



PRESS RELEASE

CHEERS, an international project involving 6 European countries to defend alpine cultural heritage from natural disasters

Twelve European partners have started CHEERS - *Cultural HERitagE. Risks and Securing activities*, an international project aimed at protecting the Alpine cultural heritage from natural disasters.

The project - led by the Italian partner Lombardy Foundation for the Environment - **aims at enhancing the protection of Alpine cultural resources**, tackling the still neglected issue of the management of emergency and damages due to natural hazards and **reducing the vulnerability of cultural heritage**, through national and transnational tools and methods, governance schemes and intervention guidelines.

CHEERS, **recognized by the European Commission** as a project contributing to the objectives of the **European Year of Cultural Heritage**, **will be implemented over the next 3 years in the Alpine region**, an environmentally fragile territory rich in **cultural heritage that is an expression of local identities**. The Alps, in fact, host an extraordinary variety of tangible and intangible assets, which are the ground of Alpine people identity and strongly contribute to local economies.

Natural disasters, affecting the Alpine territory and likely to be exacerbated by the climate change, represent a major threat to cultural heritage.

Activities such as risk assessment, hazard reduction, and disaster management focus the attention on the protection of human lives and infrastructures, while the **safeguard of cultural resources** has not been properly addressed yet. CHEERS project brings together **12 partners and more than 30 European observers** to work on this perspective.

CHEERS intends to **integrate three areas of expertise: risk analysis, cultural heritage management, and emergency planning** to support local communities in raising awareness and knowledge about the impact of natural hazards on cultural heritage and increasing the ability to implement policies and measures for heritage protection and salvage management.

Cheers project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme.

For more information: www.alpine-space.eu/cheers





PARTNERSHIP

The project is carried out by 12 partner from 6 European countries.

ITALY

Lombardy Foudation for the Environment (**lead partner**)
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart
Touring Club of Italy

FRANCE

National research institute of science and technology for environment and agriculture
BRGM- French Geological Survey
VALABRE Consortium

SLOVENIA

Slovenian Forestry Institute
Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Centre

AUSTRIA

Austrian Research Center for Forests
Austrian Institute of Technology

GERMANY

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society

SWITZERLAND

University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland

