

Publishable Summary

The overall objective of CPforHeritage project was to improve the existing competencies of the operational forces of civil protection and cross-sectoral cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Media (MoCM) in the domain of cultural heritage protection in emergency situations. This was achieved through the module (lectures/workshops/exercises), as a main project activity, which was held for 30 participants of the operational forces of civil protection and 10 participants from Ministry of Culture and Media. Module contained a theoretical and a practical part that was presented by both the civil protection and culture sectors in order for all participants to become familiar with the procedures as well as challenges that await them in the field during an emergency situation. During project implementation, Guidelines for Standard Operating Procedures on the field in evacuating cultural heritage and providing first aid was drafted, as well as Plan of Capacity Building Activities and Interdepartmental Cooperation 2025-2027 which serves an overview of the necessary activities (training/education) to strengthen the capacity of both the civil protection and culture sectors. Special attention was also devoted to raising awareness of the protection of cultural heritage. These project deliverables (adopted protocols and standard operating procedures) will be incorporated in both sectors emergency preparedness and response future legal regulations.

In the project implementation several significant activities were performed:

1. Two study trips to Italy and France were held in order to exchange experiences and examples of good practice with international partners and to gather valuable inputs for drafting project deliverables. Study trips resulted in strengthening cooperation and partnership at the EU level in the protection of critical infrastructure and the transfer of valuable perspectives to the national context.
2. A five-day workshop with a simulation exercise of cultural heritage salvage was organized in Zagreb, Sisak and Petrinja, which was attended by members of the Civil Protection State Intervention Unit, Croatian Mountain and Rescue Service, Firefighting Association and experts from the Ministry of Culture and Media. This activity greatly contributed to the strengthening the capacities of the Civil Protection Sector and the Culture Sector being first education opportunity of such kind in Republic of Croatia.
3. Professional training which was upgrade of the newly acquired knowledge of national practitioners - enhanced by the expertise of International Organization for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) in Rome which organized a specialized workshop on the protection of cultural heritage in emergency situations for Project Team members.

Through these activities a comprehensive understanding of principles and practices in the protection of cultural heritage during emergency situations was achieved, gap and component which was lacking in national civil protection system and needed to be overcome.

The project established cooperation and brought together experts from the Sector of Civil Protection and the Sector of Culture which before didn't exist in such formal way. New professional connections were established which will be highly beneficial for future collaboration in protecting cultural heritage during crises and future adverse events. Based on project's efforts, the baseline for further development of procedures and their testing through new simulation exercises was ensured and with trained experts from CPforHeritage project

Module activity, the regional interdisciplinary and interdepartmental intervention teams will be established.