

Call for contributions – Technical Bulletin

The EU-funded project PROCULTHER-NET 2 is issuing a call for contribution for the issue of two (2) Technical Bulletins to be published in 2024.

Introduction

The protection of cultural heritage (CH) at risk is a new emerging civil protection sector that has been gaining ground in recent years thanks largely to the strong political stance taken by the EU on this issue and three EU-funded projects launched and supported by some UCPM Member/Participating States (MS/PS) and DG ECHO. In particular, the [PROMEDHE](#) (2016-2018)¹ and the [PROCULTHER](#) (2019-2021)² projects have demonstrated the increasing need to encourage cross-sectoral cooperation among disaster risk managers, cultural heritage actors, and knowledge holders to increase the resilience of disaster-prone communities. Building on the experience, and lessons learned from both projects, and taking benefit of the launch of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN), the [PROCULTHER-NET](#) (2022-2023)³ project aimed at reinforcing the UCPKN's objectives by strengthening and consolidating a thematic community focused on the protection of cultural heritage at risk, and at fostering multidisciplinary and risk-based exchange practices to support and complement the efforts made by the European Union in this field.

Among the concrete results produced by the actions and activities carried out in the last years, is the "[Key Elements of a European Methodology to address Protection of Cultural Heritage during Emergencies](#)", the only document currently validated and available at the European level providing a common understanding for improving preparedness capacities in this field. This reference document constitutes the basis for the further consolidation of the thematic community within the UCPKN and can be further enriched with the practices and experiences of other countries/stakeholders.

[PROCULTHER-NET 2](#) (2024-2025) is the new initiative co-funded by the DG-ECHO proposed for implementing the pathway mapped out by the PROCULTHER-NET project to consolidate the inclusion of this sector in the UCPM processes and structures, as well as to increase disaster preparedness capacities and knowledge at European and national levels throughout the UCPKN.

The Technical Bulletins are an open-access, online and printed publications with the aim to:

- Contribute to building a European thematic community on the preservation of cultural heritage at risk of disasters, caused by natural or human-induced hazards.
- Promote collaboration and sharing of multi-sectoral approaches between disaster risk managers and cultural heritage experts.
- Foster the mutual exchange and knowledge transfer between the disaster risk management and cultural heritage sectors.

¹ The Protecting Mediterranean Cultural Heritage during Disasters-PROMEDHE project has been coordinated by the Italian Civil Protection Department (DPC) together with the civil protection authorities of Cyprus (CCD), Israel (NEMA), Jordan (JCD) and Palestine (PCD) and with the Fondazione Hallgarten-Franchetti Centro Studi Villa Montecsa-FCSVM.

² The Protecting Cultural Heritage from the Consequences of Disasters-PROCULTHER project was implemented by a consortium led by the DPC, and participated 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, the Ministère de l'Intérieur- Direction Générale de la Sécurité Civile et de la Gestion des Crises-DGSCGC, FCSVM, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Region Government of Castilla y León-JCyL.

³ From January 2022 to December 2023, the Protecting Cultural Heritage from the Consequences of Disasters-Network- PROCULTHER-NET was implemented under the coordination of DPC by ICCROM, AFAD, the German Archaeological Institute- DAI, DGSCGC, FCSVM, JCyL, the Federal Agency for Technical Relief-THW, the Suor Orsola Benincasa University-UNISOB and the University of Porto-UPORTO (Portugal).

- Collect and spread useful, lasting knowledge on cultural heritage in crises through detailed, technical contributions.
- Bring insight and perspective on this field from an expert point of view.
- Enable and encourage cooperation and future developments to preserve of cultural heritage at risk at the European level.

The two previous editions of the Technical Bulletins, published during the PROCULTHER-NET project, can be found [here](#) and [here](#). PROCULTHER-NET 2 aims to transform the Technical Bulletins into an open, accessible, and collaborative reference publication on the themes related to the protection of cultural heritage at risk.

The Technical Bulletins are published twice a year, in July and in December. This call for contributions aims to select the contributions for the next two issues of the Technical Bulletins (July and December 2024).

A. Expected contributions:

Submitted articles can be unpublished works or edited versions/syntheses of previous research works as long as they are in line with the approach requested in this call, including the required technical requirements, as well as with the general objectives of the project.

The articles proposed should be oriented to reinforce the coordination between cultural heritage and disaster risk management (DRM) actors/sectors. The linkage between these two sectors can also include cooperation with and input from the scientific, research, humanitarian, military, and new technology sectors and how relevant stakeholders can contribute to better protection of cultural heritage.

Therefore, only articles with a focus on the development of cross-sectoral practices, tools, and approaches will be considered. This could address specific measures related to:

- natural and/or human-induced hazards, including conflicts. A multi-risk approach is warmly encouraged.
- all types of heritage: movable, immovable, intangible.
- disaster/crisis management processes: Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Recovery. An additional section of the Technical Bulletin, “Focus on”, is dedicated to cross-cutting issues.

Cross-sectoral coordination being a key focus, articles could address one or several of the following topics:

- Cultural heritage protection in the DRM planning.
- Damage and risk assessment on cultural heritage.
- Coordination models to be applied in cultural heritage emergencies.
- Cultural heritage teams/modules/units at local, regional, national and international level.
- Involvement of communities and voluntary sectors in safeguarding CH.
- Training and exercises aimed at protecting cultural heritage at risk.
- Tools and equipment for the protection of cultural heritage at risk of disaster.

While respecting the criteria proposed in section D, other topics could be proposed by interested institutions/organisations.

B. Contributors can come from:

UCPM Member and Participating States: interested contributors from these countries can propose articles on cross-sectoral practices, tools, and approaches developed by cultural and disaster risk management institutions/authorities, international organisations, non-governmental/civil society organisations, research institutes, armed forces, and any other actor relevant for the protection of cultural heritage at risk.

Other States: institutions/organisations from non-UCPM countries can contact the Editorial Committee. Proposals will be studied on a case-by-case approach.

C. Technical requirements:

C.1 for concept notes/summaries

Language	English
Length	800-1.000 characters (spaces included).
Title	Cambria bold; unformatted: 12 pt; line spacing 1
Body text	Cambria regular; unformatted: 11 pt; line spacing 1
File type	Word document (.doc or .docx)
Deadline	April, 26th, 2024

C.2 Technical requirements for shortlisted articles

Language	English <i>If they wish, contributors can provide a translation of their article in their language, which will be linked from the online English version</i>
Length of the article	8.000-15.000 characters (spaces included).
Type of contributions	report, review, case study, interview
Title	Cambria bold; unformatted: 12 pt; line spacing 1
Body text	Cambria regular; unformatted: 11 pt; line spacing 1
File type	Word document (.doc or .docx)
Photos/images	All articles must include at least 1 high-resolution illustration, with caption and copyright. Further materials such as photos, graphs, diagrams, videos, and links can also be provided.
Deadline	June 7th, 2024

D. Review process:

In the first phase, interested institutions/organisations shall send a **concept note/summary**. Shortlisted contributors will be invited to submit their full articles to start the review process. Authors will be informed of the status of their article as it goes through the steps.

1. First phase selection

The Editorial Committee will assess the concept notes/summaries received by the deadline.

Concept notes/summaries will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Compliance with the editorial line: "Protection of cultural heritage at risk"
- Cross-sectoral cooperation and interoperability
- Multi-risk approach
- Efficiency
- Impact and effectiveness

- Knowledge transfer/replicability
- Demonstrated sustainability
- Innovation
- Compliance with the technical requirements (see above)
- Timely submission, by the deadline

The shortlisted contributors will be asked to send their full articles by the indicated deadline.

2. General Review of selected contributions

The full articles will be assessed by the Editorial Committee with the same criteria as the concept notes/summaries:

- Compliance with the editorial line: “Protection of cultural heritage at risk”.
- Cross-sectoral cooperation and interoperability
- Multi-risk approach
- Efficiency
- Impact and effectiveness
- Knowledge transfer/replicability
- Demonstrated sustainability
- Innovation
- Compliance with the technical requirements
- Timely submission, by the deadline

The Editorial Committee can suggest revisions to the authors.

The Editorial Committee decides whether or not to send an article to Peer Review.

3. Peer Review

Articles selected for the final step will be reviewed by selected reviewers (experts in their field, coming from different backgrounds) according to the same criteria applied by the Editorial Committee together with additional and specific considerations related to the topic/theme addressed by the article.

Peer Reviewers can suggest further revisions to the authors. The final decision is taken by the Editorial Committee, based on the Reviewers’ recommendations.

E. General Timeline:

E.1 Current Call

April, 19th, 2024: Deadline for submitting concept notes/summaries.

May, 3rd, 2024: Shortlisted contributors will be contacted by this date.

June, 7th 2024: Deadline for submitting the full articles.

July 2024: Publication of the 3rd issue of the Technical Bulletins.

December 2024: Publication of the 4th issue of the Technical Bulletins.

E.2 Future issues of the Technical Bulletins

Early 2025: Call for Contributions for issues 5 and 6 of the Technical Bulletins.

July 2025: Publication of the 5th issue of the Technical Bulletins.

December 2025: Publication of the 6th issue of the Technical Bulletins.



Co-funded by
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F. Contact information:

Concept notes/summaries as well as shortlisted contributions should be sent electronically to the following e-mail address (instructions for sending accompanying material will be shared with shortlisted authors only): proculther-net@protezionecivile.it.

Interested parties and authors can contact the Editorial Committee at the same e-mail address with any questions.