

Within the framework of
IKMeFiND
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND MEDIA FIGHTING NATURAL DISASTERS

GUIDELINES

for the creation of

PYT Pages

(Protect Your Territory)

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1. THE KNOWLEDGE OF A FEW THAT BECOMES THE KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYONE

Many natural disasters that have affected lands, could have been avoided if their territory had been regularly maintained: if territories had been cleared from branches and debris, if the not airtight canalization system had been repaired, if the collapsed or shaky supporting walls had been rebuilt, if the undergrowth had been regularly cleared out, if the rocky ridges had been consolidated by the removal of the hanging rocks.

And quite always the media news report about journalists rushing to the places where disastrous events have occurred, show that many people living there were aware of the risks they ran: both because they are evident and, very often, because they are recurring events.

A widespread knowledge of situations of risk which, however, seldom produces interventions useful for eliminating them. From one side because the interventions of maintenance of the territory do not offer any media coverage to the politicians who should decide to carry them out. On the other side because there is no system of automatic transfer of information from whom is aware of the dangers to whom is responsible for eliminating them.

Within the framework of the Project IKMeFiND,¹ the European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage has carried out a research on all the natural disasters which have affected the Amalfi Coast over the last 10 years, and on the importance given by the local media, to the situations of risk, before and after the event. The research has shown that quite always, after the event, the media have collected the testimonies of the inhabitants of the towns damaged, who said to have reported the situations of risk to the competent authorities, but without obtaining any result.

By using the website "UNESCO Amalfi Coast"², the University Centre for the Cultural Heritage has then created the page "Protect Your Territory", whose purpose is that of collecting the reports of citizens and visitors about the situations of risk which could be found on the Amalfi Coast, of transmitting them to the competent bodies and local media, of monitoring the follow up. The page explains its purpose and contains a "REPORT FORM" (RF).

1 IKMeFiND - Indigenous Knowledge and Media to Fight Risques Majeurs of Natural Disasters, is a project by the University Centre for the Cultural Heritage with the support of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, a Programme of the Council of Europe.

2 The website has been created by the University Centre for the Cultural Heritage in Ravello (CUEBC) and by the Superintendency for the Archaeological Sites, Fine Arts and the Landscape (ABAP) of Salerno and Avellino, with the support of the Ministry for the Cultural Heritage (MIBAC).

2. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CREATION OF PYT PPAGES

To make PYT pages an efficient instrument for the prevention of disasters, it is important to involve the local community, not only in their use, but also in their creation. During our research carried out in the UNESCO site "AMALFI COAST", the following procedure has been found to be really useful:

a) Preliminary stage

- A research on the local media websites can help selecting the most recurring news about the instability affecting the territory over the last years.
- Another very useful instrument is a map of the local environmental protection associations
- The data which can be collected at this stage help to carry out a more specific research, according to the scientific literature found, as regards the disasters that have affected that territory.

b) Acquisition of data on the local disasters and about the knowledge that the population had about them

The preliminary analysis of the news, the map of the local associations and the scientific literature found allow us to determine:

- the key words by which it is possible to carry out a systematic research on the disasters occurred;
- their presence in the media;
- the possible reports made by citizens, associations or institutions;
- the result of these reports;

c) Analyses of the acquisition systems and transfer of reports

In order to avoid any duplication of procedures, it is important to analyze which procedures are already existing for the collection and management of information of risk by citizens, by:

- making a list of the institutions appointed to receive reports of immediate or non immediate risk
- analyzing how reports are managed
- analyzing the interventions caused by reports

d) Systematization of the data collected during the stages a), b) and c)

The systematic analysis of the collected data is important and necessary, in order to suggest the necessary adjustments to the system of collection and management of reports. In order to develop operational suggestions from this kind of analysis, it is useful to carry it out, by:

- a well pondered synthesis of reports and interventions
- a statistical analysis of reports and interventions, made according to site, typology, source and result

e) Contacts with local media

At this point of the procedure, it is important to promote a meeting with all the media operating on the territory, in order to illustrate the data and the analyses carried out and to check whether it is possible to find a collaboration for the creation of the PYT pages.

f) Production of the draft form

According to the data collected and the analyses carried out and the opinions emerged in the meetings with the media, the draft version of the report form can be produced, as well as that of the page structure and its management.

g) Presentation of the PYT Page

The production procedure ends with a public event of presentation of the PYT Page

h) Presentation follow up

In order to officially start the PYT, it is necessary to publicize its address and its goals by all the possible means (media, social networks).

3. THE REPORT FORM.

In order to make the goals of the PYT Page easy to understand, and then to make it easy to use it³, it is better that the first field of the Report Form suggests a list of situations of risk to report, which have been identified as those really recurring on that territory, and which are described by non technical words and provided with synthetic descriptions of the possible disaster.

3.1 What to report

With reference to the most frequent situations of risk which may occur, the field in the form, could be as follows:

- A) Stream beds, canals or impluviums blocked by branches, debris or landslides.
 - *In case of heavy rains, water accumulates upstream the obstruction, which then collapses, thus causing a flood, which violently flows downstream at a high speed.*
- B) Not watertight canalization
 - *The leakages of canals can penetrate the surrounding soil, thus causing the collapse of embankments or buildings.*
- C) Collapsed or cracked walls retaining terraces or embankments.
 - *A localized, even little collapse, can give place to a process of generalized landslide.*
- D) Loose land slopes, or slopes little planted with trees, or intensely built slopes, or slopes not provided with suitable canalization for water flow.
 - *In case of heavy rains the land, which is not retained by roots, or is altered by buildings, can slide down.*
- E) Not cleared out undergrowth.
 - *Bushes, specially if they are dry, are highly inflammable: they easily cause fires and immediately spread them.*
- F) Rocks characterized by a precarious balance, which can be found above all along the routes which are not controlled by the institutions (pathways, steps, muletracks).
 - *Heavy rains– or earthquakes, even if they are weak – can cause their fall, which is particularly dangerous along trekking routes.*
- G) Rocky ridges touched with fire.
 - *The high temperatures produced by fires cause the cracking of rocks that may collapse.*

3 It is important to underline that the PYT page does not substitute the institutional services to be used in case of emergency and in case you must report an imminent danger, you have to refer to the local emergency numbers.

- H) Precious buildings (churches, mansion houses, historical aqueducts) or elements worth reporting (wayside shrines, caves) which are in degraded situations, or threatened by one of the above mentioned dangers.
 - *The lack of maintenance, or the occurrence of an external danger, can cause the loss of the cultural evidence, or its damage.*
- I) Other situations of risk
 - *Any other situation which is considered worth reporting.*

3.2 How to report a situation of risk

Other instructions to give are above all those that explain how to report a situation of risk. Since that not everyone can use a computer, and because the report must be immediately traceable, in order that it can be suitably managed, it is necessary that at least two ways of sending a report to the PYT Page are provided:

- a) through the PYT Page itself, by using the Report Form provided by it
- b) by sending a photo by WhatsApp, to a special address, and giving details about the site concerned and, if you wish to be informed about the report follow up, the name and the contacts of whom sends the report message.

3.3 Who sends it

The protection of the privacy of whom sends a report message, must be always guaranteed. The report message can be sent in an anonymous or public mode. In the Report Form, it is important that the following three options are provided:

- a) no mention of the author of the report
- b) no mention of the author of the report with the possibility for him to be informed about the follow up of the report itself; in this case the author's identity shall be known to the staff but not publicized, thus in observance of the privacy rules
- c) mention of the author of the report

3.4 Follow up

In order to make the PYT Page efficient and productive, it is important that the author of the report, as well as the users of the page, are informed about the follow up of the report itself. A possible processing procedure of the report made through the web page, or the WhatsApp number, is the following:

- a) as soon as the report is received, its reliability is ascertained by examining the right inclusion in the different categories, and the site of the danger;
- b) the report is then given a code number, which is communicated to its author (if he has accepted to receive it) and which shall make it always traceable in the future, both by the system and by other visitors;
- c) if necessary, further details of the author of the report can be requested (if he is willing to provide them);
- d) the report is then transmitted to the institutions being competent for managing it and to the local media;
- e) the report is indicated on a map of the site involved, with the code number representing its category; the whole of the reports included in each category can be separately viewed;
- f) every three months, the management stage of the report is checked;
- g) the checking report is then transmitted to the local media.

4. THE REPORT FORM USED ON THE AMALFI COAST.

The following Report Form, which has been drawn up during our research, refers to the recurring disasters occurring along the Amalfi Coast, but the criteria on which its different fields are based, are of a general kind. They can be used to create similar pages also in other contexts.

REPORT FORM

A) THE REPORTED SITUATION

- 1 Where is the situation of risk?
 - ☐ Town
 - ☐ Site Via
- 2 In which category can the situation of risk you report, be included?
 - ☐ Stream beds, canals or impluviums blocked by branches, debris, or landslides.
 - ☐ Not watertight canals.
 - ☐ "Dry stone low walls or "Macere" (the walls retaining terraces) collapsed or being about to collapse.
 - ☐ Not cleared out undergrowth.
 - ☐ Unstable rocks, situated above all along the routes not controlled by the institutions (pathways, steps, muletracks).
 - ☐ Precious buildings or elements being worth reporting, which are in degraded conditions, or which are threatened by one of the above mentioned dangers.
 - ☐ Other situations of risk.....
- 3 Similar situations of instability have already been occurred in this area
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Yes When?
 - ☐ I do not know
- 4 Has the situation of risk been already reported?
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ YES When? To whom?
- 5 Has a follow up of the foregoing reports been there?
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ YES Which?
- 6 Would you like to add a photo?
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ YES
- 7 Would you like to add a comment?

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B) THE REPORTER

- 1 The report will be examined and transmitted to whom is competent for interventions and to the local media. Do you want to be mentioned as author of the report?
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ No, but I want to be informed about the follow up of my report (see point 2) 2)
 - ☐ YES Who is the author of this report?

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- 2 Do you want to be informed about the follow up of your report?
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ YES How? e-mail,
whatsapp.....
SMS