

Fostering European Cooperation for Cultural Heritage at Risk

Expert Conference

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia

26 – 28 February

Dubrovnik – Lazareti

Preface

The conference will feature a plenary session and thematic panels with accompanying cultural events.

The working language of the conference is English.

Summary

Faced with changes that have had an increasing impact not only on the society but also on cultural heritage – a consequence of natural disasters, damages caused by human actions and inevitable climate change – we have been conscious of the need to channel our efforts into strengthening the risk management mechanisms in cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible.

The awareness of threats to cultural heritage has been highlighted by recent catastrophic damages to cultural monuments and sites, which brought about the reflection on the state of readiness in extraordinary circumstances and the need to foster European cooperation in view of preventing such occurrences and developing common mechanisms to minimize damage, mainly through application of risk management plans in coordination with structured policies, protection measures and good practices implementation in view of effective prevention, and timely and skilled reactions.

Collaborative decision-making is essential; it is a foundation of successful risk management in cultural heritage, having a direct impact onto application of quality principles of interventions on cultural heritage and decrease of negative effects, which is beneficial to society on a cultural and economic level.

Key topics

The topic of the conference aims to generate discussion on an expert theoretical level about the methodology of research and assessment of all types of risks in order to facilitate the decision-making process in preservation and use of cultural heritage, and the optimal use of resources.

The topics of each panel will be focused on the discussions on methods of identification, analysis and targeting of risk priorities, and especially of a better understanding of potential risks, importance of monitoring and adaptation processes.

The speedy recovery from damages, sustainable preservation after restoration and identification of possibilities of participatory management through stimulating cooperation of all stakeholders will also come into focus.

Each panel will feature presentations and will be followed by a moderated discussion and conclusions presented at the closing panel of the conference.

Cultural side events

26 February

Evening reception at Knežev dvor

27 February

Guided tour of Dubrovnik

28 February

Guided tour of the Pelješac peninsula and the town of Ston

CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY

18.00

Evening reception– Knežev dvor

THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY

Lazareti, 10 Frana Supila Street, Dubrovnik

8.30

Registration

9.15 – 9.45

Opening welcome speeches

Mato Franković

Mayor of Dubrovnik

Nikola Dobroslavić

County Prefect of the Dubrovačko-neretvanska County

Ognian Zlatev

Head of Representation of the European Commission in Croatia

Nina Obuljen Koržinek

Minister of Culture of the Republic of Croatia

09.45 – 11.45

Are we ready? Advances in policy and new perspectives on risk prevention and preparedness

Objective: to present and discuss the state of play at national, international and European level of preparedness strategies, focusing on the integration of cultural heritage protection into disaster risk adaptation plans, and risk reduction and mitigation measures; to illustrate the implementation of an effective cooperation in order to prevent and minimize damage.

Moderator:

Robert Palmer

Independent Expert Consultant in the Cultural Field

Speakers:

Lazare Eloundou Assomo

Director of Culture and Emergencies, UNESCO

Andrew Potts

Coordinator, Climate Heritage Network Secretariat; ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage Working Group

Aparna Tandon

Senior Programme Leader, *First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis* Programme, Programmes Unit, ICCROM

Goranka Horjan

Chair, INTERCOM International Committee for Museum Management, ICOM

Koenraad Van Balen

Director of Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation at KU Leuven; UNESCO Chair on Preventive Conservation, Monitoring and Maintenance of Monuments and Sites

Maria-Xeni Garezou

Special Advisor to the Minister of Culture of the Hellenic Republic

Presentation by Matko Vetma

Conservation Architect and Cultural Heritage Project Manager

Reconstruction of cultural heritage - Dubrovnik issues

Visit to the exhibition *Dubrovnik - A Scarred City* in Lazareti

11.45 – 12.15

Coffee break

12.15 – 13.15

A wider perspective – Shared challenges and possible areas of action at the EU level

Objective: to raise awareness on the available instruments for risk reduction at the EU level, both in terms of innovation and management; to encourage support for the integration of cultural heritage into disaster risk management by inter-institutional cooperation, capacity building, development of new joint programmes and production and sharing of information and documents; to showcase the work of the Reflection Group for cultural heritage and their efforts in view of furthering the cooperation on the EU level.

Moderator:

Erminia Sciacchitano

Officer for International Affairs, Minister's Cabinet, Ministry for Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism of the Italian Republic

Speakers:

Anne Grady

Principal Officer, Cultural Policy, DG EAC, European Commission

Flora van Regteren Altena

Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands

Vera Ameels

Policy Advisor, Flanders Heritage Agency, Belgium

13.30 – 15.00

Excelsior Hotel

Lunch

15.15 – 17.00

Strengthening the capacity for disaster response and recovery

Part I: Risks caused by human activities

Objective: to reflect further on the benefits of international and European coordination, particularly in case of disasters with a transnational impact based on concrete examples.

In the last few years the resuming of military action in the Middle East has threatened the most famous monuments of human history. This has brought to the fore the subject of heritage preservation in armed conflicts, unpredictable and highly destructive by nature. The Republic of Croatia was faced with challenges in conservation of Croatian cities in the aftermath of the Homeland War which led to the destruction of several UNESCO-listed monuments such as the cathedral of Saint Jacob in Šibenik, the Plitvice lakes and the city of Dubrovnik. Croatian and international experts collaborated on restoration of monuments, and Croatian experience has ever since been an example of a thoroughly planned and documented conservation in difficult

circumstances, at once engendering the discussion on implementation of the international conventions.

Nowadays, cultural heritage is also jeopardized by the overpopulation of cities. On the one hand it is a consequence of excessive tourism, while on the other of the cities' role of economic centres towards which gravitate smaller and rural surrounding areas. However, the opposite effect is also present, namely the depopulation of city centres whereby local inhabitants are replaced by tourists or visitors on temporary stay. This brings about gentrification, neglect, deterioration and damage both of heritage of abandoned rural sites and heritage traits. It is therefore vitally important to conceive an efficient and smart management plan not only of risks but also of existing monuments, both those under threat and restored ones, in order to achieve balance and preserve heritage.

The efficient disaster risk management is closely tied with planning and development in five co-dependent stages: risk assessment, risk, mitigation, urgent action and damage recovery. Moreover, including risk management in everyday functioning of the institutions and the society is essential.

Moderator:

Goranka Horjan

Chair, INTERCOM International Committee for Museum Management, ICOM

Speakers:

Bruno Favel

Head of Department for European and International Affairs, Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture of the French Republic

Paolo Vitti

Adjunct Professor Università Roma Tre, Italy; Adjunct Professor University of Notre Dame (Rome Program), USA; Board Member of Europa Nostra; Scientific Council Member of the Istituto Italiano dei Castelli

Neil Brodie

Senior Research Fellow on the Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA), University of Oxford's School of Archaeology, UK

Donna Yates

Associate Professor, Criminal Law and Criminology, Maastricht University, the Netherlands

Tomislav Petrinec

Chief Conservator for Built Heritage, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia

Tvrtko Zebec

Senior Research Fellow, Honorary Professor, Institute for Ethnology and Folklore Research, Croatia

17.15

40 years of the Institute for Restoration of Dubrovnik – film screening

18.00

Guided tour of Dubrovnik

20:00 – 22:00

Excelsior Hotel

Dinner

FRIDAY, 28 FEBRUARY

Lazareti, 10 Frana Supila Street, Dubrovnik

8.30

Registration

9.00 – 10.45

Strengthening the capacity for disaster response and recovery

Part II: Natural risks and climate change

The inevitable and increasing influence of climate change on cultural heritage (characterized by changes in temperature, precipitations, underground waters, sea levels), ascribed directly or indirectly to human activity, as well as natural disasters such as earthquakes, fires, floods and rise of sea level, have contributed to the need of establishing protection measures in accordance with contemporary *savoir faire* and technologies. This requires an organized and coordinated cooperation of all stakeholders: government on state, regional and local level, experts in various fields of activity, and international support. Education plays a vital role in efficient risk management, not only of experts and in terms of skills development, but also in terms of awareness-raising of the public. It is equally important to spotlight documenting and research, as well as structural reinforcement of buildings as continuous maintenance of built heritage is one of the key steps in damage prevention. Furthermore, apart from striving towards preservation of the smallest remains of the original and prevention of further structural damage, it is vital to think of the best conservation method: either by applying original materials and techniques or contemporary architectural language.

Moderator:

Jacqui Donnelly

Senior Architect, Built Heritage Policy, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland

Speakers:

Constantinos Cartalis

Professor of Environmental Physics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece; Member of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Dražen Štajduhar

Head of Sector for Disaster Risks Reduction, Civil Protection Directorate, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia

Christian Hanus

Dean of the Faculty of Education, Arts and Architecture; Head of the Department of Building and Environment, Danube University Krems, Austria

Ulla Salmela

Chief Intendant, Finnish Heritage Agency, Finland

Joann Russell

Head of Estates, Historic Environment Scotland

10.45 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30

Conclusions and final discussion

Risk management in cultural heritage: preserving common values

Over the past decade, the European Union, in cooperation with the UNESCO and numerous governmental and non-governmental organisations, has highlighted cultural heritage as one of its priorities in the framework of international cultural cooperation. In light of an increasing awareness of climate change and sustainable development – embodied in the Paris Agreement (2015) and the UN 2030 Agenda – as well as political, economic and social shifts, the safeguarding of cultural heritage has become imperative. The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 vividly showed how we can advance care for cultural heritage on a European level and contribute to the dialogue on shared European values. Its influence on perception of cultural heritage as a strong cultural and economic resource was particularly valuable. Also underlined was the significance of fostering cooperation by achieving a long-term vision of management, conservation and strengthening of cultural heritage in partnership of experts and local communities that often possess vast traditional knowledge and skills used for diminishing disaster risks in order to ensure quality and sustainability of conservation. *The concluding panel will summarize the main points of the conference as well as provide guidelines for future actions and a platform for upcoming initiatives.*

Moderator:

Davor Trupković

Director, Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia

Speakers:

Catherine Magnant

Head of the Cultural Policy Unit, DG EAC, European Commission

Lazare Eloundou Assomo

Director of Culture and Emergencies, UNESCO

Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović

Secretary General, Europa Nostra

Andrew Potts



Croatian Presidency of the
Council of the European Union

Coordinator, Climate Heritage Network Secretariat; ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage
Working Group

Patrick Dondelinger

Head of Studies, National Centre for Audiovisual, Ministry of Culture, Luxembourg

Zaki Aslan

Director, ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

13.30 – 15.00

Excelsior Hotel

Lunch

15.30

Meeting in front of the Excelsior hotel

Guided tour of the Pelješac peninsula and the town of Ston / dinner

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