Call for contributions – Technical Bulletin

The EU-funded project PROCULTHER-NET 2 is issuing a call for contribution for the next two issues of the Technical Bulletins to be published in July 2025 (5th issue) and November 2025 (6th issue).

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 the protection of cultural heritage 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:
- Define a collaborative reference publication on the themes related to the protection of cultural heritage at risk.
- Contribute to building a European thematic community on the preservation of cultural heritage at risk, caused by natural or human-induced hazards.
- Promote collaboration and sharing of multi-sectoral approaches between disaster risk managers and cultural heritage experts.

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[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 Montesca-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).

- Foster the mutual exchange and knowledge transfer between the disaster risk management and cultural heritage sectors.
- 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 protect cultural heritage at risk at the European level.

PROCULTHER-NET TECHNICAL BULLETINS	
PROCULTHER-NET Project. Technical Bulletin N. 1, March 2023	Link to access Issue n.1
PROCULTHER-NET Project. Technical Bulletin N. 2, June 2023	Link to access Issue n.2
PROCULTHER-NET 2 Project. Technical Bulletin N. 3, July 2024	Link to access Issue n.3
PROCULTHER-NET 2 Project. Technical Bulletin N. 4, December 2024	Link to access Issue n.4

The Technical Bulletins are published twice a year, in July and in November. This call for contributions aims to select the contributions for the next two issues of the Technical Bulletin (July 2025 and November 2025). For further details on deadlines for the delivery of concept notes and articles, see point C.

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 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. Therefore, they must imperatively present case studies that include lessons learnt in this field.
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 a better protection of cultural heritage.

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	1.500-2.000 characters (spaces included).
File type	**Please use the provided template** Word document (.doc or .docx)
Deadline ISSUE N° 5	**7 March 2025[4]**

C.2 Technical requirements for shortlisted articles

Language	English
Length	8.000-15.000 characters (spaces included).
File type	Word document (.doc or .docx)
Deadline ISSUE N° 5	**9 May 2025**
Deadline ISSUE N° 6	**4 September 2025**

More detailed technical requirements will be provided to shortlisted contributors

D. Review process:

In the first phase, interested institutions/organisations shall send a **concept note**.
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 **only assess the concept notes** that use the **provided template** and are received **by the deadlines.**

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[4] Contributions delivered after this date will automatically be postponed to the ISSUE N° 6 of November 2025.

Authors are invited to ensure that their concept note checks all the following criteria before submission:

- ☐ **Compliance with the editorial line**: "Protection of cultural heritage at risk".
- ☐ **Cross-sectoral cooperation and interoperability** (between cultural heritage, civil protection, firefighters, customs, etc; method/approach understandable by other sectors, at the national or international level.)
- ☐ **Multi-risk approach** (in case of single hazards, reflection on potential secondary hazards, cascading risks, knowledge transfer for other risks, etc.)
- ☐ **Impact and effectiveness** (measurable and beneficial outcomes; cost- and resources-efficient)
- ☐ **Knowledge transfer/replicability** (clear procedures; enough detail to enable replication/adaptation?)
- ☐ **Demonstrated sustainability** (long-term effect; leading to further development in the field?)
- ☐ **Innovation** (new approach/method? Use of technology?)

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

2. General Review of selected contributions

Further instructions regarding the technical requirements will be sent to the selected authors.

The full articles will be assessed by the Editorial Committee with the same criteria as the concept notes (see above, D1).

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, and the modifications made by the authors.

E. **General Timeline:**

7 March 2025: Deadline for submitting concept notes/summaries for 5th issue.

9 May 2025: Deadline for submitting the full articles for 5th issue.

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

Concept notes and contributions delivered after the deadlines set for 5th issue will be automatically postponed to 6th issue.

4 September 2025: Deadline for submitting the full articles for 6th issue.

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

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.