



Disaster risk management for cultural heritage and earthquakes

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A hazard map cannot be related to a disaster map and disasters are only the consequence of inappropriately managed risk. Construction history is full of examples of lack of success. The importance of ancient constructions has been for long exclusively associated with the use of the building, meaning that successive changes were made to the building in order to fulfill its new function. Presently, modern societies understand built cultural heritage as a landmark of culture and diversity, which should last forever, being the task of the current generation to deliver the heritage in good shape for the generations to come. This act of culture poses high demands to engineers because deterioration is intrinsic to life.

European countries have developed throughout the years a valuable experience and knowledge in the field of conservation and restoration. In recent years, large investments have been concentrated in this field, leading to impressive developments in the areas of inspection, non-destructive testing, monitoring and structural analysis of historical constructions.

The presentation will address aspects related to disasters, risk and earthquake, discussing guidelines for future reuse and conservation projects, providing safer, economical and more adequate remedial measures, and concluding with some statements for discussion.