

Media Advisory

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Strasbourg, 11.05.2009

Conference on climate change and cultural heritage

Date: 14-16 May 2009

Location: Ravello (Italy)

Organised by the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement) and the European University Centre for Cultural Heritage ([CUEBC](http://cuebc.org)) in Ravello.

Description: The workshop "[Climate change and cultural heritage](#)" will provide the opportunity to scientists and policy makers to discuss the impact of climate change on cultural heritage, present results of current work and make proposals for research and future co-operation in the field.

The workshop will analyse the effect of earthquakes, floods, storms, extreme weather conditions and landslides on cultural heritage. Among these different agents of climate change, participants will also discuss the impact of water, in particular as regards monuments. According to a report which will be presented at the conference, water can in fact represent a powerful threat. "This may be water as experienced in times of intense rain, flood, or storm surges," says the report. "In a more subtle, yet more pervasive way, one can consider that more intense precipitations cause the overload of the roofs, the overflow of the gutters, infiltrate traditional materials, or deposits pollutants on the buildings' surface. Water is also involved in the humidity change that affects the growth of microorganisms on stone and wood, and the formation of salts that degrade surfaces and influence corrosion."

The Council of Europe has extensive experience both in protection of cultural heritage and prevention of natural and man-made disasters. Since 1987, its [EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement](#) has been promoting relevant researches, awareness raising activities, trainings and workshops in European and Southern Mediterranean countries in the field of major natural and technological disasters. Its field of action covers the knowledge of hazards, risk prevention, risk management, post-crisis analysis and rehabilitation.

Practical information: The event will take place at the **Auditorium of Villa Rufolo in Ravello, from 9.30 am on 14 May to 12.30 pm on 16 May**, and is open to the press.

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