



CDCPP THEMATIC SESSION

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AS RELATED
TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY,
and specifically, culture, heritage and landscape
resources**

Croatian contribution

Climate Change -
The Impact on Cultural
Heritage

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Climate Change - The Impact on Cultural Heritage

The global changes that are resulting from the climate changes and that we are witnessing today have an increasing impact on the overall life of individuals and the society, as well as on the cultural heritage.

It is obvious that such changes affect cultural heritage, both directly and indirectly, and that the negative consequences are also transferred to future generations. However, taking into consideration the scientific forecasts that outline the prospect of irreversible and catastrophic changes along with actions aiming at combating climate change in the EU and broader area, it is necessary to focus efforts on design of joint preparatory actions and their impact on cultural heritage.

Cultural heritage is often exposed to the effects of the polluted. Still, in the past couple of years it has been severely exposed to effects of devastating floods and other adverse effects of climate change, which requires from us taking of appropriate actions aiming and prevention or reduction of damage.

It must be emphasised that the effects of climate change are not isolated and typical for specific countries. It happens quite often that such effects cross the borders of several countries (river basins, wetlands, mountain ranges, etc.) and that joint actions of neighbouring countries are required in order to take necessary actions for protection and preservation of heritage.

With all this in mind, the activities are proposed for the achievement of consensus on the preparation of risk management plans related to cultural heritage, stimulation of production of such plans on the European, national, regional and local level and their synergic effect in combating adverse climate effects.

Furthermore, joint initiatives are proposed related to education and climate change

During the Presidency of the Council of Europe 2020 of the Republic of Croatia, it is planned Conference on Cultural Heritage: Risk management in the segment of cultural heritage and new models of financing

Goal: Facing the changes with an increasing impact on the life of individuals and society, as well as on the cultural heritage due to natural catastrophes, as well as the dangers that are a consequence of human actions and inevitable climate changes, we are aware of the need to focus our efforts on strengthening of the management mechanisms related to risk management in the segment of cultural heritage.

As an example of good practice related to getting work on activities of transversal interest, there were held National workshop on “Managing Disaster Risk in UNESCO Designated Sites” in Republic of Croatia, Jelsa, Hvar Island 25-28 September 2017

Conclusions of workshop can be universally utilized.

Conclusions and recommendations:

Participants fully understand the need to strengthen Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in accordance with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the UNESCO Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction for World Heritage properties. In particular, participants agreed on the need to:

1. Understanding Disaster Risks to heritage

- i. Perform a detailed assessment for DRM in all UNESCO Designated Sites in Croatia, to better understand the level of exposure of sites to various natural and human induced hazards that can cause disaster risks;
- ii. Recognize the importance to further research on positive aspect of culture in building resilience;

2. Strengthening Disaster Risk governance of heritage sector

- iii. Improve cooperation, coordination and communication among cultural and natural heritage authorities and the different actors dealing with emergency response and Disaster Risk Management (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, National protection and rescue directorate, Firefighter departments, etc) by establishing permanent consultation mechanisms. In particular, we recommend that heritage authorities be represented in the “Committees for emergency situations” at State, County and Municipality levels, in all stages of DRM;
- iv. Designate contact / focal point responsible for DRM issues within heritage authorities, to coordinate and communicate with all relevant stakeholders in all segments of DRM including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery;
- v. Designate contact / focal point for heritage issues within responsible institutions (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Environment and Energy, National protection and rescue directorate) dealing with DRM issues.
- vi. Strengthen the legal framework for DRM in heritage (cultural and natural) by adjusting actual legal and policy documents, emphasizing necessity to include heritage sector in all segments of DRM at all emergency management levels;

3. Investing in DRR for heritage

- vii. Develop DRM plans, including provisions for structural and non-structural risk mitigation measures, through an inclusive consultative process ensuring the participation of all main actors and stakeholders, and integrate them within the broader management plans of UNESCO Designated Sites in Croatia;
- viii. Advocate for the allocation of reliable and congruous funding for DRM at all administrative levels within their area of competence, for the implementation of required measures, also drawing from visitor revenues at UNESCO Designated Sites;

- ix. Promote awareness-raising for various stakeholders, including heritage institutions and specialist, institutions dealing with DRM at various levels, and for the general population, emphasizing the necessity to ensure heritage protection within all segments of DRM, and the positive contribution of culture to resilience;
- x. Enhance capacity development for professionals of the heritage sector and emergency responders on DRM;

4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back better” in recovery , rehabilitation and reconstruction of heritage

- xi. Develop DRM plans for all UNESCO Designated Sites, aligned with other existing DRM plans at various levels, including detailed protocols for emergency response with clear roles and responsibilities of all actors.
- xii. Conduct regular reviews of DRM plans at various levels, and regular drills including all concerned stakeholders;
- xiii. In the case of particular need to implement Post Disaster Needs assessments, advocate for integration of the heritage segment in the assessment;
- xiv. Undertake research to reduce vulnerability of heritage in recovery process.