

Role of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster-Resilient Cultural Heritage: Case of KUMID, Turkiye.

Saadet Guner, Mahmut Aydin | Turkey

Humanity is always in an effort to protect its values and gains against possible risks throughout history. After the hunter-gatherer tribes, human communities living close to water sources and in large groups started the "Agricultural Revolution". In this period, they tried to protect their products against natural and human-induced disasters with the "Storage" Method. This conservation effort is considered as the first experience of disaster management. Today, international Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) such as ICOMOS, ICOM, IUCN...etc. are taken into account as the important stakeholders working for the protection of sacred values, cultural assets and achievements in the peace time and disasters. As an example we can say that UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015) provides a reference to the protection of "cultural heritage" and highlights the "important role that CSOs" play and will play in this context (Articles 24d,24o). KUMID, as a national CSO established in Turkey, has been carrying out projects and activities focused on preventive protection principles and protection of cultural heritage in disasters-disaster management which forms the basis of disaster preparedness. Its last project on this subject was "PROJECT FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN MUSEUMS, 2020". It has been applied within the scope of the "Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) & Academy Cooperation Support Program" implemented under the support of the European Union in Turkey together with Academic Partner Istanbul Aydın University Disaster Training Application and Research Center (İAÜ-AFAM) and Academician Partner Assoc Prof Dr Mahmut AYDIN from Batman University. A GUIDE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTIONS IN MUSEUMS, 2020" which is output of that Project was published in print and digitally. In the Aegean Earthquake and the Tsunami that adversely affected the historical city of Sığacık , İzmir (2020) and in the Kelenderis Ancient City Archaeological Excavation Site (Aydıncık Mersin), which was threatened by the wildfires that occurred in the Mediterranean region of Turkey, (2021) KUMID members took the first step in those areas to conduct documentation before, during and after disasters. It continues activities which are noted by international organizations by giving conferences in municipalities in Turkey aiming at increasing public awareness on disaster preparedness. In the first part of the paper, the history of the protection of cultural heritage and cultural values in disasters will be summarized. In the second part, the activities and EU Projects carried out by KUMID on the protection of cultural heritage at risk in disasters since its establishment (2006) will be explained. In the last part, suggestions will be presented to create disaster-resilient cultural heritage and values in the light of lessons learned from past disasters and applications.