



READY

Safeguarding Cultural Heritage from Disasters,
Extreme Weather Events, and Complex Emergencies

Introduction

READY- Resilience for Heritage in the Face of Disasters, Climate Risks and Complex Emergencies is a pan-European project for strengthening capacities for protecting heritage from extreme risks including climate change driven disasters and armed conflicts

Conceived by ICCROM's flagship programme, First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR), in collaboration with the European Union's Creative Europe Programme, this **38-month pan-European initiative** aims to integrate in-person and online inter-disciplinary training with follow-up field projects conducted by the trainees at their respective heritage sites and institutions.

Designed as a cascading capacity development initiative, the project will enhance disaster risk mitigation and emergency preparedness at heritage sites and institutions. The project will also improve early warning and early action for heritage and associated communities during emergencies. How locally held traditional knowledge can be leveraged to protect heritage and associated communities from disasters and extreme weather events will form a core component of the READY training and its in-field application by the participants.

The project will promote **cross-sector cooperation among cultural ministries**, heritage institutions, disaster risk and emergency management authorities, and departments of environmental science to better protect heritage **before, during, and after a disaster or conflict across** the EU, especially focusing on countries participating in the Creative Europe programme. The **training and its structured follow-up** within the READY framework will cover **disaster, conflict, and climate risk management** for all forms of heritage—**movable, immovable, and intangible**. The collective results of READY will be disseminated through an **online conference and an open-source publication** to inform broader policy and practice.



Objectives

Over a period of 38 months, the Project will achieve the following objectives:

- **Enhance capacities** for effectively managing the risks of disasters, climate-related extreme events and conflicts for tangible and intangible heritage in Europe.
- **Gather and showcase tools, methods, and best practices** for disaster risk management of cultural heritage among the participating countries of Creative Europe to create a comprehensive resource for the field.
- **Promote better integration of the concerns for cultural heritage protection** within national, regional and local disaster risk management and climate adaptation plans.
- **Improve inter-agency coordination and cooperation** between national heritage departments, civil protection, emergency responders, disaster risk management authorities and military to ensure effective risk management for heritage.
- **Enhance the preparedness of national heritage institutions** to assess, document and secure all forms of heritage during large-scale or complex emergencies.
- **Document place-specific traditional knowledge and practices** that can be incorporated into disaster risk management and climate change adaptation plans to support culture-based climate action and disaster risk reduction.

READY's activities and outputs

READY aims to integrate heritage protection into disaster risk management to protect heritage places and their associated communities. By the end of its 38-month implementation, READY will:

- Train **60-75 professionals** through two in-depth capacity development training courses on comprehensive risk management of movable, immovable, and intangible heritage. Each course will include online and in-person training followed by field projects seeking direct application.
- Create a **sustainable network of 20-25 trainers**, enabling long-term knowledge transfer and capacity building across Europe.
- Implement **15-20 field projects**, focusing on comprehensive risk assessments including risk drivers such as climate change, disaster risk mitigation, emergency preparedness and response.
- Develop **metrics inform of qualitative indicators to measure the effectiveness of risk management** at heritage sites, institutions and among cultural bearers.
- Collect and **demonstrate how locally held traditional knowledge and practices can be used** to reduce disaster risk, adapt to a changing climate and promote social cohesion.
- Share **good practices, success stories and lessons learned** through an **online conference and an open-access digital publication** to inform wider policies for cultural heritage protection, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation at regional and national levels.



READY – Structure and Overview

YEAR 1: Capacity Development for Moveable and Intangible Heritage (October 2024- November 2025)

- A **hybrid partner and stakeholder meeting** with needs assessments for heritage protection in the EU (*April last week / May first week 2025*)
- Online distance mentoring (**foundational training and data gathering**) for 20-25 multi-disciplinary professionals from the EU. (*May last week 2025*)
- **In-person training** for 20-25 professionals for moveable and intangible heritage. (*June last week / July first week 2025*)
- **Field Project implementation** supported by distance mentoring over 6 months
- **Online inter-agency coordination** meeting for disseminating outcomes of field Projects.

YEAR 2: Capacity Development for Immovable and Intangible Heritage (December 2025- December 2026)

- Online distance mentoring (**foundational training and data gathering**) for 20-25 multi-disciplinary professionals from the EU.
- **In-person training** for 20-25 professionals for immovable and intangible heritage.
- **Field Project implementation** supported by distance mentoring.
- **Online inter-agency coordination** meeting for disseminating outcomes of field Projects

YEAR 2: Advanced Capacity Development for Immovable, Movable and Intangible Heritage & Results Dissemination (December 2026 to November 2027)

- **Advanced training of trainers** for 20-25 professionals drawn from the existing alumni network built through the training in Year 1 and Year 2.
- Preparation of an **online course** on ICCROM's Learning Management System by the trainers in close collaboration with ICCROM-FAR.
- **Online conference** disseminating results of the Project for at least 300-400 change-makers and key regional/national agencies, as well as universities and relevant NGOs.
- **Digital publication** on success stories and lessons learned from the Project.



Become a Partner

READY invites various forms of partnerships to support the planning, coordination, and implementation of the project.

Host Institution Partner for Year 1 or Year 2

Host the READY partners' meeting and in-person training, providing the venue for hands-on learning. Facilitate logistical support, including accommodation, transportation, meals, and field visits. Engage local communities and knowledge bearers in participatory exercises and connect project teams with local experts and stakeholders. A formal agreement or MoU will be signed with the host institution to formalize the partnership.

Technical Partner

Contribute specialized expertise, tools, and case studies to enhance the READY training curriculum and resources. Participate in partners' meetings to help identify training needs and assist in curriculum development. Technical partners will also help in circulating the call for applications, identify potential resource people, provide case studies of best practices, assist in gathering results from participants' field projects, and expand the project's outreach by disseminating calls, results, and invitations to awareness-raising events. Additionally, technical partners will participate in virtual awareness-raising meetings and the project's final conference.

Participating Countries/Institutions Role

Participating countries will apply to join the project with a heritage site on which they will work on improving disaster risk management. Once selected, they will receive seed grants to implement field projects. These countries will nominate qualified professionals with relevant experience and qualifications (who will undergo selection by the ICCROM team) to participate in all phases of the training, including the field project phase. Participants will apply the knowledge gained to implement integrated disaster risk reduction strategies, enhance resilience, and foster social cohesion at their selected heritage sites, based on the approved project plans.