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PALAZZO ZORZI

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF VENICE 1966 UNESCO's involvement with the City of Venice initiated the same day of the disastrous flood which devastated Venice and Florence on 4th. November 1966 when the Italian Government made an appeal for aid to the 14th. Session of the UNESCO General Conference which was being convened at the same time. The Conference responded immediately by adopting a Resolution and on 2nd. December 1966, the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. R. Maheu, officially launched the "International Campaign for Florence and Venice". Establishment of a Ministerial Committee for the Study of Measures suitable for the defence and Safeguard of Venice better known as the "Public Works Committee 1966", sessions in which, on many an occasion, UNESCO participated.



Venice Flood 1966

MEMORANDUM UNESCO & THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT 1967 On 15th. March 1967, in a memorandum concerning Venice (doc. 76EX/13 Add.) the Italian Government invited UNESCO to play an active role in an international action. A few months later, in order to identify the needs of Venice for the purpose of UNESCO's action and to attract the attention of public leaders and institutions in various countries, the Italian Government and UNESCO organised jointly an international Meeting for the Protection of the cultural property of Florence and Venice. The conference expressed the hope to see UNESCO "continue to disseminate information" and "intensify its efforts to solicit and obtain contributions from governments and from public and private sources and that the Government of Italy, in agreement with UNESCO, would set up in Venice an international technical advisory committee.

PRIVATE COMMITTEES FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF VENICE UNESCO LIAISON OFFICE 1973 In the first 7 years of the Campaign for the Safeguarding of Venice, UNESCO brought international public awareness to the difficulties and problems the City of Venice was continually facing. The Campaign also elaborated updated scientific and technical studies which lead to an exhaustive plan to safeguard not only the historic centre of Venice, its monuments and its cultural heritage but also its surrounding Lagoon. In 1973, the Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice were established. Major contributions collected from these worldwide private committees/organisations were (and still are today) channelled through UNESCO to be used for the restoration and preservation of Venice and its Lagoon. The office of the Campaign was originally located in Rome, but in accordance with Italian Government was transferred to

Venice in the Appartimenti Reali located in St. Mark's Square and became known as the UNESCO Liaison Office for the Safeguarding of Venice.

VENICE & ITS LAGOON - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST 1987 The Italian Parliament ratified the World Heritage Convention (1978) which resulted that the Government would accept specific political commitments towards the restoration and preservation of Venice. During the 24th. Session of the General Conference (1987) a strategy for International Safeguarding campaigns was approved. It noted that with regards to Venice the Campaign launched in 1966 had generally met the objectives it had set out to achieve. Venice and its Lagoon remained a recognised part of the world cultural heritage to be protected as a share trust and a share responsibility for the nations of the world within the framework of UNESCO's activities relating to international standards. On 11th. December 1987, the City of Venice and its Lagoon were officially included in the UNESCO World Heritage List established under the convention concerning the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by UNESCO in 1972.



Venice Lagoon

UNESCO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (ROSTE) 1989 As a follow up to the MINESPOL I Conference (Recommendations Part IV B, Point 53 c) and in accordance with Resolutions 5.551 and 2.111 on European co-operation adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in its 15th. Session, in order to establish within UNESCO an appropriate mechanism to act as a regional bureau for scientific co-operation, a Bureau was created during the autumn of 1971. From 1974, it was operational as a separate unit attached to the Office of the Assistant Director General for Science at the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris, France. During the 24th. Session of the UNESCO General Conference (1987), several European Delegates underlined the vital importance of establishing international co-operation especially regional co-operation in the strengthening of science and technology in Europe. In 1988, following the proposal of the Italian Government to host and support the activities of the UNESCO Bureau for Scientific Co-operation, the Bureau was relocated to Venice, Italy and renamed as the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Europe (ROSTE). On behalf of the Italian Government, the Italian National Research Council (CNR) provided substantial financial and logistical support to ROSTE and its activities. Office facilities were provided by the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) at Palazzo Loredan degli Ambasciatori. In order to receive on a permanent basis the most qualified advice on the contents of the major scientific programmes and projects being carried out by ROSTE, as well as on the more appropriate mechanism for their implementation, and following the discussions which took place at the 10th Regional Conference of National Commissions in Europe, 10-15 April, 1989 in Berlin, GDR, it was decided to establish a Scientific Council of ROSTE. After consultations with some European National Commissions for UNESCO and leading governmental and non-governmental scientific organizations of a national and international nature, the creation of this body was announced in the presence of the Director General during the International Symposium on "Man, Science and Society on the Threshold of the Year 2000" held on 5-7 July 1989 at the G. Cini Foundation in Venice, Italy.

FOLLOW UP TO RESOLUTION 2.2 OF THE 26TH. SESSION OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE 1991 In accordance to various recommendations elaborated by consultative meetings and decisions taken by the 24th., 25th. and namely the 26th. Sessions of the UNESCO General Conference, i.e., Resolution 2.2 on "Regional Co-operation in Science and Technology with Particular Reference to the New Situation in Europe" ROSTE was encouraged to play a significant role in the implementation of UNESCO's scientific activities to cover the following disciplines and areas of interest: Basic Sciences including mathematics, physics, biotechnology, virology, bio medical research, and applied chemistry extended to the European and Mediterranean regions; Engineering and Applied Research and Energy Oriented Activities to include co-operation with European Physics Society (EPS), ENEA, Moscow International Energy Club and numerous research and training centres of European Member States for energy and new materials as well as sound environmental technologies; Environment with major attention paid to socio-economic and legal problems of environmental protection in Europe and to new clean technologies namely in energy production and utilisation; Research and Innovation Management; Socio-Economic and Cultural Dimensions of Science and Technology such as energy and culture; environment and society; society and democracy; transformation of scientific communities in Europe - brain drain, legislation of science in Europe, organisational structures of science in Europe, peer review, military conversion and science, science and society in general, science application to problems of cultural heritage, scientific approaches in tourism management in art cities.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNESCO & THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT 1995 In July 1993, with the support of Sen. T. Caretoni, President of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the idea to elaborate an international agreement between UNESCO and the Italian Government concerning the development and strengthening of ROSTE and UNESCO's role within the Italian territory was moved. It was decided that a Group of Experts headed by Prof. G. Salvini, President of the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* and President of the Science Committee of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO be established. The Group of Experts selected by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by UNESCO elaborated a draft agreement between UNESCO and the Italian Government concerning ROSTE indicating various areas of joint scientific and technological co-operation and new areas of involvement within mutual project activities. An exhaustive summary report was prepared by the Group of Experts and submitted to the Italian Government and UNESCO in January 1994. On 25 January 1995, the agreement prepared by the Group of Experts was signed by the Director General of UNESCO, Prof. F. Mayor and by Ambassador G. Leo, the Italian Permanent Delegate to UNESCO on behalf of the Italian Government, in Paris, France. The agreement, ratified by the Italian Parliament on 4 June 1997 (Law n.163), came into force in July 1997 after an exchange of official notes between UNESCO and Italy on this matter. Under this agreement, both UNESCO and the Government of Italy would contribute annually to ROSTE's activities and their implementation including staff and other relevant costs to the Office's functioning. A separate three-party agreement was established between UNESCO, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of Venice in order to guarantee a more appropriate office location in Venice due to the expansion and enlargement of activities and staff. The Municipality of Venice offered the historical Palazzo Zorzi as ROSTE's new premises while the Italian Government the funds for its restoration. The agreement also defined the ROSTE's organisational framework consisting of two statutory bodies: the Steering Committee (to formulate the general guidelines and recommend appropriate ways for the carrying out of ROSTE's activities) and the Scientific Council (main advisory body to help identifying fields to which ROSTE may contribute).



View of Punta della Salute from the Isle of San Giorgio, Venice (Italy)

UNESCO VENICE OFFICE (UVO) 1998 In order to better identify field offices located throughout the world, it was decided that UNESCO decentralised offices and units would be recognised using the name of the city which hosts their premises. Thus, UNESCO's presence in Venice became the UNESCO Venice Office (UVO) with two branches namely, the Regional Office for Science and Technology for Europe (UVO-ROSTE) and the Liaison Office for the Safeguarding of Venice (UVO-LO). UVO's activities during 1999 were focused on the implementation of the UNESCO Programme and Budget approved by the 29th session of the General Conference for the 1998–1999 biennium as well as of the recommendations of the UVO-ROSTE Scientific Council and of the Steering Committee concerning UVO-ROSTE's actions in Europe and in the Mediterranean within the framework of the Agreement between UNESCO and the Italian Government concerning ROSTE. 1999, initial stage in the implementation of the above Agreement which substantially reinforced the Offices' actions within the scope of its responsibilities, UVO made a significant contribution to the widening of east-west and south-north cooperation by providing financial and intellectual assistance to scientific and cultural initiatives of European member states of UNESCO by undertaking cooperative actions within major programmes and projects of UNESCO. Particular attention was paid to the mobility of young scientists from central and eastern European countries by providing special and favourable conditions for their participation in regional and international scientific events, summer schools and training courses. The number of short term and long term fellowships granted to young researchers was also significantly increased.

ROSTE IN THE PROCESS OF DECENTRALISATION 2001 Following the recommendations of the 30th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, UVO's mandate was defined in terms of promoting and facilitating activities on science, technology and culture, between Western Europe and the Central and Eastern European Countries, and of strengthening cooperation between Europe and Southern Mediterranean countries. The Director General elected during this session, Mr Koichiro Matsuura (Japan), appointed Director of UNESCO Venice Office Mr Pierre Lasserre (France). Mr Lasserre, a marine biologist and oceanographer, former director of the Station Biologique Roscoff (SBR), from 1993-1999 Director of the UNESCO Division of Ecological Sciences and Secretary-General of the International Council for the Co-ordination of the MAB Programme (MAB), Focal Point, UNESCO-Cousteau Ecotechny Programme, took

service in July 1999. During the World Conference on "Science for the Twenty-First Century: A New Commitment", (Budapest, Hungary, 26 June–1 July 1999), UNESCO Venice Office organised a first Special Meeting of Ministers and Senior Experts in Science Policies from Central and Eastern European countries (Budapest, 29 June 1999). The Meeting recognised the importance of regular consultations in the field of science policy making both ministerial and expert levels stressing the need to bridge the gap between Eastern and Western Europe. A second Meeting (Paris, 6 November 1999), organised within the framework of the follow-up of the WCS and the 30th. General Conference of UNESCO, the organisation and its Venice Office were encouraged. Within the frame of UNESCO field strategy set out in the Decentralization Action Plan endorsed by the governing bodies (Report 161 EX/5, 18 May 2001), the structure of the decentralization system at UNESCO was based on the concept of cluster, i.e. a group of countries served by a single multidisciplinary office. UNESCO new field network was accordingly formed and composed of 27 cluster offices and 13 regional bureaux, among ROSTE in Venice renamed "Regional Bureau for Science in Europe". ROSTE, in connection with the Sector of Natural Sciences under the co-ordination of the Bureau for Field Coordination (BFC), started to play an important catalytic role to implement regional activities, shifting to more integrated activities: Multidisciplinary Co-operative Projects (MCP) longer-term activities focused on specific themes, Workshops and Exploratory Projects (WEP) to enable scientists to come together and to examine topical scientific issues in the field of sciences– including conferences, workshops, schools, training courses, Scientific Network capacity (SNetC) intended to be interdisciplinary in character and primarily orientated towards co-ordinating activities that stimulate and consolidate the European scientific community in specific fields. to propose further initiatives in developing the European Partnership in Science.



Palazzo Zorzi

PALAZZO ZORZI 2002 In March 2002, ROSTE successfully transferred its activities to Palazzo Zorzi, the extended facilities freshly-restored by the Government of Italy and under commodatum of the Municipality of Venice. Palazzo Zorzi dates back to the XIV century and was designed by the famous Italian architect Mauro Codussi around 1480, reutilising some foundations and walls of a series of older buildings previously built in the XIVth century. It is a major opportunity for UNESCO in terms of creating a polyvalent/multidisciplinary centre for science and culture: Documentation & Information Unit established on the "mezzanine" to promote and disseminate information and knowledge for the future generations, Conference hall and Meeting rooms on the "piano nobile", equipped with all the modern technologies. In July 2002, UNESCO Liaison Office (LO) will join UNESCO ROSTE (Regional Bureau for Science in Europe) at Palazzo Zorzi.

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