

GUIDELINE TO PROTECT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL HERITAGES AGAINST NATURAL CATASTROPHES

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The riches of Italian historic and artistic heritage, and its distribution on the territory involve a complexity of problems as far as its protection and conservation are concerned. In fact, to the improvements in the restoration techniques did not follow a similar improvement in the capability of safeguard in case of extreme events. Italian cultural heritage is dangerously exposed to such risks; therefore a new and more protective policy is needed. With this in mind the Italian Agency for New Technology Energy and Environment (ENEA) launched a pilot project for defining the most appropriate methodology for natural hazard risk assessment in the case of cultural heritages. The project is based on several case studies, interested from different typology of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, coastal hazards, etc., were to assess the expected risk before developing a correct restoration plan. In fact, very often monuments and cultural heritages in general, are subject to restoration without a specific investigation on the expected risk and, sometime going into works that increase the damage. The aim of the project is then the realisation of guidelines indicating the most appropriate procedure to adopt in the different hazardous situation, in order to minimise the effect of natural phenomena. In such a way it is expected to implement the creation of a modern society resilient to natural disasters and taking care about its own memory: the cultural heritages. In the present project are collaborating several group belonging to both earth science and archaeological/ historic disciplines. Such co-operation it is probably the first remarkable result, since the two domains have rarely been working together in the past for a common target. The present paper is going to illustrate the state of art of the project, still in progress, and to discuss the principles adopted in the met