ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Preserve or Perish: Digital Opportunities for Managing Mediterranean Island Cultural Heritage

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Abstract

Mediterranean islands have rich cultural landscapes, featuring many archaeological sites and museums. However, factors such as coastal flooding, erosion, and looting to name just a few threaten the preservation of this heritage. While the risk of destruction is acknowledged, the full extent of these risks remains unclear, as risk assessments tend to focus on World Heritage Sites (UNESCO WHS), which represent only a small percentage of the cultural wealth of those islands. This poster examines the cultural heritage of the Eastern Mediterranean, specifically Greek islands and Cyprus. By mapping the geographical distribution of cultural assets, the study lays the foundation for assessing the digital readiness of cultural heritage institutions. Digitalization is essential for both the preservation and promotion of heritage, yet findings reveal a low level of technological integration across the sector. This gap highlights the urgent need for cultural heritage professionals to adopt new approaches and tools. In this framework the poster points out the necessity to incorporate digital strategies into national development plans, suggesting best practices and emphasizing the use of free digital tools to meet basic digitalization needs.

Keywords

digitalization, Mediterranean islands, cultural Heritage, digital strategy, free tools

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