



# **REPORT** (DELIVERABLE D.T2.3.1)

Awareness raising events for fostering
transnational cooperation in disaster
risk reduction

12 2021





### 1. Introduction

**Description:** The online event took place on 23.12.2021. and lasted from 11 a.m. till 3 p.m.

#### **Target stakeholders:**

Stakeholders who participated in the event (a total of 20) came from different sectors (public, private, civil). There were four representatives of local public authorities (Municipality of Dugopolje, Citiy of Split, City of Kaštela, City of Omiš), two representatives of sectoral agencies (Local Development Agencies), three small enterprises, one NGO group promoting cultural heritage.

#### 2. CH management issues at local level:

One of the main issues of conservation and management of cultural heritage at local level is general lack of information in the decision making for cultural heritage protection. For instance, there is a strategy created at the local level concerning risk due to extreme events: "Civil Protection Action Plan municipality of Dugopolje". Although the plan has detailed state analysis, a description of responsibilities and measures in case of risk or danger, cultural assets are not mentioned specifically in the context of protection. Despite the fact that many of these measures are certainly being implemented and helping to combat extreme events, there are still a number of challenges that hinder the building of the resilience of cultural heritage sites. Representatives of the public sector pointed out that the problem so far has been the lack of data on cultural assets, i.e. the lack of data hindered the correct risk assessment and made it hard to determine adequate measures. Representatives also agreed that new knowledge gained through the STRENCH methodology could help improve the local system of cultural heritage protection. The following problem highlighted was lack of coordination between stakeholders involved in the cultural heritage protection and civil protection in general. In the local disaster management system, volunteer firefighter associations play important role but they are not included in the cultural heritage protection planning and their work is usually limited to general damage mitigation. There is also a lack of awareness of the local population about the value of local cultural heritage. Since the hamlet of Kolići is uninhabited, the local population does not pay too much attention to the place itself, the surrounding area and vegetation are left to "themselves" and therefore are additionally vulnerable to external influences.





#### 3. Strategies/measures

Possible steps, as mentioned above, could use new knowledge about cultural heritage vulnerability and possible risks (which could affect the site due to climate change in the future) to create new, soft resilience building measures in existing strategy at the local level, concerning the protection of cultural heritage. These measures could include empowerment of the capacity of the public and private sectors in mitigating the impact of climate change and natural risks on cultural heritage. Workshops and educations could also be conducted with the aim of raising awareness and knowledge about the process of cultural heritage protection through the education of the local population, but also professional staff. Mapping of the pilot site and surrounding area would also help in raising awareness about possible weaknesses of the area. Adaptation measures to preserve site from erosion might include changes in land use (especially abandoned agricultural land) and planting trees to stabilize slopes since the region is susceptible to landslides, a natural hazard whose occurrence could be affected by climate change. There is also a need to strengthen monitoring and maintenance of cultural heritage and possibally include cultural heritage protection training exercises.

## 4. Upstreaming at national policy levels

Since no representative of the national level participated in the event, it was more difficult to discuss the possibilities of implementing the presented local measures at the national level. Yet, participants agreed that measures outlined at local level could be used for other parts of region other than the one investigated, especially where similar hazards and heritage construction types can be found. Also, some types of mentioned adaptation measures can be generalized into regional/national policy, for example, strengthening monitoring and maintenance of the sites. Still, the main problem is that adaptation strategy at the governmental level concerning cultural heritage and climate change doesn't exist. For that reason, example of the plot and local measures in this case could primarily be used for rising awareness of methodologies incorporating climate change adaptation, they could bring more information and guidelines on adaptation of cultural heritage to climate change, respectively contribute to protecting the values, integrity, and authenticity of cultural heritage on regional and national level. Also it is important to notice that there would be some difficulties in generalizing all measures from local to regional and national level due to the diversity of typologies of cultural heritage, the different geographical locations of heritage assets and the context in which they are located, and the climatic conditions to which they are exposed.





















