

Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Issue 3 • 2014

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Venice Office
Regional Bureau for Science
and Culture in Europe

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

Summer School on Education for Sustainable Development in Protected Areas and Biosphere Reserves
Amfissa, Greece. 6-19 July 2014

The Rijeka Crnojevića Bridge Speaks
Centije, Montenegro. 18-19 July 2014

10th anniversary of the reconstruction of the Mostar Bridge
Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 23 July 2014

"Cantus Planus" International Seminar
San Servolo, Venice, Italy. 28 July -1 August 2014

SEPTEMBER

Third Advanced Underwater Archaeology Course offered by the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology
Pula, Croatia. 15-27 September 2014

Inception workshop « Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region »
Pogradec, Albania. 15-16 September 2014

2nd South East European (SEE) Regional Workshop on Science Communication
Podgorica, Montenegro. 19-22 September 2014

XXVI Conference of the Danubian Countries on Hydrological Forecasting and Hydrological Bases of Water Management
Deggendorf, Germany. 22-24 September 2014

Eastern Europe and Central Asia review meeting of the Global Capacity-Building Strategy for the Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Sofia, Bulgaria. 23-26 September 2014

Third International Forum of NGOs: The role of youth in the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage
Sofia and Sozopol, Bulgaria. 28-30 September 2014

Regional meeting on the implementation and ratification of the 2001 Convention in ICUA
Zadar, Croatia. 30 September – 1 October 2014

OCTOBER

ARCH Cross-cutting workshop - Architecture and Road map to manage multiple pressures on Lagoons
Venice, Italy. 8-9 October 2014

IncREO Final User Validation Workshop: Use case Shkodra area
Tirana, Albania. 9 October 2014

Inauguration of the Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve
Korca, Albania. 13 October 2014

Training workshop on the Fight against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property
Rome, Italy 13-17 October 2014

IncREO Final User Validation Workshop: Alpage
Venice, Italy. 15-17 October 2014

6th edition of the European River Restoration Conference, integrated with the Final event of the SEE River project
Vienna, Austria. 27-29 October 2014

NOVEMBER

Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Tourism Planning Workshop in South-East Europe
Sofia, Bulgaria. 3-6 November 2014

International Conference "Analysis and Management of Changing Risks for Natural Hazards" - IncREO
Padua, Italy. 8-19 November 2014

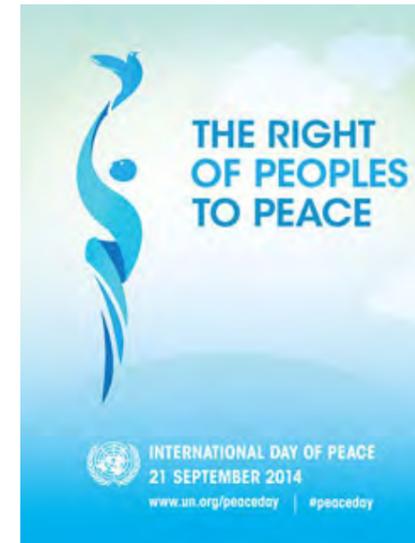
Travelling exhibit on Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century
Athens, Greece. 10 November 2014 – 19 April 2015

Intensive training on the conservation of ceramics
Tirana, Albania. 16-29 November 2014

14th Ordinary session of the Steering Committee
Venice, Italy. 19 November 2014

DECEMBER

5th Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)
Zagreb, Croatia. 2 December 2014



The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

Shaping together the future we want through youth policies made for you with you!



When carrying out its Youth Strategy, UNESCO uses different definitions of youth depending on the context. For activities at the international or regional level, UNESCO uses the United Nations' universal definition which defines "youth" as persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. This is to ensure statistical consistency across regions. For activities at the national level, for example when implementing a local community youth programme, "youth" may be understood in a more flexible manner. UNESCO will then adopt the definition of "youth" as used by a particular Member State.

© UNESCO - Shaping together the future we want

Dear reader,

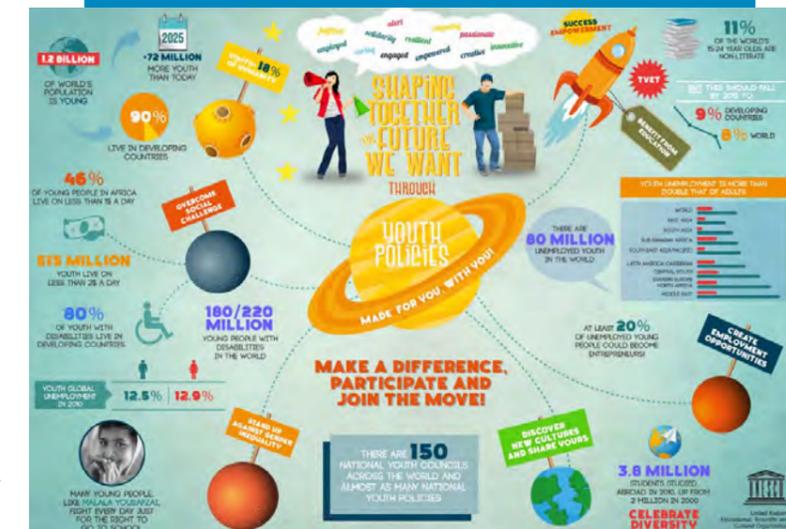
I am pleased to invite you to discover this year's third issue of our quarterly electronic newsletter, "Bridges".

Following the August retirement of our Director, Yolanda Valle-Neff, to whom I wish to pay tribute within these pages, I am honoured to have been asked to serve as Officer-in-Charge of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe until a new Director is appointed. During this period, the Office has maintained the momentum achieved under Ms. Valle-Neff's leadership and accomplished much over the past three months.

As you may know, UNESCO has been working steadily to promote the idea of equitable and sustainable development, both in theory and in practice, in all of its ongoing activities and this Office is no exception: at the first conference of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe, discussions focused on "Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development" (p.3); the 3rd UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries also sought to link sustainable development with creativity and the cultural industries (p.8). Science and environment activities also naturally incorporate sustainable development, such as for the sustainable transboundary management of the Sava River Basin (p.6) and the Ohrid Lake Region (p.4).

As 2015 will see a lot of important events and changes taking place, from the participation of this Office in the Expo 2015 initiative to the finalization of the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals as the successor to the UN's Millennium Development Goals, we encourage you to "stay tuned" for more exciting news and events undertaken by this Office as it implements its mandate in the region in close cooperation with all its partners.

Véronique Dauge
Officer in charge, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe



>> all events

OHRID, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Situated on the shores of Lake Ohrid, the town of Ohrid is one of the oldest human settlements in Europe. Built mainly between the 7th and 19th centuries, it has the oldest Slav monastery (St Pantelejmon) and more than 800 Byzantine-style icons dating from the 11th to the end of the 14th century



▲ © Graciela Gonzalez Brigas, Aneta Ribarska - Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region

New Regional Cooperation Strategy approved by Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe



▲ © UNESCO, Group photo at the First Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe, Ohrid, June 2014

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, opened the first conference of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe “Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development”, which took place in Ohrid on 28 June under the chairpersonship of Elizabeta Kanchevska-Milevska, Minister of Culture of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The event was organised with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy). In her address, Irina Bokova welcomed the ministers and high level decision-makers in attendance, stressing the importance of the initiative’s message and timing, and calling on the countries of South-East Europe to play a decisive role in promoting the power of culture in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

This was the first meeting of the new, unified platform for ministerial cooperation in the region, following the decision taken the previous year by the ministers of culture of South-East European (SEE) countries to merge the two previous cooperation platforms that had operated side by side for almost

a decade. In Ohrid, ministers and heads of delegation in attendance approved the statute of the new programme, which will represent the leading initiative for cultural cooperation in SEE. It consisted of two sessions – a preparatory meeting of officials (27 June) followed by the meeting of the ministers and heads of delegations (28 June). The new “Regional Strategy for Cultural Cooperation in South East Europe” – dubbed the “Ohrid Strategy” – approved on the second day, outlined priority areas for future cooperation and modalities of action to enhance culture as a driver for sustainable development.

As part of the Strategy, participants underscored the priorities for cultural cooperation in South-East Europe: improving the management

of cultural heritage for inclusive economic development and environmental sustainability, fighting the illicit trafficking of cultural property, safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, fostering creativity and diversity, and enhancing cultural and arts education. Activities implemented in these fields shall



▲ © UNESCO, Group photo at the First Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe, Ohrid, June 2014; UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, with Elizabeta Kanchevska-Milevska, Minister of Culture of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Goran Svilanovic, Secretary-General of the Regional Cooperation Council, June 2014

aim at reinforcing cooperation, developing institutional and professional capacities, improving legal and institutional frameworks, promoting culture for development through education and regional partnerships. The Council undertook to assess activities relating to the regional cooperation process and adapt the Strategy to allow for changing circumstances.

The conference also provided an opportunity for Irina Bokova to

hold bilateral meetings with the ministers of culture of Serbia and of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as with the Secretary-General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). In particular, the meeting with the RCC paved the way for the establishment of a cooperation programme



The event marked the 10th anniversary of the regional cooperation process that began in Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in 2004, on the occasion of the opening of the reconstructed Old Bridge, when the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy jointly convened the first Ministerial

focus on the implementation of the Culture for Development Indicators Suite in Albania, Serbia, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which could be potentially financed by the RCC and managed by UNESCO. At the end of the conference, Turkey took over the rotating yearly chairmanship of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe – Enhancing Culture for Development, and will host the next conference of the Council in 2015.

Conference on Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe, which then developed into a yearly meeting supported by UNESCO.

This event was organized within the overall framework of UNESCO’s global initiative “Culture: A Bridge to Development”, which aims to develop innovative solutions for the safeguarding of culture in all its forms, as a tool for sustainable social, economic and human development. >>full story

Culture stands at the heart of the sustainable development, as a force for dialogue and social cohesion

On 28 June 2014, Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, opened the first conference of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe in Ohrid.

The Director-General welcomed this timely gathering of ministers and high level decision-makers from South-East Europe in order to define coordinated policies and courses of actions to address current and future challenges in regional cultural cooperation. “This is a time to renew our commitment and to open a new chapter in our work, with an integrated and unified platform for ministerial cooperation”, said the Director-General. “I see this also as an opportunity for UNESCO

to deepen direct cooperation with participating countries and to reinforce its partnership with the European Union, the Council of Europe and others”, she underlined.

In her speech, Irina Bokova emphasised on the strong linkage between culture and sustainable development. She called the countries of South-East Europe to play a decisive role in promoting the power of culture in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. “I welcome this new platform all the more strongly, given its emphasis on the nexus between culture and sustainable development”, she said. “Culture brings sustainability of development -- by making it

meaningful to people, by deepening ownership and participation, by making sure it is of the people, for the people, and by the people”.

The conference in Ohrid was organized within the overall framework of UNESCO’s global initiative “Culture: A Bridge to Development”, which aims to develop innovative solutions for the safeguarding of culture in all its forms, as a tool for social, economic and human development. The meeting adopted a new “Regional strategy for cultural cooperation in South-East Europe”, which sets forth the priorities and modalities of action for future cooperation efforts. >>full story

EU and UNESCO join forces for the natural and cultural heritage of the transboundary Lake Ohrid region

Over 20 representatives from Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia participated in the workshop, including the respective Ministries of Environment and Culture, protected area authorities, representatives from the EU Delegation to Albania, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN.

“Lake Ohrid is one of the oldest lakes in the world, characterized by numerous exceptional natural and cultural features. It enjoys multiple national and international designations, including World Heritage, Biosphere Reserve, and Protected Landscape. It deserves our full support towards its sustainable development as one of the exemplary protected areas in South-Eastern Europe”, said Boris Erg, Director of IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe.

“This project demonstrates the strong commitment of Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to cooperate on an international level for the protection of the unique transboundary Lake Ohrid region and to safeguard its natural and cultural values for the benefit of future generations”, stated Sinisa Sesum, Head of Antenna Office in Sarajevo, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice.

On 15 and 16 September 2014, the Inception Workshop in Pogradec, Albania, kick-started the 36-month project co-financed by the European Union and the Government of Albania « Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region » aimed at the protection and sustainable development of the Lake Ohrid region.

Lake Ohrid is one of the oldest lakes in the world, embracing numerous exceptional natural and cultural features. The region’s striving for balancing conservation with sustainable development is reflected in the Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed ratified in 2005 by Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The European Union has partnered with UNESCO in this joint management project aimed at supporting the efforts of Albania and of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to sustainably develop the fragile Lake Ohrid region shared between the two countries.

The project is designed to address the main threats affecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region. It is aimed at strengthening

transboundary cooperation over the region’s cultural and natural heritage, helping recognize and profile the trans-boundary area by assessing its values and sustainable development opportunities, improving capacities for the effective management of natural and cultural heritage, supporting integrated management planning based on active cross-sectorial cooperation and public participation.

The project will have a particular focus on building lasting cross-sectorial cooperation, especially in the fields of sustainable tourism development, and awareness-raising for natural and cultural heritage protection and on the importance of appropriate waste management.

The project also aims to support the efforts of the national authorities in the framework of the World Heritage Upstream process to explore innovative approaches for the preparation of nomination files, and in particular for the extension to Albania of the World Heritage property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region”, already recognized in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979.

The duration of the project is 36 months with an overall budget of

2.64 million USD is funded by the European Union with a contribution of approximately 2.4 million USD (1.7 million EUR). The 10% co-financing Agreement between the Albanian

Ministry of Environment and UNESCO is currently under preparation. The project will be carried by UNESCO in close partnership with the Governments of Albania and of

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as the 3 Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention: ICOMOS International, IUCN and ICCROM. [>>full story](#)

10th anniversary of the reconstruction of the Mostar Bridge celebrates peace and dialogue in the region

On 23 July 2014, a ceremony was held in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to mark the 10th anniversary of the reconstruction of the Old Bridge. It was attended by the Head of the UNESCO Antenna Office in Sarajevo, who joined the Mayor of Mostar, members of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, representatives of international organisations and of countries around the world in celebrating this important event.



©S. Wolter - Divers at the Mostar Bridge

The ceremony represented a valuable opportunity to stress the role that cultural heritage has to play as an expression of identity and as an instrument of reconciliation and tolerance. The Old Bridge of Mostar, which dates back to 1566 and for centuries acted as a physical and symbolic link between the various communities of the multi-ethnic town, was destroyed by bombing in 1993, in a deliberate attempt to erase a people’s cultural identity.

UNESCO provided technical and scientific expertise for the reconstruction work that began in 1999, funded by the World Bank, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, Croatia, the Council of Europe Development Bank and the City of Mostar, and the new bridge was inaugurated 5 years later, on 23 July 2004. Today, the reconstructed Old Bridge of

Mostar stands as a reminder to local communities of their shared past and encourages the international community to strengthen its commitment to safeguarding cultural property in times of conflict.

As well as providing an important occasion to reflect on the continued importance of intercultural dialogue and cooperation, the Anniversary saw the inauguration of a new museum – MuM (Muzej Mostar). The museum, located in the vicinity of the Old Bridge and within the World Heritage site, was renovated with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo, SeeNet, Regione Toscana – in partnership with Oxfam Italy, the City of Mostar and the Museum of Herzegovina - Mostar. The museum was officially opened on 23 July 2014 by the Mayor of Mostar, Ljubo Beslic,

and the representative of the Italian Embassy to Bosnia and Herzegovina. As part of the event, a forum entitled “Mostar 10 years after” was held on the afternoon of 23 July. It was organized by the City of Mostar in cooperation with the NGO “Infiniti Heritage from Mostar”, and it provided an excellent platform to present a number of infrastructure projects implemented in Mostar following the reconstruction of the Old Bridge, and to introduce new initiatives that could contribute to the improvement of living standards in Mostar. The scale of the event was revised in view of the devastating floods that swept through the region in April 2014, as organisers chose to forego much of the funding, which was used instead to aid the victims and help with the reconstruction efforts. [>>full story](#)



©Erlend Bjørtvedt - Old Town of Mostar



©Wiki Commons - Old Bridge in September 2008 after reconstruction



©Erlend Bjørtvedt - Old Town of Mostar



©Neoneo13 - Bazar at Old Bridge in Mostar



▲ © Wiki commons - Podgorica Cityscape

South-East European Communication Workshop in Montenegro

The South-East European (SEE) Regional Workshop on Science Communication was held in Podgorica from 20-22 September 2014. The event gathered 30 science journalists and communicators from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, the United States of America and, Montenegro.

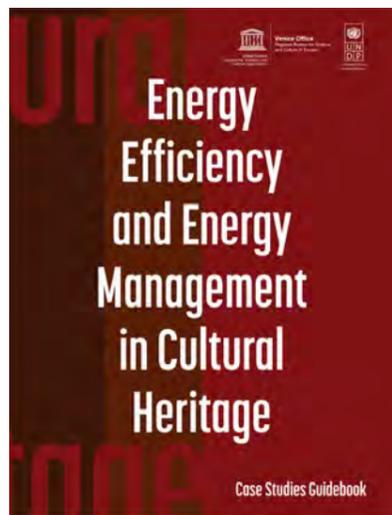
The first edition of the workshop was held in Belgrade, Serbia, in October 2013. This specialized SEE regional training workshop on science journalism was very well received by the 16 journalists and communicators from South-East Europe who attended. It was the first tangible result to discussions held during a parallel session organized by the UNESCO Venice Office at the international public communication of science and technology conference (PCST 2012) in Florence, Italy, and as a follow-up to the recommendations endorsed during the SEE Ministerial Round Table on Science, Technology and Innovation convened in 2012 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This second workshop was jointly organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe located in Venice, Italy, UNDP and the Ministry of Science of Montenegro. Fabio Turone, president of the professional association of Science Writers in

Italy and among the founders of the new European Federation for Science Journalism, has coordinated the workshop in Podgorica. It discussed the challenges and share innovative ways of covering science in the media. The themes of this year's edition included how to deal with risk and uncertainty; using the social media for science journalism; pseudoscience vs. science; when neuroscience enters the legal system;

how to evaluate, and improve, the quality of health reporting; the meaning of "balance" in science reporting.

The workshop was opened by the Minister of Science of Montenegro, Sanja Vlahovic, the Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO of Montenegro, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro. [>>full story](#)



▲ © Guidebook: Energy Efficiency and Energy Management in Cultural Heritage

This guidebook includes works and examples presented at the International Conference on Energy Management in Cultural Heritage held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 6-8 April 2011. It represents an excellent first step towards establishing national guidelines and recommendations for energy efficiency improvement

Released Case studies Guidebook: Energy Efficiency and Energy Management in Cultural Heritage

2014. 125 pages. Published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Croatia with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy)

during renovation of listed buildings. A multidisciplinary approach to energy renovation and synergies between heritage buildings and application of contemporary principles of energy efficiency is the only correct approach to systematic management of existing buildings.

In accordance with the conclusions reached at the 2011 Conference, the Croatian legislation introduced mandatory regular energy audits and certifications of heritage buildings, thus providing the first and necessary step towards the implementation of energy efficiency measures in those valuable and important buildings. [>>full story](#)

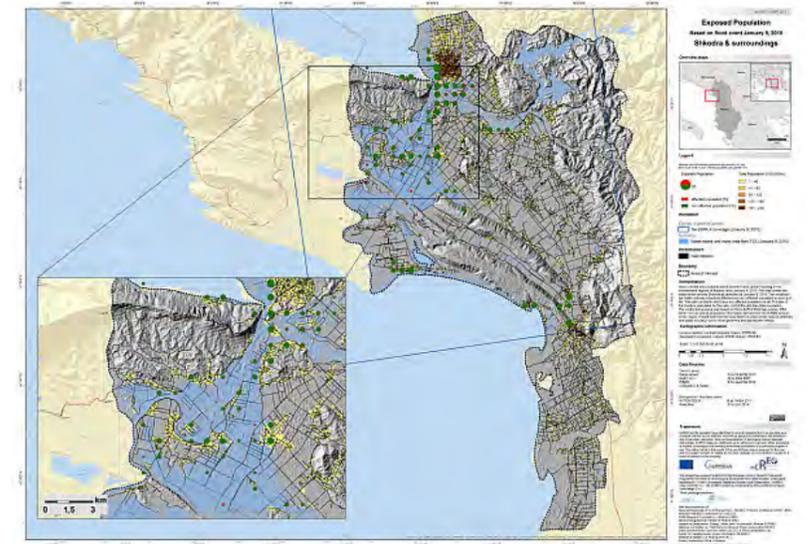
IncREO Final User Validation Workshop: Use case Shkodra area

This workshop to take place on 9 October 2014 in Tirana, Albania, is part of the planned activities of the EU project IncREO. The event is jointly organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), the General Directorate for Civil Emergencies of Albania, and the Albanian National Commission of UNESCO, with the assistance of the Geoville Group (Austria) and of CIMA Research Foundation Albania.

IncREO, which has been designed in support of emergency response management and risk-preparedness, aims at providing actors responsible for disaster management, risk prevention, civil protection and also spatial planning with Earth Observation (EO)-based solutions, contributing particularly to an improved preparedness and mitigation planning for areas highly vulnerable to natural disasters.

The related workshop will involve project partners and end-users in order to assess and validate the updated products developed by Geoville: flood exposure analysis related to the Region of Shkodra, derived from a merging process out of EO imagery and in situ data.

The workshop is an important step to present and finalize the digital flood exposure maps as well as data to be made available to the government of Albania and to be fully operationalized into the DEWETRA system. The workshop will foresee the participation of those departments and agencies which gave a relevant contribution during the data gathering phase of the project.



▲ Geoville - population exposed to flood, Shkodra, Albania

The setting up of such a multi-stakeholders consultation is propaedeutic for fine tuning the newly developed digital maps with the requirements of main users involved in forecasting, preparedness and managing of disasters in the chosen testing area.

Representatives of the following organizations will be invited to take part in the workshop: Ministry of Interior, General Directorate for Civil Emergency, Albania; CIMA Research Foundation - International Centre on Environmental Monitoring; Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE); Prefecture of Shkodra; Institute of Statistics; and, National Committee on High Dams, Swiss Cooperation Agency, Pöyry Switzerland Ltd.

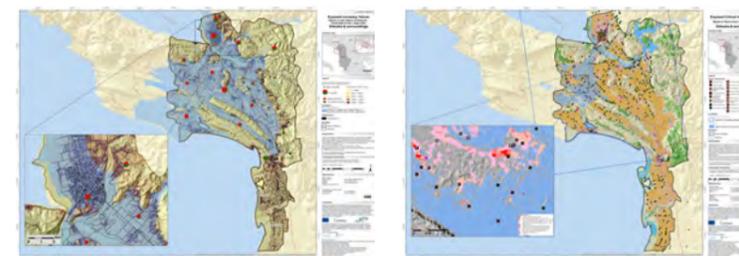
User representatives will be requested to assess and validate the elaborated

digital products, so as to finalize well-tailored EO-derived products, capable to match its multi-scale definition and the multipurpose applications required by the end users and by the nature of the testing site.

The workshop intends to bring around a common table the General Directorate for Civil Emergencies of Albania, as first and main end user of the project, with identified stakeholders operating and being involved in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and preparedness in the area of Shkodra Lake. The aim is to present and share the products of IncREO at their end stage in order to acquire a final users' feedback based on technical refinement during the second and final year of the project lifespan. This will mainly be done by the submission of a specific questionnaire to be followed by an open discussion.

IncREO - Increasing Resilience through Earth Observation - (FP7-SPACE-2012-1) is funded by the European Commission under the programme Copernicus, which aims to enhance the EU's capacity in Global Monitoring for Environment and Security. The UNESCO Venice Office is a partner of the project which is coordinated by Astrium Services.

[>>full story](#)



▲ © Geoville - Shkodra, Albania: exposed monetary values - dam failure, exposed critical infrastructure - flood



▲ © Wien Tourismus / MAXUM

Announced HydroEco'2015 Multidisciplinary Conference on Hydrology and Ecology in Vienna, Austria

Save the dates: 13-16 April 2015 for the 5th International Multidisciplinary Conference on Hydrology and Ecology: Advances in Monitoring, Predicting and Managing Hydroecological Processes.

The HydroEco'2015 Conference is jointly convened by: Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (BOKU), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria; International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS); and, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. It is organized by the Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (BOKU), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienn. Scientific Sponsors and Institutional Supporters include: UNESCO, Division of Water Sciences.

The aim of this fifth HydroEco conference – after the 4 previous meetings, in Czech Republic in 2006, in Austria in 2009 and 2011, and in France in 2013 – is fourfold: to present new findings and approaches on interactions between hydrology and ecology; to promote interdisciplinary interactions on water related issues between hydrology, hydrogeology, biogeochemistry, microbial ecology and ecology; to explore advances in monitoring, modelling and predicting dynamics of hydroecological processes; and, to discuss management approaches and applications to tackle environmental issues, including engineering measures for ecosystem preservation and

restoration of ecologically valuable environments.

To address the relevant issues, the conference aims to bring together experts from different disciplines such as hydrologists (groundwater, surface water), ecologists, biologists, subsurface microbiologists, environmental biogeochemists, ecotechnologists, geomorphologists, hydraulic engineers, forest managers, nature reserve managers, regional and landscape planners, as well as experts from governmental institutions. The unifying theme

is the interaction between groundwater and (or) surface water and ecological systems. A typical example is the hyporheic zone in riparian areas, where the ecological system interacts with water and chemical flows between surface water, groundwater and unsaturated soil zone.

The Conference provides a contribution to the implementation of the Eight Phase of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP-VIII, 2014-2021).

[>>full story](#)

Sava River Basin, showcase towards practical guidance of Sustainable Sediment Management



▲ ©Towards Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase: Estimation of Sediment Balance for the Sava River

The sediment balance for the main Sava River course has been analysed, considering the input from the main tributaries, and thus to form a basis for sustainable transboundary sediment and water management. Both the 12-page booklet and the 98-page final report of BALSES are now available online.

The Sava River Basin is shared by 5 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia, while a negligible part of the basin area also extends to Albania.

Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia are Parties of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB).

The implementation body of the FASRB is the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) which is responsible for development of joint plans and programs regarding the sustainable water management among others. ISRBC has developed the Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB which affirms the need for efficient cooperation among the Parties and for promotion of sustainable sediment management (SSM) solutions. [>>full story](#)

Danube Conference. Bridging the sciences - crossing borders

The XXVI Conference of the Danubian Countries on Hydrological Forecasting and Hydrological Bases of Water Management was successfully held on 22-24 September 2014 in Deggendorf, Germany.

Cooperation of the Danube countries in the area of hydrology started in 1961, hosting the first conference on

expansion, and land use changes), holistic, multidisciplinary and environmentally sound approaches to water resources management and protection policy are necessary. Water security in IHP-VIII is defined as the capacity of a population to safeguard access to adequate quantities of water of acceptable quality for sustaining human and ecosystem health on a watershed

Statistical analysis methods; Big data and data analysis; GIS in hydrology); Hydrological modelling and forecasting; Statistical and computational methods; Models of erosion and sediment transport; Long-term simulation and scenarios; Short-term and long-term forecasting; Flood and drought forecasting); Disaster events (Summer flood 2013 in the Danube



▲ © Danube Conference 2014

hydrological forecast in Budapest. This is the 26th. edition of the Danube Conference, as part of a series of biennial conferences being alternately held by countries of the Danube. The event was jointly organised by the German IHP/HWRP National Committee, the Bavarian Environment Agency, and the Deggendorf Institute of Technology, in cooperation with the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO, the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Since 1975, cooperation has been conducted within the framework of IHP. The eight-year phase of IHP-VIII (2014-2021) started with the main topic "Water security: Responses to local, regional, and global challenges". To deal with these complex, rapid environmental and demographic changes (e.g. population growth and vulnerability to hydrological disasters, global and climate changes, uncontrolled urban

basis, and to ensure efficient protection of life and property against water related hazards - floods and droughts.

The aims of the XXVI Danube Conference were: to foster exchange of hydrological basic information; to improve and adopt new models and techniques for hydrological forecasting and parameters at several time and space scales; to deal with disasters in an appropriate manner; to better articulate the role of hydrological and biotic processes in aquatic systems; to link different fields of science; and, to promote cooperation of the Danube countries. Both methodological approaches as well as case studies from countries of the Danube were welcome. The conference included the following topics: Basis of hydrology (Hydro-meteorological networks; Measuring technologies; Monitoring of erosion and sedimentation in river catchments); Hydrological data management (Data exchange and public dissemination of data;

catchment; Floods and droughts, economic impacts, recent events, new adaptation strategies; Flood warning and public perception; Case studies on disastrous events – lessons learned); Administrative structures for water management (Organisation of public administration; Administrative processes; Public infrastructure; Implementation of the Water Framework and Flood Directive); River Basin and Water Management (Navigation, impacts of reservoirs, control strategies, land-use planning; Climate change, hydrological impacts and adaptation measures; Structural and non-structural measures for flood management; Integrated water resources management (IWRM); Sustainability in River Basin Management - case studies); Ecohydrology (Water quality and pollutants; Ecohydrology – progress, key challenges and future prospects; Urban ecohydrology; Ecosystem service) . [>>full story](#)



▲ D. Frka/UNESCO - Ancient shipwreck in Croatia

2001 Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention: regional meeting on ratification and implementation in SEE

In recognition of the importance of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), the Government of Croatia and UNESCO organized a regional meeting on the implementation and ratification of the Convention in South-East Europe, held at the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology - ICUA in Zadar, Croatia, on 30 September and 1 October 2014.

High-level representatives of the ministries of culture attending the meeting shared their country's experiences in ratifying and implementing the 2001 Convention and committed to issues concerning future regional cooperation.

The meeting had a particular focus on fostering cooperation in matters concerning the protection and promotion of underwater cultural heritage in South-East Europe. Issues addressed included legal protection, cooperation in research, responsible public heritage access and awareness, fundraising etc. Representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, and Turkey were invited to take part.

The meeting featured two side events. The first was the inauguration of the ICUA's new Library housing an important collection of scientific and educational texts on underwater archaeology, in large part donated by the German Archaeological Institute – Roman-Germanic Commission. The second the opening of a temporary exhibition on underwater archaeology.

Plans were also presented for the renovation of Saint Nicholas Church in Zadar, which will become the seat of the ICUA's Museum of Underwater Archaeology.

This Regional Meeting was a renewed opportunity to establish a collaborative approach and share a common vision on measures to preserve and protect underwater cultural heritage and its cultural and historical context, and to make it accessible to the general public.

The 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage was developed and adopted by the Member States of UNESCO. As an international treaty, it is a response of the international community to the increasing looting and destruction of underwater cultural heritage.

The 2001 Convention entered into force on 2 January 2009. >>>full story



▲ © M. Spencer / UNESCO, The two-masted sailing yacht the Severence sank off Lady Elliot Island in the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. Some remains of its sails are still rigged in the 'reefed'

Ministries of culture from 12 countries attend the UNESCO Regional Meeting on the 2001 Convention and the opening of the Von Petrikovits Library

The Regional meeting on the implementation of the 2001 Convention was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Culture of 12 countries and numerous experts who warned of the issues and opportunities in the field of underwater heritage.

As a side event, the "Harald Von Petrikovits" Library was officially opened at the ICUA Zadar. It is given as a permanent loan to the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) in Zadar and to the Zadar University by the Romano-Germanic Commission RGK Frankfurt, a member of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI).



▲ ©International centre for underwater archaeology in Zadar - Logo of the Center; Opening ceremony



The opening ceremony was attended by a large number of interested parties, and the opening speeches were given by Eszter Banffy from

RGK Frankfurt, Tomislav Fabijanić of the University of Zadar and Berislav Šipuš, Deputy Minister of Culture of Croatia.

2014 Edition of the Advanced Underwater Archaeology Course

The third regional Advanced Underwater Archaeology Course for South-East Europe was held in and around Pula, Croatia, from 15 to 27 September 2014. It was organised by the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA), with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice.

The course provided participants with theoretical and practical instruction in the techniques, practices and technology involved in underwater excavations.

The programme included lectures by ICUA experts and guest speakers, as well as practical, hands-on experience as part of an underwater excavation team studying ancient shipwrecks off the coast of Pula.

As was the case in past editions, the course was aimed at archaeologists (including researchers and graduate students) who were not new to



▲ © ICUA/Igor Miholjek - Umag, reef buje, 2nd century BC

diving and had already gained some basic practical experience of underwater archaeology. By improving and refining their knowledge and practical skills, participants were able to qualify as members of underwater archaeological teams.

Eight trainees were selected for the course from: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. The ICUA was founded in Zadar in

2007 with a view to at supporting the preservation of the underwater material culture of Croatia, South-East Europe and the wider Mediterranean.

The centre promotes the ratification and implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, which was adopted in 2001 to coordinate the safeguarding of submerged historical sites and prevent their destruction. The ICUA operates under the auspices of UNESCO.

>>>full story



▲ ©Darlij & Ana - Crnojevića bridge

Mending bridges in South-East Europe. Fourth edition of 'Balkan Bridges Speak' in Montenegro

UNESCO supported the organization by the Balkanika Foundation, in cooperation with the Municipality of Cetinje and other partners from the region, of a new regional encounter on 18-19 July 2014 in Cetinje, Montenegro. The event was conducted within the framework of its global initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development", which aims to build on the power of culture as a dynamic force for co-operation and innovation for inclusive economic development, social cohesion, and peace.

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, and Aleksandar Bogdanovich, mayor of the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje, attended "The Rijeka Crnojevića Bridge Speaks", a new "Balkan Bridges Speak" event in the historic centre of Cetinje, a site of immense historic and artistic value.

This regional encounter, centred on the iconic bridge of Rijeka Crnojevića, was the fourth edition of the "Balkan Bridges Speak" project, hosted across South-East Europe to promote bridges as powerful symbols of unity and mutual understanding. It followed the ones organized in Berat, Albania in 2014, in Lovech, Bulgaria, in 2013 and in Edirne, Turkey, in 2012.

The "Balkan Bridges Speak" project features round tables on the Organization's priority areas of work, artistic and cultural performances and public readings, and provides an

opportunity for artistic personalities, national and local authorities, cultural professionals, private partners and universities of the sub-region to exchange experiences on cultural policies, strategies and practices that foster intercultural dialogue and stimulate the cultural sector as a viable economic and social sector. The project aims to enhance creativity, dialogue and cultural exchanges, to inspire innovative and creative approaches to the safeguarding of heritage and culture sensitive development policies.

This event focused on cinema, with young cinematographers, producers and film critics participating in

panel discussions followed by the screening of a selection of short films from the South-East European film festival 'SEE a Paris'. These activities represented an opportunity to showcase significant achievements in art and culture in the region. On the second day, a round table entitled "Rivers, cities, history" allowed the mayors of Cetinje, Lovech, Berat, Struga, Novigrad, Mostar and business representatives in the area of cultural tourism and cultural industries to continue the discussion on how best to build new cultural bridges in South-East Europe and establish a cooperation network between cities with historical bridges, included in the project.

>>full story



▲ © UNESCO - Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, speaking at the Balkan Bridges Speak concert in Rijeka Crnojevića, Montenegro, July 2014.

Safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage in Europe and Central Asia. Review meeting in Bulgaria

The Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe hosted a review meeting in Sofia from 23-26 September 2014 co-organized with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section of UNESCO. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the global capacity-building strategy for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Europe and Central Asia. This important exercise was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Bulgarian authorities and funds from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.



▲ ©R. Neykova - Nestinarstvo, messages from the past

After 3 years of implementation, time had come to take stock of UNESCO's global capacity-building strategy for strengthening the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Central Asia and Europe. The meeting in Bulgaria was the fourth review of its kind. This meeting featured the most recent developments of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and introduce new training and guidance materials developed recently by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section.

The meeting was structured in 4 main sections: assessing project implementation (general update on the capacity-building strategy,

followed by a discussion on what has been implemented and achieved in Europe and Central Asia since the launch of the strategy); assessing training delivery (focussed on the content of the capacity building programme; updates on the evolving programme contents and formats (introducing latest developments in the capacity building strategy; and, summary and conclusions (proposing new ways of work and cooperation).

The workshop sessions included presentations, plenary discussions and group work. Participated: 8 UNESCO-trained facilitators and 8 UNESCO programme specialists from Headquarters and field offices who were closely involved in

implementing the global strategy, including staff from the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and professional staff from the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe.

The meeting delivered a constructive feedback on the programme implementation developed by the UNESCO Secretariat, as well as a set of suggestions and proposals to further improve the pedagogic materials used in the capacity-building programme and the integration of new themes, such as policy advice, sustainable development, gender. >>full story

Needs-assessment on implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Albania

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), will undertake a survey intended to assess the main needs and priorities for the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The activity, to be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Albania, aims at laying a solid foundation to improve the

safeguarding of the country's living heritage, in accordance with the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The survey shall combine desk research and on-site consultations in order to assess the adequacy of the institutional and professional environments, availability of expertise and the national capacity to set up or revise legislative and policy frameworks, draw up inventories and carry out other safeguarding measures in the spirit of the 2003 Convention.

>>full story



▲ ©Fustanela 001 - Traditional male group singing in the Area of Skrapar, South-Est Albania.



© UNESCO/S. Sesum - Radimlja necropolis

Educating youth on cultural diversity. Mid-term reports from Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In April, the National Commission for UNESCO of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), coordinated a meeting between 3 UNESCO clubs selected to take part in the “Understanding and respecting cultural diversity – motive for cultural cooperation for and from youth” project. The clubs have now presented mid-term reports on their respective efforts to raise awareness on cultural diversity among younger generations.

The “Interactive Education and Resource Network” – IMOR from Bitola, in partnership with the Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation of Disputes, presented a project entitled “Learning about Cultural Diversity – an Opportunity for Youth Cross-cultural Cooperation”. The activity aims to foster dialogue and cooperation between youth from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania through ICT activities, Cultural Camps and community outreach programmes. Organisers selected youth leaders and educators to attend training

camp in cross-cultural cooperation and diversity in the 2 countries, where they prepared multi-media presentations and performances illustrating the cultural heritage of their communities. Participants were then encouraged to convey the information gained through this experience to their communities, and to continue to reflect on the project activities and topics.

The “Youth Alliance” association from Krusevo presented “Cultural Crossroads”, a project developed in partnership with AEGEE Tirana. It featured an open call for a creative contest on the topic of cross-cultural cooperation, as a prerequisite for applying for the training course. The course, attended by 25 young people from both countries, took place successfully between 5 and 9 June 2014. The “Embassy for Peace” association from Skopje and their Albanian partner, Shkolla “Rezistenca e Goricareve” from Pustec, produced a project titled “Understanding and respecting of cultural diversity – enhancement of the cultural cooperation among youth”. A series of workshops used ICT to convey the importance of cultural diversity, traditions, customs and handcrafts in

fostering dialogue between people of different cultural backgrounds. Young people discussed traditional crafts and customs specific to their region as well as looking at the wider, multi-cultural social context.

In a region so recently torn apart by conflict, encouraging young people to move beyond cultural barriers and to share their backgrounds and experiences is of the utmost importance. The value of formal and non-formal education programmes in teaching young people about cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, and the crucial role of civil society in the area of inter-ethnic relations have long been at the heart of UNESCO’s mission around the world. >>full story



© T. County - What makes us different

The International Musicological Society brings the Cantus Planus conference to Venice

From 28 July to 1 August 2014, the island of San Servolo in Venice played host to the 17th meeting of the IMS Study Group ‘Cantus Planus’, organized in partnership with the Fondazione Ugo e Olga Levi, an acclaimed Venice-based foundation focusing on musicological studies, and with the participation of the UNESCO Venice Office.

Cantus Planus is an official Study Group within the International Musicological Society (IMS). Founded in Basel in 1927 with the aim of promoting musicological research through international cooperation, the IMS is a member of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (ICPHS), an NGO recognized by UNESCO.

Its purpose is the advancement of musicological research in a thriving environment based on broad international cooperation

The group’s enquiries center on the history and practice of liturgical chant traditions in Eastern and Western Christendom. They take the form of seminars, research publications and joint projects that promote academic cooperation between researchers and

specialists from around the world.

The Conference took place in the Palazzo Giustiniani Lolin on the Grand Canal of Venice, a city chosen for its rich cultural and musical history and its long-standing role as a meeting place of East and West.

The meeting brought together over 90 scholars and researchers from around the world, including musicologists from South-East European states (Slovenia, Greece) and other European countries. They will engage in academic debate, develop joint research projects and suggest new areas of interest.

The sessions touched on topics such as ‘Venice’, ‘Venerating the Saints’, ‘Byzantine and Western Connections’ and ‘Catalogue of Medieval Music Manuscripts in Dalmatia’. The



©Helsinki University Library - Graduale Aboense, hymn book of Turku, Finland. 14th-15th century

conference included 3 concerts, two on San Servolo and one in San Francesco della Vigna.

Participants discussed the creation of an online database that can be accessed by all members, allowing them to share their research.

The group’s current chair, James Borders from the University of Michigan, will then present a report on the group’s findings to the International Musicological Society. >>full story

Intensive training on the conservation of ceramics

The Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments based in Tirana, Albania, in cooperation with the UNESCO Venice Office, is launching a regional training workshop on the conservation of ceramics from 16 to 29 November 2014.

The training programme will consist of theoretical and practical (hands on) activities aimed at illustrating relevant conservation and restoration techniques, in compliance with internationally recognized conservation principles and standards.

Lectures and site work will address the principles of conservation, with special focus on ceramic objects, including insights into historical techniques of execution, deterioration processes, conservation treatments and methods, as well as maintenance requirements.

Training activities will be conducted by a team composed of 1 Albanian and 2 international experts, under the joint coordination of the Tirana Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments and the UNESCO Regional

Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

The primary goal of the course is to improve the trainees’ skills in the conservation of archaeological materials, providing them with an understanding of the chemical and physical features and related decay and deterioration of ceramics, disseminating effective conservation methodologies and ensuring a practical understanding of appropriate restoration methods and long-term conservation strategies.

The intensive course is designed to provide educational and practical experience in both classroom and laboratory settings. Through lectures, discussions, demonstration, laboratory sessions and practical activities,



©ML Nguyen - Proto-Corinthian olpe with lions, bulls, ibex and sphinxes, ca. 640 BC–630 BC, from Corinth

participants will discuss and engage in the latest methodologies employed in all phases of the conservation process. The course will be aimed specifically at professional conservators already employed in heritage-related institutions, in the countries and territories enlisted. >>full story

UNESCO, a praiseworthy organization at the service of knowledge and peace



© UN photo/Bikem Ekberzade - Iraqi schoolchildren Celebrate World Water Day

The empowerment of girls and women is the new frontier for human rights in the 21st century. I believe that development is not sustainable if it is unequal. This is why we must do far more together to uphold the human rights and potential of every girl and woman.
Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

An interview with Danielle Mazzonis, a member of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO and an adjunct professor at the IULM in Milan and a senior consultant on Latin America local development for IADB and OECD. In 2012, she joined the Scientific Council of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), as a member. She has since also served as chairperson of the council. We were interested to know what her experience and thoughts were.

Prior to joining the Office's Scientific Council, could you tell us what had been your experience with UNESCO?

My first contacts date back to the 1980s when I was working at ENEA, the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Environment. Federico Mayor, the Director-General of UNESCO then, was an exceptional man whom I had the pleasure to meet a few times on the occasion of conferences and seminars on the dissemination of knowledge and on the economic and social implications of scientific research. This subject - had

fascinated me since my youth - led me to choose a career in chemistry. Federico Mayor's humanistic and historical interpretation of his subject opened my mind to a new way of thinking that, since then, I have tried to cultivate. At that time, the ENEA President, Umberto Colombo, was a member of a Science Commission for UNESCO; because of his busy agenda, he could not follow personally at times the Commission's works in Paris and thus I was asked to participate on his behalf. I partook in some very interesting meetings in which a variety of high personalities of different traditions and nationalities exchanged their ideas on theoretical results and applications of new discoveries, but also on the implications and perspectives of history, politics and philosophy of science. I also attended debates and meetings on strategic different issues, such as the manipulation of genes or the energy crisis and its possible solutions, including the peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy. My participation in these events further solidified my belief that UNESCO is an extremely useful organization at the service of knowledge and peace,

the latter of which, I believe, can only truly be found as a consequence of knowledge.

How does your background contribute to your present role in the Scientific Council of this Office?

My father was an intellectual who valued culture and explained in a very convincing way that art was the only real antidote against war, in all its aspects. As a child, he took my sisters and me to visit the main capitals of culture. It was a curious childhood, spent visiting museums and listening to poetry readings. Later, I was re-introduced to the "world" of Italian cultural heritage when ENEA established a working relationship with the Ministry of Culture, as the scientific expertise of the Agency, which was relevant at the national level for development and research in the nuclear and environmental fields, was being used for the diagnosis in view of restoration projects. After having later worked at the Ministry of Economy and undertaking a period of study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States of America, I was drawn towards working in politics. I decided to change my job in order to address the social implications of knowledge, technological development and innovation. It was with this background that I was attracted by politics. With that experience and after 10 years I became a member of the Government, in the Ministry of Culture.

It is my hope that with this background in Culture and Science I can contribute to the work of the Scientific Council of this Office. My experience in Italy, Europe and other countries - that one in which the UNESCO Venice Office works - has helped the discussions we have had in the fields of culture, science and even in the city of Venice. This "double vision" on the content and the policies had led to an understanding of the Office, and therefore also of UNESCO, as a much more unique entity in the UN system



© UN photo/Bikem Ekberzade - Iraqi schoolchildren Celebrate World Water Day

due to the intricate complexities and interactions amongst the various fields in which it works.

What do you think are the opportunities this Scientific Council could provide to the Office? Are there any challenges to be overcome?

I think the main opportunity for this Council compared to other ones of the past is the diverse cultural backgrounds and fields of expertise of its members. In our meetings, professors with different academic visions have been able to remind us of the rigor of the dissemination of knowledge, its tools, benefits and forms, but always respecting the design work and identification of strategically

important issues as prepared by the staff. The cultural and technical debates amongst ourselves and between us and the Office's staff, at least from my point of view, has resulted in a greater diversification of projects and actions, as well as in the establishment of some new partnerships. It is my hope for the future that this Council could also contribute to the search for additional funds for new activities for the Office, in line with its mandate.

Could you tell us about a recent project you have worked on that you believe to be of particular interest?

In that context of years of work in projects relating to territorial development in various areas of Latin America, I have had many

opportunities to be in contact with extraordinary products, fruits of ancient knowledge which sometimes have almost disappeared. Multilateral donors are luckily rediscovering these initiatives and trying to make them sustainable.

I have been able to contribute to the design and implementation of various activities for the exploitation of these goods in countries which are poor from the economic point of view but rich in skills, creativity and ideas. In Bolivia and Peru, for example, I had recently helped groups of women with high abilities in designing and embroidering; this initiative has been transformed into a cooperative that will collaborate with a famous Italian fashion company. >>full story

Culture, Creativity and Sustainable Development at the heart of the Third UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries



© UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries (FOCUS)

The third edition of the UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries (FOCUS) will take place from 2 to 4 October in Florence (Italy). Almost 300 representatives from cultural domains of the public and private sectors will participate.

The Forum, jointly organized by UNESCO, the Italian government, the Tuscany region and the Municipality of Florence, will be inaugurated on the 2 October (2 p.m.) by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova,

Mayor of Florence Dario Nardella, President of the Tuscany region Enrico Rossi and the Italian Minister of Heritage and Cultural Activities Dario Franceschini. The Forum is devoted to the theme "Culture, Creativity and Sustainable Development. Research, Innovation, Opportunities", and will address the role of culture in creating a sustainable future, as well as promoting employment, growth and innovations. It will be divided into two plenary sessions and six panels: "Culture and Creativity: a Dual Commitment to the Future",

"Cultural Industries, Employment and Growth", "Innovation, Technology and Know-How for Sustainable Futures", "The Power of Culture for Inclusive Societies", "New Approaches to Measuring Change", "Investing in Culture", "Culture and the Post-2015 Development Agenda" and "Nurturing Culture for the Sustainable Development of Urban and Rural Areas". The event will conclude with the adoption of the "Florence Declaration", presenting proposals on the integration of culture in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which will be discussed by the United Nations General Assembly the following year. Finally, a photo exhibition showing the 50 years of cooperation between UNESCO and Italy on Afghan cultural heritage will be inaugurated on 2 October (6 p.m.).

The two previous editions of the UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries were held in Monza (Italy) in 2009 and 2011. >>full story



© Catherine Dezio ▲

A holistic vision of sustainability and intergenerational solidarity for cultural landscapes

Catherine Dezio, originally from the historic city of Verona, she is currently working on a PhD in “Design and Management of Environment and Landscape”, and joined us in July to assist the Science Unit in its preparation for Expo 2015. Catherine aspires to work in the field of landscape studies and she is currently undertaking a 4-month internship within the UNESCO Venice Office.

on the organizing committee of international conferences in Rome and a speaker at many national and international conferences. My PhD thesis focuses on agrarian cultural landscapes and their resilience. I have won two scholarships to carry out this research at CURSA, the University Consortium for Socio-economic and Environmental Research of Rome.

Why did you want to intern at UNESCO? What do think you are gaining from your internship so far?

My interest in the current internship is closely linked to its relevance to my PhD thesis on UNESCO agrarian cultural landscapes, and to my research training in the environmental field. It provides a unique opportunity to gain international experience, which feeds into my current research.

The work I am conducting is a constant source of new ideas and information. The team keeps me involved with great professionalism and kindness and makes me feel that I am an important part of their activities – as well as of a wider global responsibility network – and I am grateful to them for making this an extremely meaningful experience for me.

As part of the internship, I am working to define the intrinsic meaning of best practices in agricultural and cultural landscapes of traditional production, which will form the main backbone of UNESCO’s contribution to Expo 2015 in Milan and Venice. The idea is to identify selection criteria that link production of food, care of land and water resources to sustainability and intergenerational development. In this context, local communities play an important role, and taking

this into account means developing an awareness of the practices, traditional knowledge and culture of each place – everything, in short, that we define as “intangible heritage”.

In the course of this work, one of the most important observations for me has been how the concept of “time” features daily in our work here at UNESCO: it is an ongoing relationship between the historical heritage that is passed down from generation to generation, the landscapes, production and populations today, and the ability to adapt to change, the continuity of this heritage and of development towards a sustainable future for everyone.

How will your internship influence your choices? What are your goals for the future? What will happen after the internship?

My internship is already affecting my choices daily by making me focus more on the international sphere, which I find stimulating and inspiring, and giving me a greater sense of direction in my current studies. It has showed me how to disseminate best practices to ensure the continuity of heritage and the safe management of territories – key to global sustainable development.

After the internship, which will take me to the end of 2014, I will finish my doctorate and explore job opportunities in the field of landscape studies. I sincerely hope to remain in the international arena, and to continue to work on landscape and territories, based on a holistic view of sustainable development, and I would relish the opportunity to continue to explore this project in an international organization such as UNESCO. >>full story

Throughout my life, my personal interests and my work have intersected constantly. I am a firm believer in green economy, sustainable mobility and organic food; I am a great lover of all animals, and I believe deeply in a vision of a world in which man, animals and environment live together in an equal, harmonious and sustainable way. This may sound utopian, but it makes my work a real passion in which I strongly believe.

What is your background?

After attending a secondary school specializing in scientific subjects in Verona, I completed a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture and a Master’s Degree in Sustainable Architecture Design, both from the Politecnico di Milano. Having passed the Architectural licensure examination in 2013, I am now enrolled in the Architects Order Board. I also obtained an Energy Expert Diploma at the KlimaHouse Agency of Bolzano, which allows me to continue to pursue my studies on environmental sustainability from every possible angle.

Currently, I am entering the final year of a PhD in “Design and management of environment and landscape” at ‘La Sapienza’ University in Rome, Interfaculty of Architecture, Agriculture and Forest Sciences, where I have had the chance to attend courses, workshops and research activities. I was also

Cultural heritage sustainability in theory and practice. A national, EU and UNESCO perspective

Originally from Serbia, Novi Sad, Jermina Stanojev first became curious about cultural heritage while visiting her father on his archeological excavations. With time, this curiosity progressed into a more consciously defined interest that, academically, led her to undertake an MSc in Architecture, with specialization in the field of cultural heritage. Jermina joined the Culture Unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), in June 2014 for a 6-month internship.

In professional terms, this same interest prompted me to look for work in this area, in a place where policies, programmes or initiatives can lead to the long-term integration of cultural heritage sites into the lives of local communities and foster sustainable development. With this in mind, I

worked at the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Serbia, where I gained experience in the valorization and assessment of cultural heritage and the evaluation of proposed cultural heritage projects. During that time, I was able to grasp the challenges and shortcomings of the national public sector in the field of heritage protection.

This knowledge has taken me in two new directions. I started working for the Museum of Vojvodina as an expert responsible for IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance) Cross-border Co-operation Programme Projects in the field of cultural heritage, implemented within the 2007-2013 EU financial framework. There, to some extent, I was able to build on my previous experience in terms of developing indicators and meeting them during the project’s implementation. In parallel to my professional involvement, I have carried on with my studies by undertaking a PhD at the Politecnico di Milano, Italy in the field of cultural heritage policies and recommendations (national, international, EU and



▲ © Jermina Stanojev

UNESCO) dealing with planned conservation, value-led heritage management and complex systems in government for cultural heritage.

All these experiences have shaped my academic and professional choices and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to merge two sometimes very disconnected paths - practical experience and academic theory. In order to further my understanding of both and provide better results and feedback in future work, the questions broached by my PhD research are closely connected to my professional experience and vice versa. >>full story

Interested in joining the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), as an intern or a volunteer? Visit [STAGWEB](http://stageweb.unesco.org/) to find out more: <http://stageweb.unesco.org/>

Student Maria Chiara Stefanelli shares experiences of her UNESCO internship

We have interviewed our new intern from Taranto, a sunny city in Puglia (home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites), in southern Italy. Chiara has been on board with an internship since mid-July to assist our Culture Unit in support of communication activities. We hope her internship with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), will translate into a concrete place for her passions to converge.

I have always been deeply immersed in the humanities, both in terms of personal interests and professional choices. This has gradually translated into a desire to communicate and share my interests with others. At my Classical High School, “Quinto Ennio”, in Taranto, I attended a class in journalism and

communication. I have since graduated in Communication Sciences from the University of Siena, and I am currently enrolled in a Master of Communication for International Relations at the IULM University in Milan.

In parallel with my studies, and in order to indulge my passion for writing, I started collaborating with an Italian online newspaper in January 2013, writing weekly articles on current events, politics, economics and science.

This interest in refining my communication skills also encouraged me, in July 2012, during my studies in Siena, to attend the “Techniques and practices of the interview” Summer School organized in my university by the Purdue University of Indiana.

Last year, not wanting to limit myself to one language, I took an English course for the IELTS certificate, sitting the final exam in July 2013. As part of my Master’s studies this year, I

have learned much about the United Nations – its Specialized Agencies – that left me curious about the workings of international organizations.

I concluded that an internship at UNESCO could be a great opportunity for me to improve my skills, work in a multicultural context and learn more about the Organization – whose mandate covers issues that I value greatly – and about the UN in general. >>full story



▲ © Maria Chiara Stefanelli

Backstory

The role of Youth for the Safeguarding of cultural heritage



© PL Przemek - Sozopol ▲

The 3rd International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO took place in Sofia and Sozopol, Bulgaria, from 28 to 30 September 2014, with the participation of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy). The theme selected for this edition was "The role of youth in the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage".

This topic reflected UNESCO's priorities in the field of protecting and safeguarding cultural heritage and was closely related to the Organization's Operational Strategy for Youth 2014-2021. It was a follow up to the International Conference of NGOs, which was held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in December 2012.

The Forum provided an opportunity to discuss different types of youth participation in heritage safeguarding and to reflect on the challenges faced by NGOs involved in this field, seeking to encourage support for their work. The programme covered 4 topics: capacity building for youth; initiatives aimed at raising awareness among young people on the safeguarding of cultural heritage; promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue; creating jobs and livelihoods in the area and contributing to sustainable development. These discussions provided a valuable contribution to the definition of the post 2015 development agenda.

Organized by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in close cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat, in accordance with the Directives on UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations (36 C/Res. 108) and with the support of Sozopol Foundation, the Forum was intended primarily for NGOs in official partnership with the Organization, but was also open to other NGOs and institutions, as well as to representatives of Member States and youth representatives. The Forum's conclusions were made available to all NGOs in official partnership and to the Director-General of UNESCO. >>full story



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Bulgaria Sofia-Sozopol Forum



The role of youth for the Safeguarding of intangible and tangible cultural heritage

▲
© Ngo-UNESCO Liaison Committee

Bridges

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