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CULT HERIT 12
RELEX 1529
CULT 125
DEVGEN 192
COASI 194
COEST 694
COAFR 425
MAMA 242
COLAC 176
CIVCOM 308
CFSP/PESC 1714
JAI 1789
ENV 1174
GLOBAL GATEWAY 35

INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Presentation given by a representative of CER (Cultural Emergency Response) at the RELEX Horizontal Questions (International Cultural Relations) meeting of 28 November 2024

Delegations will find in the annex a presentation given by an external stakeholder (Cultural Emergency Response representative) at a meeting of the WP RELEX-HQ (International Cultural Relations) on 28 November 2024. The views expressed in the presentation are solely those of the third party concerned. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council and it does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

Introducing Cultural Emergency Response

Collaborating to Protect Culture in Crisis

28 November 2024
Director



— 2022

To increase impact we continue as an

independent organization





About us

- Cultural Emergency Response (CER) provides fast, flexible financial support to locally-led protection of heritage under threat
- Established in 2021 as an independent organisation
- Working in direct collaboration with local partners (civil society organisations) to decentralise first-aid to culture in crisis
- Prioritising vulnerable regions, community heritage, and hard-to-reach places
- Only organisation in the Netherlands, and one of few globally
- Supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, public and private foundations, and individuals



“We are making sure that our cultural heritage is here for a long time. It’s not so much about the objects, **it’s about people and access to their own cultural heritage.**”

Director of Odesa Museum of Fine Arts & founder of Museum for Change





Strategic Priorities

1. **First-Aid:** quick emergency grants and expertise to help local groups protect cultural heritage during crises.
2. **Decentralised Response Systems:** building strong local teams, networks, and resources, so local actors can respond quickly and effectively whenever crises occur.
3. **Collaborative Impact:** building and strengthening partnerships, promote collaboration across sectors, and advocate for heritage protection during crises.



First-aid to culture in crisis

We provide quick emergency grants and expertise to help local groups protect cultural heritage during crises.

- Always in direct collaboration with **local partners**
- **24/7** open call for emergency support
- **Immediate response** for heritage communities impacted by **conflict, natural hazards, and climate** induced disasters
- **First aid:** we stabilize, document, and evacuate
- Actively **monitor, scout,** and build **networks** for proactive and efficient support in vulnerable areas
- Stimulate and coordinate **international joint cultural emergency response**

By acting swiftly, we prevent irreplaceable heritage from being lost forever, safeguarding the cultural treasures that are vital to communities' identities and histories.





Decentralised Response Systems

We build strong local teams, networks, and resources, so local actors can respond quickly and effectively whenever crises occur.

- Long-term investment to build strengthen local response ecosystems
- Focusing on emergency preparedness and deployment capacity in the most vulnerable regions
- Stimulating exchange, collaboration, and peer support to build strong local networks
- Embedding cultural response in regional structures
- Reducing dependency on external support
- Making cultural first aid accessible

Localising emergency response, shifting leadership to local actors, and building a more inclusive heritage management ecosystem.





Network of CER Regional Hubs

What?

- Deployable and go-to centres of expertise for cultural emergency response at a regional level in crisis-prone areas
- CER Regional Hubs: Central America, the Levant, the Western Balkans, the Caribbean, and the Black Sea

How?

- Focus on improvement of leadership capacities, coordination, and response capability
- Strengthening capacities in first-aid through training and peer learning opportunities
- Advocating for heritage protection as a humanitarian issue
- Pioneering innovative solutions to move the field forward





Training & Network Initiatives

What?

- Enhance localisation by cultivating local networks and bolstering their capabilities as emergency preparedness
- Strengthening practical first-aid capacity
- Creating deployable networks for response and peer support in the most vulnerable areas
- Improve access to international funding & networks

How?

- Tailored Regional Training Courses & network building activities
- Sharing methodologies, manuals & best-practices
- Delivering immediate emergency response through trusted networks of local experts

Local actors are best placed to protect heritage in crisis situations





Collaborative Impact

We build and strengthen partnerships, promote collaboration across sectors, and advocate for heritage protection during crises.

How?

- Fostering partnerships across sectors and borders.
- Advocating for the importance of heritage protection today.
- Promoting collaboration between local communities, international organisations, and diverse stakeholders.
- Amplifying impact through strategic partnerships.
- Integrating heritage protection into broader humanitarian efforts.
- Strengthening response efforts and raising global awareness.

Protecting cultural heritage requires collaboration to ensure that cultural heritage protection is integrated into broader humanitarian efforts.





Collaboration on the EU level

How can the EU and civil society organisations better collaborate to protect cultural heritage?

1. Leveraging funding
2. Enhancing transparency
3. Providing a platform
4. Advocacy!

What could we do better to work better with you?



“We learned that in spite of all kinds of disasters, **people don’t give up on their heritage.**”

Director of NGO Biladi & coordinator
of CER Regional Hub in the Levant



Thank you

28 November 2024

Director

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www.culturalemergency.org