



RISK ASSESSMENT AND SUSTAINABLE PROTECTION OF  
CULTURAL HERITAGE IN CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

NEWSLETTER #1

JULY 2017 - JANUARY 2018



Disasters and catastrophes pose risks not only to the conservation of the cultural heritage assets with its cultural, historic and artistic values, but also to the safety of visitors, staff and local communities. Additionally they cause undoubtedly negative consequences for the local economies due to the loss of tourism revenues, and for the livelihoods of local people who are dependent on it. ProteCHt2save contributes to the improvement of capacities of the public and private sectors to mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on cultural heritage sites, structures and artefacts. The project focuses primarily on the development of feasible and tailored solutions for building resilience of cultural heritage to floods and events of heavy rain.



## *IMPRESSIONS OF HEAVY RAIN/FLOOD*



## What do we plan?

The aim of the ProteCHt2save is to help regional and local authorities to prepare measures and evacuation plans in case of emergencies. The project will deliver ICT solutions and tools for risk management and protection of cultural heritage in central Europe.

### Mapping the exposure of cultural heritage to extreme events

In the frame of the project, a map will be elaborated to show hot spots of extreme potential impacts (heavy rain, flood, fire, wind) on cultural heritage.



### Manual of good and bad practices

Elaboration and design of a transnational easy reference manual of good and bad practices including strengths and weaknesses about protection of cultural heritage in emergencies in the project regions.

### Manual for the protection of cultural heritage

Development of a manual for cultural heritage managers, curators and municipalities for the protection of cultural heritage in a changing environment effected by climate. Incidents of extreme weather are increasing, from flooding to tropical storms. While events like flooding and droughts may seem unrelated in opposition to each other, they both stem from the same problem: warmer air. Climate change is one of the biggest crises facing humanity.

### Transnational strategies

Development of transnational strategies encompassing incentives to favour the adoption of plans aiming at the protection of cultural heritage in emergency situations at local level.

### Handbook

Development of a handbook to improve capacities of municipalities and support cultural heritage institutions in the risk management process.

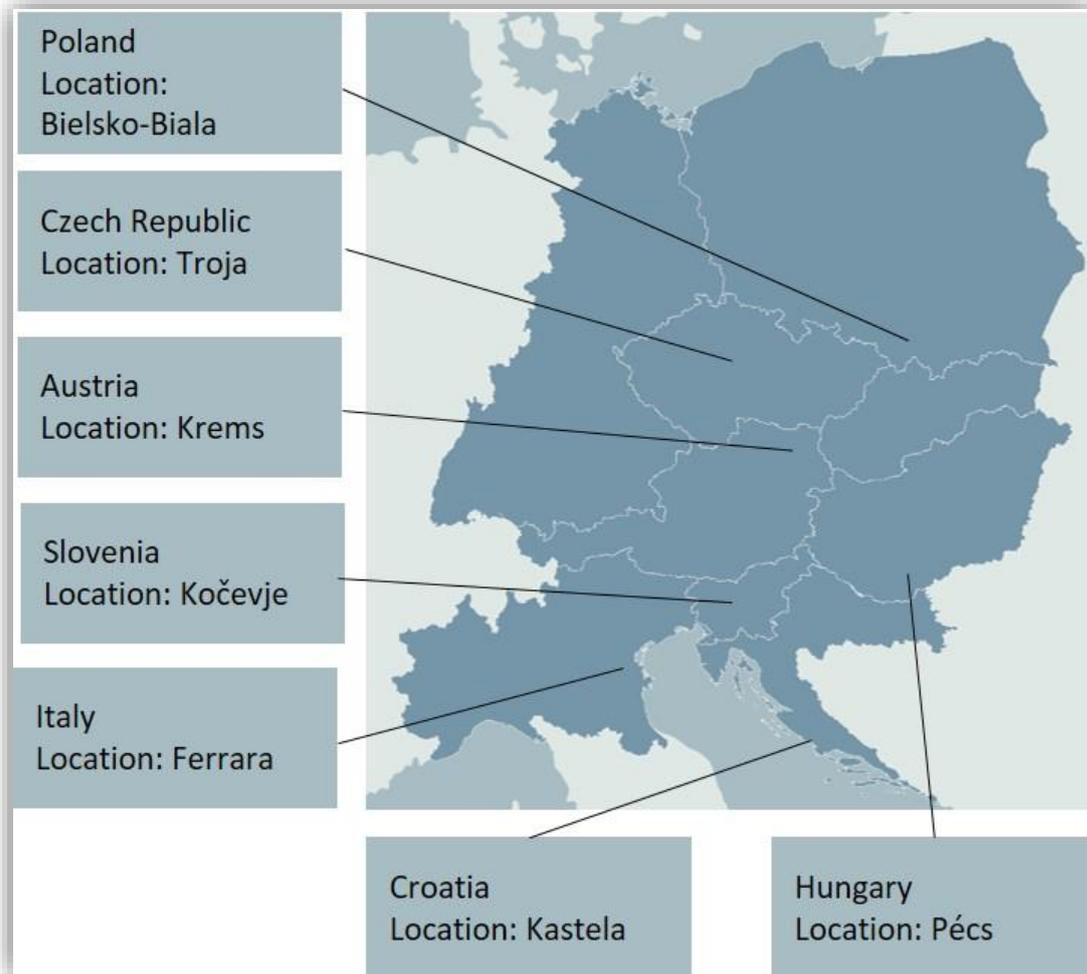
### Pilot actions

The approach and tools will be tested in risk prone areas and areas with cultural heritage vulnerabilities to improve the existing disaster risk management plans and policies in municipalities.



## Emergency plan

Evaluation of pilot action results and definition of final emergency plans will be adopted. The map shows the seven places where the pilot actions will be implemented.



## Kick off meeting in Bologna

The kick-off meeting took place in Bologna, Italy on 6-7 July 2017 where first informations were shared and every partner introduced themselves.

Mrs. Bonazza, project manager of the Lead Partner ISAC-CNR, presented the main elements of the project. Considering that the IPCC for the first time in 2014 mentioned cultural heritage as one of the main topics linked to climate change effects, a sort of SWOT analysis of the projects on impact of natural man-made disasters on cultural heritage. Besides she provided a description of the planned activities of the work package 1. All the partners are involved in the work package 1 implementation and the final main deliverables will be a Manual for cultural heritage managers containing mitigation strategies.



Moreover, climatic parameters such as rainfall and temperature, will be extracted from state-of-the-art GCM - Global Climate Model simulations, and/or RCM - Regional Climate Models for both historical conditions and for future scenarios and then further downscaled by ISAC. Observations from sparse in-situ stations or station-based gridded datasets such as EOBS (one of the most used reference dataset for Europe) will be used to assess historical climatic conditions as well and to validate the downscaling chain.

ITAM, the work package 2 coordinator, showed the planned activities and the tools useful to ensure the deliverables fulfilment. The first activity designed from October 2017 to March 2018 is *Activity 2.1 Identification of the critical elements in the resilience and risk management of cultural heritage*. ITAM's proposal was to implement the inspection, assessment and recommendations for 40 objects (historic or existing) from the overall partnership. The proposal will be evaluated by the partners, as well as the number of objects for each partner.

The *Activity 2.2 Critical analysis of local vulnerability and measures in emergency situations for cultural heritage* planned from March 2018 to December 2018, as explained by ITAM and will provide the inputs for resilience preparedness and inputs for regional policies and preventive measures.



Work package 3's objective is to develop preparedness strategies and define comprehensive methodologies for inspection and diagnosis for resilience assessment and preparedness planning, and it will last from 11. 2018 to 11. 2019. DUK will coordinate the Work package 3 activities and all the partners will be involved. Establishment of Cultural Heritage Rescue Teams (CHRT) will be a priority for the partners and it will be important to define how to build the team, the tasks and composition.

Work package 4 is coordinated by project partner Bielsko Biala District and will be in the last phase of the project, from June 2019 to June 2020 since it will be based on the previous deliverables. It will encompass the main project outputs, i.e. the pilot actions implementation. The strategies will be tested in 7 overall pilot actions in 7 municipalities.

Baranya County is responsible for communication in collaboration with the Lead Partner. The Lead Partner outlines importance of development both the communication activities addressed to the external public at international level and the dissemination of project results also at local level.

The meeting was a full success and a very good basic for further cooperation between the partners.



## Joint Communication Event in Krems

On January 23 2018 ProteCHt2save organised a joint international conference on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage from natural and man-made disasters at Danube University Krems in Austria. The participants and high-profile speakers enjoyed a day full of lectures on recent projects for the protection of cultural heritage in Europe and on work in progress, which included amongst others briefs on threats by fire, flood, landslides, storm, earthquakes and armed conflict, illicit trafficking and terrorism, the HERACLES, PROTHEGO and ProteCHt2save projects and information on EU policies and actions for heritage at risk, transnational capacity building for the protection of CH and strategies against the named threats and disasters.



In the afternoon, the international participants had the possibility to walk down to the Danube and have a close look at the mobile flood barriers which the fire brigades of Krems are very efficient to set up at short notice if the water level of the Danube rises threateningly.

Some of the more daring participants took the chance for a hands on approach and helped the fire fighters put up the mobile devices, as seen in the pictures below. Thus the practical experience included well established methods to fight against the flood threat for cultural heritage.



## Partner meeting in Krems

During the internal partner meeting that followed the joint communication event on January 24-25 we had the possibility to discuss project interna in a seminar room at the Benedictine Monastery of Göttweig near Krems. On a beautiful day we could not only work on the next steps and phases in ProteCHt2save, but also get a short glimpse into why preparatorial measures are that important for the protection of cultural heritage. The project team members got a special guided tour through the monastery which sensitized them to possible threats for the cultural property. In small groups they were tasked to recover wet paper material and prepare it for shock freezing, whilst in the museum they had to evacuate a room which, in the theory of the exercise, was threatened by fire and smoke. In reality this evacuation would have to be done by firefighters, but the short training episode allowed us to demonstrate why preparation is so very much important to allow emergency responders to act quickly, safely and in a correct way.





## Summer University Cultural Property Protection

The Summer University Cultural Property Protection, held at Danube University Krems from 21-25 August 2017, was dedicated to the emergency treatment for materials from archives and museums, affected inter alia by climate change induced floods. The participants developed a model evacuation plan for mobile cultural heritage and had the possibility to attend lectures given by international experts and to practice the proper evacuation and treatment of wet paper themselves, as can be seen on the pictures. Wet books and paper materials were rescued and prepared for shock freezing with layers of plastic wrap.

## Protection of Cultural Heritage in Case of Special Threats - Selected Aspects of Evacuation Persons and Collections (Cracow)

The international conference held on 20-22 September 2017 provided a lot of useful information and deep knowledge about the methods of securing and evacuating cultural heritage. The participants attended practical exercises as well, i.e. they could witness the evacuation of people and historical property from St. Mary's Church in Cracow. Additionally, the conference conveyed information and novelties about: good and bad practices in the protection of cultural heritage, methods of evacuation, methods of preparation of cultural heritage for crisis situations, risks associated with movement of works of art. Since the city of Cracow has the most cultural heritage in Poland, it has a wide array of experience about their protection.



## Planned events and training schemes:

In preparation for the establishment of Cultural Heritage Rescue Teams and the development of training and education sequences two events are scheduled to take place in Austria later this year:

May 26-28 2018 will witness the exercise sequence TRITOLIA18 which will be conducted together with the Austrian Armed Forces's CBRN-Defence Command who has ample knowledge on rescuing people in disaster struck regions. The CBRN-Defence command has agreed to host an earthquake scenario on a special training area in Austria where the participants of the exercise can work on ideas for rescuing cultural heritage in a safe and secure environment.



From August 27-31 2018 the annual Summer University Cultural Property Protection will be held in the Monastery of Melk in Austria, a Baroque Benedictinian Monastery famous from Umberto Eco's "The Name of the Rose". During the week participants will develop short training and educational sequences for cultural heritage protection and crisis staff work and exercise as well as conduct a short life exercise for rescuing cultural property in the monastery.



***ProteCHt2save key facts*****Project duration: 01.07.2017 – 30.06.2020****Project budget: 2,150,549 €****ERDF funding: 1,787,110 €****Website: <http://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/ProteCHt2save.html>****LEAD PARTNER**

Institute of Atmospheric Sciences  
and Climate – National Research  
Council of Italy

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

Institute of Theoretical and Applied  
Mechanics of the  
Czech Academy of  
Sciences



University for Continuing Education  
Krems  
Danube University Krems



Bielsko-Biala District



Regional Development Agency  
Bielsko-Biala



Municipal of Ferrara



Municipal District Praha - Troja

City of Kaštela



Government of Baranya County



Municipal of Kocevje

