

PROTECTING
CULTURAL
HERITAGE
AT RISK



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PROCULTHER-NET 2
PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE
FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISASTERS - NETWORK

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Harnessing collective
knowledge to strengthen
cultural heritage resilience

The contribution of EU-funded
projects in addressing growing
multiple risks

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14 May 2025
from 9 to 16:30 CET
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Concept Note

Harnessing collective knowledge to strengthen cultural heritage resilience: the contribution of EU-funded projects in addressing growing multiple risks

International Workshop

(Rome and on-line)

14 May 2025

Background

[PROCULTHER-NET 2](#) (Protecting Cultural Heritage from the Consequences of Disasters- Network 2) is a DG ECHO-funded project aiming to consolidate the **inclusion of the protection of cultural heritage at risk** in the processes and structures of the **Union Civil Protection Mechanism - UCPM**.

With the aim of nurturing knowledge processes and structures within the **Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network-UCPKN**, the current phase of PROCULTHER-NET focuses on gathering technical and operational elements to support the development of a cultural heritage protection framework that addresses both emerging risks and the critical need for dedicated governance and capacity to tackle them.

At the same time, PROCULTHER-NET 2 advocates for a stronger **interdisciplinary approach** fostering a constant integration of knowledge sharing process among different stakeholders, to allow for a comprehensive network, able to support and complement the efforts made by the European Union to strengthen cooperation between the UCPM Member and Participating States (MS/PS) in the field of civil protection.

Addressing new challenges through shared technical and operational capacities

The year 2024 has seen new developments in the field of cultural heritage protection in times of crisis, especially in the wake of the **70th Anniversary of the Hague Convention** for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the event of Armed Conflicts. This has been particularly relevant considering the current historical context, where multiple conflicts, combined with the growing impact of climate-related hazards, are making cultural heritage increasingly vulnerable.

Among the various sectors on which the UCPM has intervened, the need to also protect cultural heritage at risk has increasingly emerged because it is widely recognized how deeply this field is linked to the **resilience of communities** at risk. In addition, these new emerging risks have called for specific interventions on cultural heritage protection, demonstrating the importance of increasing **interoperability standards** and **preparedness capacities** for the inclusion of cultural heritage protection in UCPM operational structures, also in crisis/conflict contexts.

In this sense, PROCULTHER-NET calls for the establishment of a risk governance specifically dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage at each national level, including both disaster risk management and cultural heritage stakeholders to define mechanisms, strategies, plans and based on appropriate risk-informed processes, synergistically combined and optimised at European level. Furthermore, PROCULTHER-NET recognises that the inclusion of cultural heritage in disaster risk management processes is primarily based on cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary and inter-agency collaboration based on knowledge transfer initiatives. Thus, it advocates for leveraging on the spaces provided by the UCPKN to discuss needs, interests, opportunities, strategies and exchange best practices and lessons learned to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable integration of the sector within the UCPM structures.

In this scenario, the integration of different actors and outcomes, including other EU and UCPM-funded projects and results, should enable a constructive exchange that can produce impacts in line with the needs and interests emerging in the field.

Main goals of the international workshop

The aim of the workshop is to provide a dedicated space for debating needs, interests, opportunities, strategies, facilitating the exchange among complementary cultural heritage protection and disaster risk management initiatives across Europe.

These initiatives have been at the core of one of the activities of the PROCULTHER-NET 2 project, which led to the development of the Mapping of Relevant Initiatives within the EU and UCPM, including an evaluation of potential synergies. This effort was conceived with a dual purpose: to highlight the coherence among the various technical proposals available within the EU and the UCPKN, and to identify projects and initiatives through which PROCULTHER-NET can foster synergies and implement joint actions aimed at integrating cultural heritage protection into disaster risk management processes.

Through this mapping, the project has identified initiatives whose objectives could be adapted or leveraged to facilitate the integration of cultural heritage protection into activities carried out by specialist capacities available at the European level. This approach not only enhances coordination among EU-funded projects but also fosters cross-fertilization, improving interoperability and ensuring high-quality standards.

To build on these efforts, the international workshop will serve as a platform to showcase and discuss these elements by:

1. Pooling extra-project practices that can enhance dialogue within the thematic community.
2. Creating effective connections between UCPM and EU entities active in various fields related to cultural heritage and disaster risk management, including policymakers, decision-makers, practitioners, and researchers.

The first session will focus on **strategic frameworks for cultural heritage protection**, promoting the paradigm shift that integrates cultural heritage into disaster risk management while simultaneously strengthening protection structures and procedures. The discussion will explore the role of communities in safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the new European strategy for future research pathways, the cooperation among actors from different fields to address growing climate-induced risks and important lessons learned from UCPM MS/PS civil protection recent experience in implementing national capacities for cultural heritage protection, including in the context of complex crisis. These topics will shape the debate on how Europe is preparing to tackle these emerging challenges.

The second session will bring together actors from the **scientific and technological fields**. Tools and methods tested within scientific research programs or disaster risk management initiatives will be presented to assess whether a common path can be envisioned for a cross-cutting approach, leading to more effective emergency management.

The third and final session will deal with **preparedness and training**, featuring experiences involving both professionals and the public. The importance of exercises and training will be highlighted through testimonials from various European initiatives.

Each session will allow selected panellists to share a presentation according to their main topic of action. At the end of each session a thirty-minute roundtable discussion moderated by a chairman will engage the panellists on the floor and the audience: this will allow to identify complementarities and explore possible synergies to be further developed among UCPM and EU initiatives already ongoing.

Below are the key elements that panellists will be asked to elaborate on during the discussion, and on which further exploration will be sought with the audience:

Strategic frameworks	<p>What are the key elements that could contribute to establish a governance for the protection of cultural heritage in emergency</p> <p>How can the outputs of your initiative contribute to the establishment of such a governance</p>
Tools\innovation	<p>Explain why the tool\outcomes of your research\project\initiative can be considered sustainable/replicable</p> <p>Explain how the tool\outcomes of your research\project\initiative can contribute to establish common standards</p> <p>Explain how (or if) they can be scalable at European level</p>
Training\Preparedness	<p>Propose 3 words that make a training connecting disaster risk management and cultural heritage protection effective</p> <p>Suggest to what extent the UCPKN can contribute to strengthening the preparation and knowledge acquired during training courses, study visits and other knowledge sharing actions;</p> <p>Suggest how the UCPKN can improve knowledge transfer activities between and within the two sectors of the cultural heritage protection and disaster risk management</p>

How to get involved

Due to the European focus of the project, the international workshop is particularly addressed to UCPM MS/PS and International Organisations, interested in joining the processes undertaken by the PROCULTHER-NET 2 project. Nevertheless, the workshop will be also open to non-European countries and concerned actors having relevant practices in the development of methods/tools in this field or simply interested in contributing to the objectives of the event.

To allow the widest participation of European and international stakeholders, the event is scheduled to take place in-person and online. Discussions will be open only to registered participants; their proactive contribution will be ensured through the messaging services provided by the videoconferencing platform.

PROCULTHER-NET can cover the mission expenses of invited panellists, unless the budget allocated to their project/initiative already includes funds for attending such events.

To join the workshop, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code on the first page.



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AGENDA

Time slot	Activity
Opening - Institutional greetings and opening address	
9:00-10:00	<p>Giovanni De Siervo, Project Director, Italian Civil Protection Department</p> <p>Angela Atzori, Team Leader – Cultural Heritage, European Commission - DG EAC</p> <p>Juha-Pekka Japola, Project Officer - Coordinator of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network’s science pillar, European Commission - DG ECHO</p> <p>Alfio Gullotta, Policy Officer, Cultural Heritage, Civil-Military Cooperation, European External Action Service - EEAS</p> <p>Bożena Kruk, Acting Head of Multilateral Cooperation Unit dealing with EU affairs, National Headquarters of the State Fire Service of Poland</p>
Session 1	
Strategic frameworks for protecting cultural heritage: challenges and opportunities <i>Moderator: Miruna Găman, European Project Officer, Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine</i>	
10:00-10:30 (5 min\project presentation)	<p>ARCHE Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe Miruna Găman, European Project Officer, Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine</p> <p>RESILIAGE Advancing holistic understanding of community RESILience and herITAGE drivers through community-based methodologies Rosa Tamborrino, RESILIAGE project coordinator, Politecnico di Torino</p> <p>CP FOR HERITAGE Operational Forces of Civil Protection for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia Ana Miličić, Head of the Civil Protection Service in Dubrovnik Pia Sopta, senior advisor, Directorate for International Cultural Cooperation and European Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia</p> <p>DRRS MNE Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Government of Montenegro with the Action Plan for the period 2025-2030 Pera Pavlica-Dragisic, Head of Territorial Unit of Bar in the Rescue and Protection Directorate, Ministry of Interior</p> <p>ROADMAP2 European Observatory on Disaster risk and crisis Management good Practices: way ahead Daniela Di Bucci, ROADMAP 2 project coordinator, Italian Civil protection Department</p> <p>ALIPH, Protecting Cultural Heritage in Ukraine Alexandra Fiebig, Project Manager at ALIPH International alliance for the protection of heritage</p>
10:30-11:15	<p>Round table among panellists</p> <p>Q&A and DISCUSSION open to the other panellists and remote audience</p> <p>Break</p>



Session 2 Innovation and tools for Cultural Heritage Protection in Risk Management Frameworks <i>Moderator: Tobias Busen, Scientific Officer, German Archaeological Institute</i>	
<p>11:30-12:10 (5 min\project presentation)</p>	<p>CHEMINOVA Novel technologies for on-site and remote collaborative enriched monitoring to detect structural and chemical damages in cultural heritage assets</p> <p>INACO Increasing the resilience of heritage sites in river basins Alessandra Bonazza, Senior Researcher, National Research Council</p> <p>Shrines Project Federica Genna, Project Manager, Fondazione SAFE</p> <p>AHEAD Advanced disaster damage and loss data information system for enHancEd impAct-baseD knowledge Xavier Romao, University of Porto</p> <p>INEST Interconnected Nord-Est Innovation Ecosystem Pierpaolo Campostrini, Managing Director, CORILA - Consortium for Coordination of Research activities concerning the Venice Lagoon system Enrico Rinaldi, Architect and researcher, CORILA</p> <p>TRIQUETRA Toolbox for assessing and mitigating climate change risks and natural hazards threatening cultural heritage Styliani Verykokou, Researcher and Adjunct Lecturer, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)</p> <p>OVERC.O.M.E. Cross-border cOoperation in Managing Emergency: Presentation of Prometheus System, A Data Management System for S.O.F.I.A. (Operational Room France/ Italy/Alpine Arch) and CBRN Operations Monia D’Amico, OVERC.O.M.E. Project Manager</p>
<p>12:10- 13:00</p>	<p>Round table among panellists</p> <p>Q&A and DISCUSSION open to the other panellists and remote audience</p> <p>Lunch</p>



Session 3 Building preparedness: training and capacity-building for cultural heritage protection in Europe Moderator: Peter Billing, Expert in DRM, lecturer at Bonn University	
14:00-14:30 (5 min\project presentation)	<p>EUMA Creating a European Higher Education Network for Master's Programmes in Disaster Risk Management Peter Billing, Expert in DRM, EUMA project representative</p> <p>READY Safeguarding Cultural Heritage from Disasters, Extreme Weather Events, and Complex Emergencies Jui Ambani, Project Officer, ICCROM</p> <p>TRACENET and 3D4CH Training Centre NETwork and Competence Centre for 3D for Cultural Heritage and VR Elisa Farella, Researcher of the 3DOM (3D Optical Metrology) unit , Bruno Kessler Foundation</p> <p>FloodNorthALB Managing Complex Floods in North Albania through Cross Border Host Nation Support and Joint Cooperation Entela Kaleshi, FloodNorthALB Project Manager</p>
14.30-15:30	<p>Round table among panellists</p> <p>Q&A and DISCUSSION open to the other panellists and remote audience</p>
Conclusions	
15:30-16:00	Wrap up and conclusions: moderators roundtable