the Workshop “Pointing out the key element for setting up the PROCULTHER-NET Community”. These exchanges allowed to further elaborate on the elements and process to be defined to support UCPM MS/PS in the inclusion of cultural heritage within the DRM process and to provide additional insights to this Study that outlines a comprehensive overview of the state of the art of the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster, and provides a shared perspective that can inspire and lay the foundations for the establishment of a dedicated thematic community, capable of working as a system and gathering the necessary expertise. This will ensure an adequate consideration and inclusion of the needs-driven aspects related to the protection of cultural heritage assets within the UCPM and, more generally, within the activities of Civil Protection and DRM agencies- at local, national and international level.

What is worth mentioning however is that the consultative process that led to this [Ex-Ante Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a Thematic Community](#) provided useful suggestions for the definition of its goals, structure and governance, as well as its future sustainability and potential evolution.

In line with the objectives of the KN, which are mainly based on the improvement of coordination and cooperation between cultural heritage agencies, civil protection experts and disaster management agencies, this community of practice must be aimed to enhancing the interoperability among different stakeholders. A consequent need is the work on knowledge transfer and consolidation through the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learnt, and on the stimulation of research and innovation in order to foster the adoption of new technologies in prevention, preparedness and response operations. With regard to this, particular relevance should be given to building capacities also by including the protection of cultural heritage assets and related scenarios in training and exercises. Other objectives that the thematic community should address concern networking and support to decision-makers, in order to fill, with interdisciplinary approaches, the many gaps of the legal framework and the

planning of dedicated policies. Finally, the involvement of the scientific community has revealed to be crucial for the improvement of risk knowledge in terms of cultural heritage but also to enhance the adoption of innovative technologies not only in cultural heritage protection operations but also in the preparation of training programmes.

The way forward to an effective establishment of this thematic community now clearly entails the definition of the elements that will ensure its sustainability for the future. To date, the European Commission is promoting initiatives, such as PROCULTHER-NET, to enrich the solutions for the effective operation of the KN.

PROCULTHER-NET Consortium is eager to involve the largest number of actors and stakeholders active in the field, even beyond the European Union boundaries, to consolidate what has been achieved so far, fill the gaps identified and provide a concrete answer that can contribute to strengthen UCPM capacities and, consequently, to increase the resilience of our society.

- (1) Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

# PROJECT AT STAKE

## The PROCULTHER-NET Capacity Building Programme



**The survey launched in June 2022 allowed for the definition of a capacity building programme based on the needs of the UCPM Participating States.**

PROCULTHER-NET launches an advanced training module for providing specialized knowledge on how to deal with cultural heritage protection in emergencies in line with the European standards. This is addressed to disaster risk managers and cultural heritage protection experts from European Union Member States and Union Civil Protection Mechanism Participating States.

In June 2022, PROCULTHER-NET conducted a [survey](#) with the objective of collecting contributions, expectation and concerns from stakeholders involved in the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster. The analysis of the results facilitated the mapping of stakeholder interest in the capacity-building process to be carried out by the project within Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, also contributing to the collection of information and feedback on the themes and approaches to be favoured by the PROCULTHER-NET thematic community.

Indeed, the survey revealed that although the great majority of respondents has a strong interest in the development of training sessions dedicated to cultural heritage protection, considered one of the most appropriate ways to ensure a good level of knowledge exchange, only one third of the countries covered have training initiatives in place on this topic. In addition, the project [Feasibility Study](#) showed how important it is to undertake training and exercise activities focusing on issues such as the legal framework, policies and planning, international exchange and support, human resources but also from the point of view of the objectives of the Knowledge Network, which, according to 81% of respondents, should play a role in providing training programs on cultural heritage and disaster risk management.

This is the ratio behind the **PROCULTHER-NET** capacity building activities: in **March 2023** the Project is proposing an **advanced training programme** aimed 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 training is addressed to cultural heritage protection and disaster risk management actors from Union Civil Protection Mechanism Member and Participating States – UCPM MS/PS and aims at reinforcing knowledge and skills to allow cascading know-how transfer on issues related to the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster in line with the European standards. In particular, at the heart of this initiative is the intention to increase the capacity of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to support, upon request, Countries overwhelmed by disasters also in the field of cultural heritage protection. Furthermore, the

training has also the objective of ensuring an effective exchange between all participants and promoting the definition of synergies able to reinforce the basis of a thematic community focused on the protection of disaster-prone cultural heritage.

The course programme will be structured on the document built on the lessons learnt and best practices adopted by the [PROCULTHER](#) project (1) in this field: the “[Key Elements of a European Methodology to Address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies](#)” that provides for a set of elements to advance preparedness and response activities to include cultural heritage safeguard in all disaster risk management processes. The training module will deal with issues such as the institutional and legal framework for civil protection and cultural heritage, as well as practical and operational issues related to missions within the UCPM framework, providing an in-dept focus on techniques and measures for securing cultural heritage. Finally, the validation of the course will be ensured, together with the participation of a practical drill, by a final multiple-choice test consisting of questions related to the whole training programme.

In order to enable the widest possible participation, **two identical cycles** of the course are organised: the first will be held from **6 to 10 March**, the second from **20 to 24 March 2023**. The training course consists of 5 face-to-face days, each lasting about 8 hours, and some additional hours conducted in virtual mode. **PROCULTHER-NET project will cover travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses for all participants.**

PROCULTHER-NET will send invitations to the UCPM MS/PS focal points and each national system will be asked to propose the participation of two experts coming from the field of disaster risk management and cultural heritage protection or, in alternative, of an expert able to cover both areas.

- (1) The Protecting Cultural Heritage from the Consequences of Disasters – PROCULTHER project was co-funded by DG-ECHO in the framework of the UCPM and implemented from January 2019 to December 2021 by a Consortium made of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers- Civil Protection Department (Italy), as 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 - JCyL (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 Europe.

# ACTING FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Cultural Heritage in Ukraine: an urgent need

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Contribution of PROCULTHER-NET partners in supporting the Ukrainian authorities in their efforts to protect the country's affected cultural heritage

**In response to the war in Ukraine, the EU has given way to its largest emergency operation since the creation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.** The mobilisation activated also in support of the country's precious cultural heritage has highlighted **PROCULTHER-NET as a new player** in the international chessboard for the **protection of conflict-prone cultural heritage.**

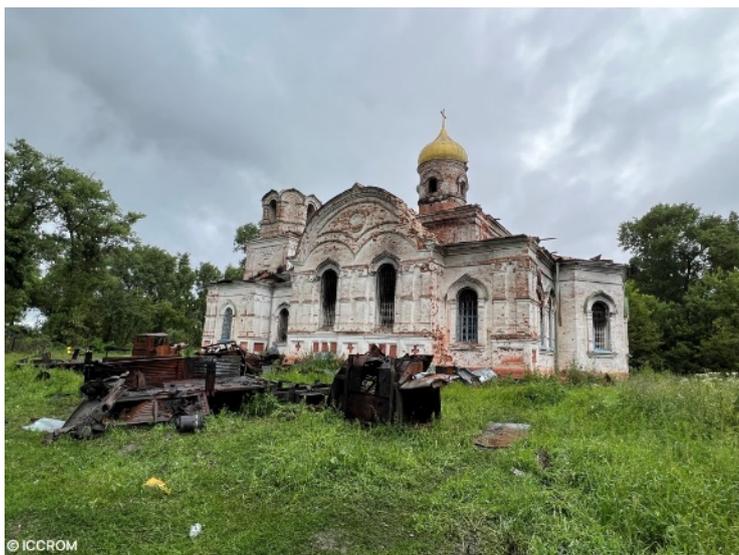
PROCULTHER-NET Partners have a long-lasting experience in the protection of the cultural heritage in disaster-prone areas. Recognising that cultural heritage is an invaluable source of identity, evolution and resilience of society, as well as a vector for peace and sustainable development, they have decided to respond to the request made by the Ukrainian Authorities for international support through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism- UCPM. With regard to this, the actions implemented and the approaches adopted by project partners in Ukraine prove that PROCULTHER-NET through the consolidation of a thematic community dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage prone to disasters can be a catalyst of capacity building and sustainable learning processes by promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing among civil protection, disaster management and humanitarian aid actors, cultural heritage experts, academics, scientific community and knowledge holders. In addition, thanks to these recent experiences, PROCULTHER-NET is already fostering dialogue and cooperation between national and international actors to better protect and increase the security of cultural heritage in the face of crises and conflict, as witnessed by its participation to the "Roundtable on the EU's Approach to Cultural Heritage in Conflict and Crises" organised by the EU Institute for Security Studies - EUISS and culture Solutions in Brussels. In this framework, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism-UCPM and the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network-KN could serve as a driver for the expansion and development of international exchange and support practices also in this field.

### **ICCROM's response to heritage safeguard in Ukraine**

ICCROM's Council, which is its highest governing body, adopted a resolution on 4 May 2022 recognising the urgent need to protect and safeguard cultural heritage in Ukraine. The resolution upheld the actions taken by ICCROM through its flagship capacity development programme, First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR). *Read the full resolution [here](#).* Below, a snapshot of the actions undertaken by ICCROM, some of which are still ongoing, to support heritage organisations and professionals in the country.

### Joint technical mission with ICOMOS and ALIPH

A joint technical ICCROM-ICOMOS mission to Ukraine, joined by the ALIPH Foundation, took place between 9-17 July 2022. The objectives of this mission included: gaining a better understanding of the emerging on-the-ground needs, identifying gaps in capacities through consultations with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine and other local heritage professionals, field-testing the mobile and web-based app developed by ICCROM to conduct a damage and risk assessment led by the Ministry of Culture, as well as providing technical advice.



The Ascension Church in Lukachivka, Ukraine

### Online training on damage and needs assessment

In March 2022, ICCROM co-organized a two-day emergency online training workshop for 77 diverse professionals from 14 oblasts in Ukraine to develop a common methodology for carrying out systematic damage and risk assessments, documenting war damage, as well as estimating post-war recovery needs for cultural heritage.

### Development of tailored damage and risk assessment forms and a web and mobile-based application

ICCROM, in collaboration with its local partner, Heritage Emergency Rescue Initiative (HERI) (1), customized damage and risk assessment forms for movable, immovable and intangible heritage. The forms were transferred on a secure mobile and web-based application, which can be used both online and offline. The app, now available on android, iOS and web versions both in English and Ukrainian, is used and updated regularly.

### Translation of key emergency response resources

To guide on-the-ground evacuations and emergency operations, as well as offer technical support to Ukrainian communities and institutions amid the armed conflict, ICCROM, in collaboration with UNESCO, Prince Claus Fund and HERI, translated key resources into Ukrainian:

1. [Endangered Heritage: Emergency Evacuation of Heritage Collections](#) (Спадщина у небезпеці – Екстрена евакуація культурних цінностей). – Completed
2. First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis Handbook and Toolkit. – Ongoing

### Training in 2023

ICCROM with the support of European Commission Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) and in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, Ukraine, HERI as well as Maidan Museum, will conduct in-person training on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis with the aim to prepare an advanced national team of cultural first aiders.

### Creating strong partnerships with local actors

ICCROM has created a strong partnership with local bodies including the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, local NGOs and organizations such as ICOMOS Ukraine and ICOM Ukraine. Additionally, ICCROM FAR has provided advisory support to establish the HERI, a cohort of Ukrainian museum experts conceived by FAR alumnus and Director of Maidan Museum, Ihor Poshyvailo. HERI has supported emergency aid for over 78 institutions in Ukraine as of August 2022.



The material packed and loaded on pallets ready to leave

### Italy in the front line for the defence and protection of Ukrainian cultural heritage

Since the war outbreak, Italy has been among the most involved players for the defence and protection of the Ukrainian cultural heritage: it was indeed the first country to respond to the request for assistance sent by Ukraine's Ministry of Culture on 24 March 2022 through the Common Emergency Communication and Information System - CECIS of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism- UCPM. Soon after, the Carabinieri Command-Cultural Heritage Protection Unit, also known as the "Blue

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Helmets for Culture", [has made its skills, know-how and digital tools available](#) to facilitate the Ukrainian authorities in accessing the country's cultural heritage at risk in the databases developed, thus providing an accurate census of all the most exposed sites. In addition, the [Italian Ministry of Culture - MiC offered its wide-ranging expertise](#) to prepare the dossier for the inscription of the city of Odessa in the UNESCO World Heritage List claimed by the Ukrainian Minister of Culture, Oleksander Tkachenko, and the Mayor of Odessa, Gennadiy Trukhanov. In parallel, the MiC-General Directorate for Cultural Heritage Security monitored the situation of artworks in order to help secure them. During this process, the Italian Civil Protection Department, as UCPM contact point, coordinated the support provided and ensured the flow of communication among the actors involved by forwarding to the MiC the updates that the Mechanism's Emergency Response Coordination Centre-ERCC was receiving from the Ukrainian authorities who were fine-tuning their request of material for the protection and transport of cultural assets. The [final step came in July](#) when, thanks to these joint efforts, two trucks of the Italian Red Cross left the logistics hub of the MiC with final destination Ukraine, containing ten identical kits each with 51 items, including materials for the activities of securing, salvaging, first aid and packing of cultural assets damaged or at risk of damage, supplemented also with the necessary equipment such as vacuum cleaners and compressors and the main personal protective equipment for the operators.

### Germany: An ongoing coordinated effort to deliver protection supplies to Ukrainian cultural institutions

The article “A German logistic network sends supplies to protect Ukrainian cultural heritage” (2) brought to light the broad competence and interdisciplinary skills that the German Archaeological Institute - DAI and the Federal Agency for Technical Relief - THW, PROCULTHER-NET partners, can share with the KN but also the fundamental role played by UCPM in facilitating the deployment of international aid.

Indeed, the points of strength of this German network, which coordinates the collection of packaging and aid materials and organises their shipment to Ukraine, rely both on the THW considerable logistical experience in the field of humanitarian aid and on DAI expertise in the protection of cultural heritage, as well as on the embedding of this logistic network in the UCPM, which ensures its deployment in a reliable and sustainable way.



Last check of the supplies loaded on the truck

Several shipments have taken place since June 2022, delivering 242 pallets/35 tons of material to 13 cultural institutions from Kyiv, the Donetsk region, the Sumy region and Chernihiv. The supplies were distributed on-site through the HERI. The operation Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Ukraine currently continues and more shipments are planned, with a special effort in providing material for the protection of built heritage.

In November 2022, the DAI also started offering free online training courses to Ukrainian cultural heritage experts, focusing especially on damage mapping of monuments using the [iDAI.field software](#).

### Pathway to a stronger comprehensive approach for the protection of cultural heritage from natural and/or human-induced risk of disasters

In this rapidly changing international context characterised by the increase of threats against cultural heritage and peace thus posing new challenges for the stakeholders and actors involved, PROCULTHER-NET took up and consolidated the advocacy actions to promote the inclusion of cultural heritage protection in disaster risk management processes already initiated by the PROCULTHER project also feeding the debate on EU actions in the field of cultural heritage protection in crisis contexts.

As a result, PROCULTHER-NET was invited at the **Roundtable on the EU's Approach to Cultural Heritage in Conflict and Crises** organised on 12 October 2022 by the EU Institute for

Security Studies - **EUISS** and [culture Solutions](#) in Brussels. The event discussed the importance of a more coordinated and cross-sectoral strategic approach to cultural heritage protection in crisis management, taking into account the relevant actors involved in all phases: prevention, crisis response, stabilisation, long-term peacebuilding and recovery processes.

In conclusion, as stated by Damien Helly, Co-founder and Chair of Culture Solutions, the independent social innovation group that co-organised this roundtable:

*“Ukraine’s heartfelt plea for help in protecting the country’s heritage has led to the recognition that the safeguard of cultural heritage, often object of deliberate attacks, is also a form of protection and resilience for affected communities. The actions of PROCULTHER-NET Partners in support of Ukraine might be perceived from the outside as drops in the ocean compared to the huge needs of this country. However, they are valuable components of the new – and still to be strengthened and better coordinated– EU approach to cultural heritage in conflict and crises.”*

Further reading [cS Brief #12: Cultural Heritage Protection in crises: strengthening the EU’s role](#) by D. Helly

- (1) The Heritage Emergency Response Initiative has been set up in response to Russia’s aggression and encroachment on Ukraine’s national and cultural identity. The unit’s purpose is to promote the preservation of cultural heritage during wartime and its further post-crisis recovery. The HERI’s operation and activities are coordinated with UNESCO, ICOM-Disaster Resilient Museums, ICCROM and other national and international institutions and rescue initiatives. <https://www.weareukraine.info>
- (2) Published in the issue n. 1 of the PROCULTHER-NET Newsletter (June 2022), see pp. 12-13 [https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/PROCULTHER\\_NET\\_Newsletter\\_N1.pdf](https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/PROCULTHER_NET_Newsletter_N1.pdf)

# TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Italy testing capacities for heritage protection

In November, Southern Italy hosted “*Sisma dello Stretto 2022*”, an exercise to increase the Country’s earthquake preparedness and response capacities.

The objective of this field exercise, which also included cultural heritage scenarios, was testing the national intervention model for seismic risk with the activation of Coordination Centres, the setting up of reception areas for the population and of working areas for urgent technical and medical rescue activities, and the deployment of Mobile Columns and post-seismic assessment activities



Packaging cultural heritage assets - National Archaeological Museum in Reggio Calabria

From 4 to 6 November 2023, the Italian Civil Protection Department-DPC organised the national exercise “*Sisma dello Stretto 2022*” together with the regions of Calabria and Sicily. The exercise involved 56 municipalities of which 37 in Calabria and 19 in Sicily and saw the deployment in the field of approximately 3,500 operators, technicians and officials of the operational structures, territorial Institutions, technical-scientific Competence Centres and over 3,000 volunteers from national and local organisations. The components of the National Civil Protection Service were called to manage the aftermaths of an earthquake of magnitude 6

followed by a tsunami alert in the Strait of Messina, and were involved in the activities of assistance to the population, technical rescue, management of essential services and safeguarding cultural heritage.

The exercise activities included three cultural heritage scenarios set up at the Cathedral and at the National Archaeological Museum in Reggio Calabria (Calabria), and at the Fort San Salvatore in the city of Messina (Sicily), with the activation of the “Cultural Heritage Cell”, the specialised unit in Italy that brings together the actors involved in safeguarding cultural heritage in the national coordination structure in the event of an emergency, i.e., the DI.COMA.C – Command and Control Center (in Italian “*Direzione di Comando e Controllo*”).



Briefing with Team Leaders - Fort San Salvatore in Messina

During this three-day exercise, the Cultural Heritage Cell at DI.COMA.C facilitated the coordination of the activities carried out by the mixed teams composed of technicians from the Italian Ministry of Culture - MiC (architects, restorers, archaeologists, art historians and archivists) who collaborated with experts from the national and regional DPC, the Provincial Fire Brigades and Carabinieri Command-Cultural Heritage Protection Units, the Municipality of Reggio Calabria, representatives of the Calabrian Episcopal Conference, structural engineers from the Lombardy Region, the Regional Mobile Columns and with representatives of regional associations of specialised and non-specialised volunteers. The activities carried out in the cultural heritage scenarios were aimed at verifying the effectiveness of the coordination of damage assessments and securing of cultural assets, the interoperability between MiC officials and regional volunteer associations specialised in cultural heritage safeguard, and at testing the operational capabilities as well as the correct application of procedures for cultural goods removal and securing by volunteers trained for this purpose.

The National Coordination Unit of the Ministry of Culture (UCCN-MiC), through the activation of the Regional Units of Calabria and Sicily (UCCR-MiC), ensured the coordination on the territory with the other components and operational structures of the National Civil Protection System represented in DI.COMA.C, all under the general coordination of the DPC. Indeed, according to the MiC Directive of 23 April 2015 on the "Procedures for the Management of Activities for the Safeguarding and Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of Emergencies Deriving from Natural Hazards", the UCCN-MiC coordinates the response activities of the UCCR-MiC and supports the Secretary General of the MiC in ensuring the necessary coordination with the national institutions external to the Ministry, particularly with the other components and operational structures of the National Civil Protection Service. Since 2020, the Directive has been partially updated following the establishment of the General Directorate for Cultural Heritage Safeguarding, whose Director has assumed the role of coordinator of the UCCN. The UCCR-MiC comprises three operational units (Unit for the Cultural Heritage Damage Survey, Unit for Technical Coordination of Safety Measures, Unit for Temporary Storage and Emergency Intervention Laboratory on Movable Property).

The mixed teams were engaged in damage assessment interventions and securing of movable cultural heritage including their packaging and transport to the previously identified warehouses. Specialised experts were asked to fill in the templates that serve to collect data and first-level information useful for defining the first urgent actions aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage. The data included in the completed forms, handed in to the Cultural Heritage Cell at the end of the activity, will update the information systems managed by the Ministry of Culture with the list of all recovered



Packaging cultural heritage assets - Fort San Salvatore Messina

assets, the indication of their provenance and the location of the temporary storage identified for their recovery.

This field exercise was also an opportunity to test the IT-alert public alert system, which sent an information message on the ongoing exercise concerning the tsunami alert to the mobile phones of the more than 500,000 people citizens living in the 22 coastal municipalities of the two regions concerned.

Finally, the exercise included a part dedicated to risk awareness raising among the population; three Calabrian municipalities hosted [“Io Non Rischio” \(I Don't Take Risks\)](#), the DPC's communication campaign on seismic and tsunami risks. In addition, on the seafront of Reggio Calabria it was set up *Terremoti d'Italia* (Earthquakes of Italy), an exhibition route created by the Civil Protection Department, which allows visitors to understand, in several stages, what an earthquake is and what can be done to reduce its risks, up to being able to observe and perceive its effects directly, thanks to experience on seismic simulators designed to reproduce seismic movement.

During the debriefing held at DI.COMA.C in Reggio Calabria, Fabrizio Curcio, Head of DPC, after thanking the forces in the field, recalled that *“Among the components of the National Civil Protection Service, [...] are the local authorities and institutions, without which even the best emergency response system would be totally ineffective, and it would be impossible to successfully address the great challenge we are facing, that of making communities increasingly resilient”*.

[Video of the “Sisma dello Stretto 2022” Field-exercise](#)

# TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Emergency preparedness in Cultural Heritage

**Emergency preparedness in cultural heritage needs drills to check safeguard plans and cooperation of security bodies and civil protection.**

The drill carried out in Antequera (Spain) on 16<sup>th</sup> November was a multi-stage activity where a potential earthquake produced a fire in the Museum of the City and a flood in the Archive. A new tool based in Information Systems for Emergency Response in Cultural Heritage ([Mission Track](#)) was employed to organize and control the communication of safeguard teams for art-works during the simulation.

[FENIX](#) and [RESILIENT TOURISM](#) are Spanish research projects, which main objective is the development of new technologies applied to prevention and management of fires and natural disasters in movable and immovable Cultural Heritage. The safeguard of our Cultural Heritage against disasters is a principle included in the Spanish National Plan of research in cultural heritage, as protecting our cultural heritage is a way to safeguard one of the important incomes in cities and rural zones, and a way to improve our resilience. Under this framework, these projects pretend to develop good management practice for models of taking decision and develop tools of preventive conservation, emergency response and resilience policies.

The modelling of emergency response in cultural heritage is very complex due the range of art-works, their sizes and materials, and it is more difficult when they occur in ancient buildings. For this reason, it is necessary to carry out standard tab and protocol in different scenarios for rescue and evaluate the drills based on their emergency programmes.

During November 2022, a multiple drill (earthquake, fire and flood) was carried out in the Museum and Archive of Antequera (Spain), with the activation of the emergency plan of the museum and the provincial plan (PTM) that included the help of a unit of cultural heritage evaluation and recue. The drill implied the activation of firemen, civil protection, sanitary, policemen, restores and conservators.



Figure 1: Rescue of victims, emergency drill in Antequera (Málaga)

The software Mission Track was adapted to be employed by the unit of cultural heritage evaluation and recue (UB) for the rescue of 10 models of art-works (statues, canvas, metal pieces, papers and books), with different levels of damage. Mission Track was implemented in the mobile phones of the UB team and was parametrised in two steps: recue and triage.

The analysis of the results allows the evaluation of the time of rescue of each art-work, triage, the georeferenced of the art-works and the teams during the rescue, and the improvement in the emergency plans for next drills or emergencies.

These R+D projects (FENIX and RESILIENT-TOURISM) employed for the first time this emergency management software based on mobile technology for the conservation of cultural heritage in Spain.

### **Emergency drill in Antequera (Málaga): scenarios and development**

Within the RESILIENT TOURISM Project, one of the aims is to prepare civil society for catastrophic events in heritage sites (such as earthquakes, floods or fires), coordinating the protection of tourists, workers and the Plan for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage. With this purpose, an emergency drill was carried out in Antequera (Málaga).

The 112 emergency services were alerted by security team of the museum (MVCA, Museum of the City of Antequera) to a fire, which was located in the basement at 10:30 a.m. 16<sup>th</sup> November, with several injured among the visitors of a school (Figure 1). And all this as a result of the earthquake that was felt in the city.



Figure 2: Training activity for the use of MISSION TRACK tool, prior to the emergency drill in Antequera

Simultaneously, a second event originated, as a consequence of the seismic movement and its aftershocks, affecting the Historical Archive (water leak due to pipe rupture), requiring also the activation of the Self-Protection Plan and the Archive Safeguarding Plan, as well as such as eviction from the site.

The established protocols were activated: Museum and Archive Evacuation Plan, Museum and Archive Self-protection Plan and Territorial Plan. The exercise involved members of the Local Police, National Police, Civil Protection, Firefighters, Health Personnel, volunteers and authorities from the Antequera City Council.

The ICS (Incident Command System) was established and installed in the Plaza del Coso Viejo, from where the emergency was coordinated. Mission Track software supported the coordination of the Museum's Safeguarding Plans as well as for the coordination of the management and triage teams for artworks.

After the firefighters extinguished the fire in the MVCA and the water leak in the Historical Archive, the affected buildings were evaluated. Confirming the end of the emergency, the firefighters authorized access to the intervention teams for artworks, so the ICS activated the rescue plan for the artworks provided in the Safeguarding Plan of each institution, depending on the significance of the goods.

Información en MT Equipos de Manipulación

- Identificación de la Obra a Evacuar

Escultura Madera policromada  
Dimensiones (Alto, Ancho, Profundo): 120x58x45 cm  
PESO: 25kg  
Nº DE PERSONAS MANIPULACIÓN: 2  
TIEMPO ESTIMADO DE DESMONTAJE: 4 MIN  
Etiquetas: ORDEN DE EVACUACIÓN 1
- Situación de la Obra a Evacuar
- Características relevantes de la Obra para su adecuado desmontaje

NÚMERO DE PIEZAS: 1.  
ZONAS VULNERABLES DE MANIPULACIÓN: Cabeza y brazos.  
PROCEDIMIENTO PARA DESMONTAJE: ...  
SISTEMA DE EXPOSICIÓN: EN MANÍQUÍ O PLANA.  
PAUTAS DE MANIPULACIÓN ESPECIALES Se puede trasladar tumbado sujetando por hombros y pies. No sujetar por la cabeza ni por los brazos.
- Zona de Triage

© MISSION TRACK

Figure 3. Summary of a safeguard plan sheet in Mission Track application

Sequentially and following the instructions transmitted through the “Mission track” application from the ICS, 5 artworks in the MVCA and 5 artworks in the Archive were rescued. The artworks were prioritized in the Safeguard Plan, and were assigned to different Handling Teams

It should be emphasized that all the artworks that were used in the emergency drill were models or replicas, at no time were the original artworks manipulated so as not to put them at risk. In addition, for the evacuation of the artworks, the entry and exit routes used by the rescue teams were in accordance with the evacuation plans, of each building, and were available in the Mission Track tool.



Figure 4. Evacuation of the replica of the Ephebe and evaluation damages by triage team, emergency drill in MVCA.

Both teams, handling and triage, had previously been constituted, of a mixed and multidisciplinary nature, by members of Civil Protection, a person from the Museum and/or Archive, and a member of the RESILIENT TOURISM team. Likewise, the triage team was made up of a multidisciplinary team integrated by representatives of local restorers as well as collaborating restorers and researchers from the RESILIENT TOURISM. For both teams, several technical workshops and on-site training, handling of the Mission Track and handling of artworks in emergencies, were organized (figure 2).

The Mission-track tools were implemented with safeguard files containing essential information of the artworks (figure 3). The safeguard plan sheet included: a photo of the artwork, location in the museum or archive, weight and dimensions, minimum number of people for handling, estimated evacuation time, evacuation route, as well as the recommendations for its handling.

Activated the safeguard plan of MVCA and Archive, each intervention team had to rescue 2-3 artworks, for which they had the information on their mobile phones with all the steps to follow. Each handling team evacuated and delivered the assigned artworks at the triage point (figure 4, left), and the triage team performed the first evaluation and intervention (figure 4, right). During the process, all teams use the “Mission track” software installed on their mobile phone.

On the one hand, the Mission Track tool allowed the handling teams to access the rescue sheet associated with the Safeguarding Plans, while it provided the triage teams with the triage criteria to follow, as well as the possibility of recording all their decisions and photographs.

On the other hand, ICS (Incident Command System), installed in the Plaza del Coso Viejo (Antequera, Malaga) (Figure 5), used the Mission Track software to manage the emergency of MVCA and Archive, which allowed them to:

- Phase emergency drill activation, facilitating access to the evacuation plans and Safeguarding Plans for the heritage safeguarding teams.
- Efficient coordination between the Municipal, Territorial, Museum and Archive Plans.
- Monitoring in time and geolocation of the intervention teams (handling and/or triage) as well as the geolocation of artworks.
- Monitoring of the information provided by the handling and triage teams (through the application the restorers notified the damage in artworks).



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Figure 5. ICS emergency drill in Antequera. (Municipal Authorities and with representations from the Fire Department, Civil Protection, National and Local Police, Director of the MVCA, Director of the Archive and advisers).

During the event, Mission Track recorded the activation of the Museum Evacuation Plan at 11:19 a.m. which ended at 11:56 a.m., while the Archive Evacuation Plan was activated at 11:55 a.m. and the evacuation was completed at 12:18 p.m. On average, recovery times for the museum's artworks were 12 minutes and 6 minutes for the archive. In addition, Mission track not only monitored the recovery times, but also geolocated the situation of the artworks always. Figure 6 shows the geolocation of the ephebe during the rescue.

The last activity of the emergency drill was a press conference, in which civil society was informed, as a fundamental part of the transfer of this type of activity, and in order to raise awareness about the need to be prepared for the rescue of artworks in emergencies.



© MISSION TRACK



Figure 6. Geolocation of the rescue of the ephebe replica during the drill.

## Conclusion

Promoting the culture of emergency drills for artworks is a crucial activity for their safeguarding. It is recommended to carry out drills at least once a year, systematize the chain of command, assign roles and tasks, and make the work teams of cultural organizations and security forces aware of the need to coordinate the safeguarding of the artworks. To be prepared for emergencies, it is necessary to test the use of efficient communication systems, such as the software used Mission Track, which allows the georeferencing of the rescue routes of artworks and the possibility of following all the actions from ICS.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## Acting in the face of floods



Processing (drying) room for collections impacted by the sea flooding event of October 2018 - Menton, France

In October 2022 the C2RMF and the SMF, with French Blue Shield, organised a study day on floods labelled by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition.

The first natural risk in France - the flood risk - is insufficiently taken into account by the cultural establishments in their safeguard plans. The stakes are becoming increasingly high with regard to climate change. This situation requires us to act and work collaboratively to reduce the effects and improve the resilience of cultural institutions.

On October 13, 2022, the study day “Acting in the face of floods” was held at the - C2RMF (Center of Research and Restoration for French Museums). Co-piloted by the C2RMF and the Ministry of culture, in partnership with the French Blue Shield and the European programme PROCULTHER-NET, it was labelled by the Ministry of Ecological Transition “*Tous résilients face aux risques*” (In English “All resilient against Risks”).

Initially conceived as a follow-up to the [Safeguarding Plan](#) workshops (more on the workshops in [French](#) and in [English](#)), the objective was to highlight the specific risk of flooding. Having noted that planning generally focuses on the risk of fire, it seemed necessary to raise the awareness of the various cultural and rescue actors on the issues related to floods.

In connection with climate change, flooding is becoming a central issue in the management of major risks for cultural establishments, which should be integrated into existing or future protection measures. Indeed, flooding is the leading natural risk in France in terms of the extent of the damage it causes, the number of cities affected (approximately 16,000), the size of the flood-prone areas (27,000 km<sup>2</sup>) and the issues involved (human, economic, environmental and cultural). It is also the leading natural hazard in the world.

Although establishments in the Ile-de-France region have been made aware of this issue through the obligation to draw up a flood protection plan, not enough French establishments seem to be prepared for this threat.

This day therefore represented an opportunity to take stock of the new diagnostic and vulnerability tools, to share knowledge on the search for protection systems for works and buildings, while addressing rarely mentioned subjects such as the role of insurance and the psychological and social impact of a disaster on the staff of a disaster-stricken institution.

Through presentations, round tables and testimonies, the 23 speakers illustrated each of the themes according to their fields of expertise: culture, forecasting/prevention, research, rescue, civil society and administration.

This day was a great success with more than a thousand connections to follow the broadcast of the event. It therefore seemed to meet a need in expectations as well as indicate the need to continue the work already underway (around the creation of tools, projects, working groups, etc.) to strengthen the resilience of the institutions concerned. To date, the C2RMF has been working closely with the *Direction régionale et interdépartementale de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et des transports*- DRIEAT (Île-de-France Regional and Interdepartmental Directorate for the Environment, Planning and Transport) and the Paris police prefecture to continue raising awareness among museums, but it would be wise to broaden the scope of the discussion to other establishments in conjunction with the various government departments.

*Author: Marie Courselaud, Preventive Collections Care and Conservation Officer at the Center for Research and Restoration of French Museums (C2RMF) and President of French Blue Shield*

[Access the replay of the study day "Acting in the face of floods"](#)

# BUILDING THE PROCULTHER-NET COMMUNITY

## PREVENT -Mitigating Fire Risk for Heritage

**PREVENT, a symposium led by ICCROM's First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR) Programme resonates a global concern.**

After the successful implementation of the first-of-its-kind workshop of PREVENT - Mitigating Fire Risks at Heritage Places in November 2021, the teams of fire risk prevention experts and cultural heritage professionals from 8 countries gathered online and in Trogir, Croatia, with 600 heritage professionals to share their experiences on implementing fire risk mitigation measures at heritage places.



The first international symposium on PREVENT - Mitigating Fire Risks at Heritage Places in Trogir, Croatia

PREVENT - Mitigating Fire Risk for Heritage, was a participatory and multidisciplinary learning opportunity that looked at all sources of fire, both natural and manmade. It was based on workshops and field surveys carried out by ICCROM and its partner organisations, and led by fire risk prevention specialists, cultural first aiders, firefighters and emergency response agencies. The five-day workshop took place from November 15 to November 19, 2021, and was organized within the framework of First Aid and Resilience in Times of Crisis, a flagship programme of ICCROM. The participants of the course included 9 teams from 8 countries, namely Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Ireland, Israel, Nigeria and Palestine.

To highlight the PREVENT course participants' case studies and share best practices the ICCROM's First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis Programme joined efforts with the Ministry of Culture and Media, the Republic of Croatia and the City of Trogir in organizing PREVENT - Mitigating Fire Risk for Heritage, an international hybrid symposium followed by a national capacity development workshop in Trogir, Croatia in October 2022. It was supported by the Croatian Fire Association, the Public Fire Brigade of the City of Trogir, as well as the PREVENT project partners, the Estonian Rescue Board, the Italian National Fire Corps (Corpo Nazionale dei Vigili del Fuoco - CNVVF) and the Swedish National Heritage Board.

The participants from the PREVENT course shared success stories in their local contexts, as well as lessons learned in the post-training project implementation phase from museums in Brazil, Canada, Chile and Israel; a royal palace in Nigeria; the Church of the Nativity in Palestine; the Newbridge House and Banff Park in Ireland; and even the symposium host city - Trogir. They highlighted the effectiveness of the PREVENT course by showing how these heritage places have benefitted from course alums'-built capacity to reduce fire risk to heritage and enhance emergency preparedness.

The symposium brought together more than 600 professionals from 89 countries, coming from diverse fields and contexts: from academia to government agencies, museums and youth organizations. Participants shared their valuable insights and perspectives on the vulnerabilities that create fire risks for heritage. The Symposium also enabled direct interaction with experts drawn from fire risk management, cultural heritage, and civil protection. Interactive sessions allowed all attendees to join the growing network of cultural first-aiders around the world.

Multi-disciplinary experts representing cultural heritage professionals, fire-risk specialists and national defence experts from Croatia, Estonia, Italy, Sweden, Australia, and the United States shared their evidence-based examples on fire-risk mitigation and highlighted the importance of interdisciplinarity in promoting fire safety and risk reduction.

A round table provided an interactive platform to the teams of cultural heritage professionals and fire risk experts from the first PREVENT workshop. A series of questions, polls and interactive word clouds engaged the live and online audience in the discussion. Their shared experiences showcased an array of similar challenges around the world, such as the intensifying wildfires caused by climate change, the lack of resources and capacities to safeguard heritage and the coordinated implementation of prevention and mitigation measures. Areas for improvement identified to reduce disaster risks at heritage places around the world included building and fire safety codes that consider heritage-specific needs, enhanced communication about risks among stakeholders and community engagement.

Following the symposium, participants Jasna Popovic and Marin Buble, led by the ICCROM-FAR team, organized the first three-day national PREVENT workshop in Trogir, Croatia. With hands-on activities, on-site exercises and interactive sessions, 45 participants in teams of cultural heritage professionals and fire risk experts, learnt about safeguarding heritage from fire risks and enhancing overall preparedness. The three-day training concluded with a multi-actor simulation of fire at the Saint Dominican Monastery in Trogir, Croatia.

Coming soon! ICCROM will collect all the stories of change achieved on the ground in eight countries and will share them as a new ICCROM publication, to be released in 2023.

*Authors: Aparna Tandon, Senior Programme Leader for the FAR Programme and Sustaining Digital Heritage Programme of ICCROM and Jui Ambani, Programme Assistant for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action for the FAR Programme.*

[Watch the symposium recordings and learn more about its outcomes](#)

# BUILDING THE PROCULTHER-NET COMMUNITY

## Networking for Cultural Property Protection- CPP

The German Archaeological Institute (DAI) participated in a trans-disciplinary CPP Course in Austria, and presented PROCULTHER-NET and KulturGutRetter.

How to anticipate and deal with future challenges for the protection of cultural heritage both in and outside Europe? To bring insights on this crucial issue and to enhance cooperation, interoperability and network building among the actors involved, a **Cultural Property Protection Course** took place in Krems, last October. The DAI intervened on the role of cultural heritage experts during crises.



A moment of the lecture delivered by DAI experts

This 5-days-long pilot course was organised by the [European Security and Defence College](#) and the [Cultural Property Protection Centre of the Danube University](#) (1) in partnership with the Office for Culture for the Principality of Liechtenstein.

A trans-disciplinary approach being key to efficient actions in the field of cultural heritage protection, trainees came from multiple backgrounds and brought a wide range of perspectives: the police and armed forces, European Civilian missions under the Common Security and Defence Policy - CSDP, European agencies, the cultural sector, etc. As part of the PROCULTHER-NET Consortium, the German Archaeological Institute had the opportunity to present the project to 40 participants from various organisations and countries (France, Poland, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Liechtenstein, UK, USA...), thus further extending PROCULTHER-NET's network and visibility.

The course content was developed over a week, tackling the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflicts, disasters caused by natural hazards, the trafficking of cultural goods, as well as cross-cutting subjects such as the value of cultural heritage for the future of Europe, satellite monitoring, legal framework and training. Three days were devoted to lectures, with insightful interventions from – among others – the [European External Action Services -EEAS](#), [UNESCO](#), the OSCE and the [Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab](#). Particular focus was given to current endeavours to develop cultural property protection awareness and “modern Monuments Men” specialised units among the armed forces, such as the [Carabinieri Tutela Patrimonio Culturale](#) in Italy, the [Cultural Property Protection Unit in the UK](#), the *Délégation du Patrimoine* in France.

The German Archaeological Institute intervened on October 19<sup>th</sup>, along with the Foundation Fürst-Pückler-Museum, on the “Role of Cultural Property Protection experts”. This presentation asserted the central position of cultural experts as advisers to and an interface between the impacted cultural heritage institutions, local communities, the uniformed and the

humanitarian sectors, during the whole Disaster Risk Management cycle. It was an opportunity to showcase both the German initiative [Cultural Heritage Response Unit \(KulturGutRetter\)](#) (2) and the PROCULTHER-NET project. A copy from the [Key Elements of a European Methodology to address the Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies](#) was circulated among the participants and it aroused great interest.

The last two days of the **Cultural Property Protection Course** were dedicated to an exercise. The 2020 blast in Beirut provided a case study for a Syndicate Work in which participants were split into four groups: Police and Law Enforcement, Military, Civil Protection, Civil Administration. To gain insight on the perspective of other actors, trainees were encouraged to step out from their professional sector and to join groups with which they were less familiar. Each Syndicate was tasked with focusing on cultural heritage and its protection from its own perspective (assuming that the humanitarian aspect had already been taken care of). Over the course of the exercise, each group had to prepare and present three briefings:

- Situation assessment (based on online research): what actually happened in Beirut, which measures were implemented, by whom, following what timeline?
- What was missing: tasks, teams, coordination, logistics...?
- The ideal scenario: how should things have happened, which interactions are needed, who is responsible for what?

A joint presentation of the exercise's results was organised at the Melk Monastery, followed by a Certificates Ceremony to conclude the Course. Through a historical and philosophical approach, but also through concrete examples from the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Cultural Property Protection Course recalled why the protection of cultural heritage should be a common goal for the military, humanitarian, civil protection and cultural sector. This initiative helped strengthen the growing interdisciplinary network that the PROCULTHER-NET community is also committed to expanding.

*Author: Constance Domenech de Cellès, Research Associate at the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut*

### [Cultural Property Protection Course Program](#)

- (1) [Cultural Property Protection Centre, Danube University](#): The Centre organises lectures, master courses as well as summer-universities. These events do not only promote the protection of cultural property through disaster-management, but also contribute to the international dialogue among scholars, students and experts. It has contributed to several European projects focusing on cultural heritage at risk such as [ProteCHt2save](#) and [STRENCH](#).
- (2) [Cultural Heritage Response Unit \(KulturGutRetter\)](#) Developed by the [German Archaeological Institute-DAI](#), the [Federal Agency for Technical Relief -THW](#) and the [Romano-Germanic Central Museum-Leibniz Research Institute for Archaeology- RGZM](#), the **Cultural Heritage Response Unit** leverages the German expertise in cultural heritage preservation and rapid response intervention. This emergency mechanism for cultural heritage in crisis situations combines an operational team and efficient procedures that can be quickly deployed worldwide, to assist in securing, preserving and salvaging cultural heritage objects and buildings. The mechanism builds on and expands well-functioning formats developed by its founding partners, such as digital registers of monuments, logistic and rescuing. It also designs new capacities in remote sensing, on-site assessment and minimal standard procedures. The **Cultural Heritage Response Unit** is developing a network of full-time and voluntary experts with a wide range of skills suitable and deployable in the event of a crisis.

# PROCULTHER-NET CONSORTIUM



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