

# Bridges

## UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Issue 1 • 2016

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Regional Bureau  
for Science and Culture  
in Europe



▲ © Milos Radevic - A view of Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

## Istanbul: Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe discussed protection and management of cultural heritage

The “Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe - Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development” (CoMoCoSEE) gathered on 24-25 February 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the further enhancement of the regional cooperation in the field of culture and development, with a special focus on supporting the implementation of the “Ohrid Regional Strategy for Cultural Cooperation in South-East Europe”.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey organised the second meeting of this leading regional cooperation platform in the field of culture, since the revision of its format in 2014.

The meeting focused on the “Protection and Sustainable Management of Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe: priorities, challenges and opportunities for reinforcing regional cooperation on culture within the CoMoCoSEE”.

Participating delegations shared ideas and proposals to advance their common efforts for the enhancement of cultural heritage as a driver for sustainable

development, in the wake of the recent approval of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme and working documents of the meeting in Istanbul were the results of the preparatory meeting of the CoMoCoSEE Committee of Officials – organized at the initiative of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey – which took place on 10 December 2015 in Venice, Italy.

The Istanbul meeting approved joint action lines to strengthen



▲ © Transsen, Valentinian, Myrabella Gryffindor - Hagia Sophia, Istanbul: interior view, The Empress Zoe mosaic, upper gallery, fountain for ritual ablutions

regional cooperation, according to the “Ohrid Regional Strategy for Cultural Cooperation in South-East Europe”, also known as the “Ohrid Strategy”, approved by CoMoCoSEE in 2014.

The Strategy indicates priority areas for regional cooperation to enhance culture as a driver for sustainable development, as well as relevant action lines and monitoring mechanisms.

A special focus for discussion in Istanbul was put on the sustainable use of cultural heritage, disaster risk reduction, and the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Participants included ministers and high representatives of the CoMoCoSEE Member States: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece,



▲ © Dunja Smitran, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina - CoMoCoSEE 2016

Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

High representatives of Italy and UNESCO also attended the meeting, as CoMoCoSEE Observers. Mr Mahir Ünal, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, opened the plenary session, followed

with speeches by the Ministers and heads of delegations of the CoMoCoSEE Member States. The Director-General of UNESCO was represented by Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture a.i., accompanied by Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

[>>full story](#)



▲ ©Ministry of Culture of Albania - CoMoCoSEE meeting in Istanbul 2016

## CoMoCoSEE adopted declaration on cultural heritage protection

In harmony with the Ohrid Regional Strategy for Cultural Cooperation in South-East Europe, the Ministers and heads of delegation participating in the CoMoCoSEE meeting reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance regional and bilateral cooperation on culture, creativity and cultural heritage as a driving force for dialogue, good neighbourship and sustainable development for the benefit of all.

In particular, the declaration adopted on 25 February 2016 establishes that the CoMoCoSEE Member States agree to work towards the reinforcement of coordination at all levels between the cultural and other sectorial policies, including tourism, that are relevant to the enhancement and promotion of the role of culture for development.

The overall objective is to create greater synergies and to develop an integrated approach towards the sustainable management and promotion of culture as a driver for inclusive and equitable growth.

The improvement and implementation of statistical tools to assess and monitor the impact of culture for development shall be supported, with the aim of further mainstreaming culture in development programmes, policies and strategies at all levels.

The CoMoCoSEE Member States shall reinforce cooperation and develop a coordinated approach to support the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, from and through the region, in full compliance with

the relevant international standards. The CoMoCoSEE Member States shall step up efforts to make best use of all relevant regional, cross-border and/or transnational EU financing programmes, and avail themselves, whenever possible and appropriate, of cooperation with UNESCO, the CoE and the EU.

As a shared priority for future action, the CoMoCoSEE Member States support the idea of exploring the possibility to develop sub-regional activities on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, as well as on the sustainable safeguarding and exploitation of cultural and natural heritage, in cooperation with UNESCO.

[>>full story](#)



▲ © Tom Dempsey / The porch of the Caryatids.

The Mediterranean Universities Network on SD and ESD (MedUn-NET) was launched in Athens in 2008, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the University of Athens (UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean) and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE). The network was created with the aim to promote the integration of SD aspects in university programmes, departments and facilities, in a “whole-institute-approach”, addressing not only the needs of academicians and students, but also those of the public administration, the private sector, NGO’s, policy-makers or the media.

## The role of universities in supporting UNESCO designated sites, beacons of sustainability

**Greece was host of a debate among 38 experts from 9 countries on the role of universities and UNESCO Designated Sites as incubators of sustainability. Global discussions led to a call for synergy and collaboration to address the complex issues faced by modern society and encapsulated in the Sustainable Development Goals.**

The regional meeting co-organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, MIO-ECSDE, MEDIES, the Greek National MAB Committee, and the UNITWIN MedUnNET, was hosted on 18-19 January 2016 by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

The intensive workshop was run for a selected number of invited participants – from professors to researchers and administrators, as well as managers from UNESCO Designated Sites that are host of, or are closely related to, universities from Europe and the Mediterranean area.

Universities serve science and the society within which they operate. They generate, consolidate and disseminate knowledge, preparing students and providing them with

competences and skills to effectively address current issues and future challenges.

The role of universities is essential in the face of the complex multiple problems faced by today’s society, at global and regional levels. The economic crisis, high levels of unemployment - especially among youth – and, war conflicts have resulted in unprecedented refugee and migratory fluxes, and various routes are used to travel across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.

At the same time, world leaders pledge common action and endeavour across a broad and universal policy agenda. In 2015, important global agreements were reached for the benefit of all, such as the adoption of new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on

Climate Change. The Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD) for 2016-2025 was further adopted by the parties at the Barcelona Convention COP19.

Within such a setting, the meeting in Athens called on universities to urgently adjust their culture, curricula and operations and, to propose long-term innovative approaches to very complex issues. Universities need to strengthen their links with society at local, national and global levels. They should play a more active role as promoter of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and agent of change toward Sustainable Development (SD).

A suitable pilot way to meet some challenges could be to effectively link universities with the function of some UNESCO Designated Sites - specifically World Heritage (WH) sites, Biosphere Reserves (BRs) and Geoparks. Such a relationship could generate “beacons of sustainability” and “education laboratories” offering a ‘win-win’ sustainable interaction model among people, ecosystems and, cultural and natural heritage.

What could universities gain from interacting with nearby Designated Sites’ experiences? And, vice-

versa, what could Designated Sites gain from the universities in their region? These and other questions were raised during the

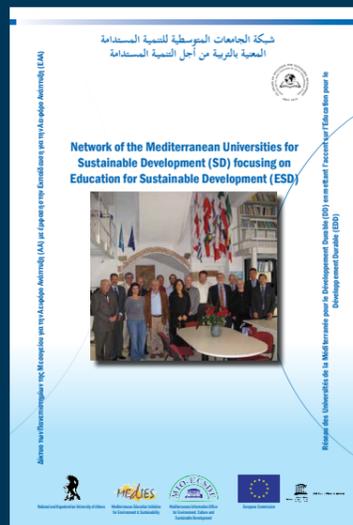
by all, regardless of the legal status and the field of work. Rural and urban Designated Sites can provide universities with concrete cases to



▲ © V. Psallidas / MIO-ECSDE - Photos of the meeting

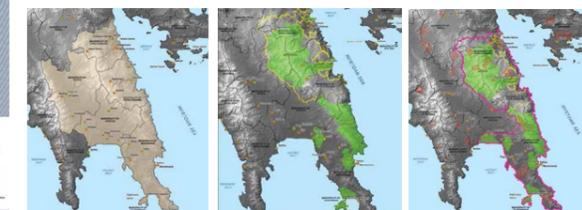
meeting. SD and ESD are core issues for universities and they ought to be urgently incorporated in teaching and research. It should be a pervading, shared “cultural approach” that promotes a more responsible behaviour and is seeded in all university operations. The SDGs should be actively embraced

address many of the vital issues directly related to the efforts for achievement of the 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets, integrated and indivisible. The knowledge, the research, science and technology that universities provide are fundamental to achieve the SDGs. >> [full story](#)



### Sustainable Mediterranean – Special Issue No 72, February 2016

The special issue of ‘Sustainable Mediterranean, Special Issue No 72, Feb 2016’, is dedicated to the meeting in Athens which identified a series of challenges in effectively linking universities and UNESCO Designated Sites and Networks, and recommended a number of concrete ideas to overcome them. Readers will find useful not only reading the individual contributions (case studies) but also the collectively drafted and agreed document which summarises the main outcomes and recommendations.



Evangelos Pappas, Proposed Biosphere Reserve Mount Parnon – Cape Malea, Greece

## A brand for the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve? Italy, Spain and Germany shared experiences



©EcoDesignWeek Delta del Po

The international workshop on “Delta Po Biosphere Reserve Brand and Marketing” took place in Porto Viro, Po Delta (Italy), from 20 to 23 June 2016 in the presence of experts from Spain and Germany. The workshop was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in close cooperation with the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve management team.

In June 2015, the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) added the Po Delta site to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). The inclusion of the Po Delta is a recognition at the international level of the high value of its environmental assets and socioeconomic dynamics. It provides the local stakeholders with a unique opportunity to promote their territory as a destination of national and international importance, and to strengthen development processes that could assign a brighter future to a territory left aside from the main development stream for too long.

To inscribe such development in a sustainable perspective, local actors will have also to coordinate their efforts and make the best use of their creativity and their many professional, cultural and entrepreneurial capacities. To design and promote the use of a special brand for the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve is an important step towards sustainable territorial development.

The 4th. World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru (March 2016) confirmed that these territories are one of the most important and efficient tools at hand to promote and disseminate the ideal of sustainability, and to support the Member States towards the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The designation assigned to the Po Delta connects the territory to a network of 669 sites in 120 countries committed to a real-life experimentation of sustainable development approaches in all its forms and dimensions, in all parts of the world. Within the WNBR network, Biosphere Reserves are invited to share their experience and expertise and, to develop cooperative experimentation projects and joint communication efforts. The exchange of experience

with Spanish and German partners, promoted within the framework of this workshop, is a good illustration of such networking spirit.

Over 3 days, the institutions involved in the management of the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve and socioeconomic actors in various fields (from agriculture to fisheries, industry, services and tourism) work with external partners to initiate the process leading to the design and launch of a brand for the promotion of their territory and its products. To achieve this, they took inspiration from the experience developed recently in this field by the Biosphere Reserve in Spain ‘Terres de l’Ebre’, the Spanish MAB National Committee (The Biosphere Reserves Brand in Spain) and the promoter of the Biosphere Reserves Destination initiative. Following brief theoretical and methodological introductions by the invited experts, the workshop proceeded in the form of a laboratory



©EcoDesignWeek Delta del Po

in which participants worked in small groups to define a road map and a plan of action leading to the establishment of a brand for the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve - including the certification procedures that should support its use. A permanent working group dedicated to the elaboration and management of such a brand was defined, to continue

to operate in the coming months and years within the overall framework of the stakeholders’ involvement process recently launched by the Biosphere Reserves coordination team.

The main outcomes of the workshop on “Delta Po Biosphere Reserve Brand and Marketing” were

presented to the public during the opening ceremony of the first Eco Design Week – Delta del Po which was held on 23 June 2016 at the Ca’ Vendramin Museum.

The Exhibition ‘Behind Food Sustainability’ was on show at the Eco Design Week until 26 June 2016. >>full story

## Our participation in shaping a new vision in Lima for a sustainable future of Biosphere Reserves



©4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves – Riserva de Biosfera del Manu

Peru was host of the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves “A New Vision for the Decade 2016-2025. UNESCO Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Development” in Lima from 14 to 17 March 2016. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe joined actively this world meeting of the Committees of UNESCO MAB Programme and experts involved in the practical implementation of biosphere reserves.

Organized by the UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Ministry of Environment of Peru (MINAM) and its National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP), and the MAB National Committee of Peru, this new edition of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves followed 3 previous meetings - held in Minsk (1984), Seville (1995) and Madrid (2008). 117 delegations of countries from all continents gathered in Lima to discuss and agree international strategies for issues related to education for sustainable development, the economic viability of nature conservation systems, human migration and protection of

natural resources. Were present MAB National Committees from around the world and experts directly involved in the practical implementation of Biosphere Reserves (BRs), including: representatives of governments, BRs, local communities, UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and organizations and institutions from all over the world working with the MAB Programme.

The Lima Congress addressed different issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. On the agenda were discussions on the progress and obstacles related to BRs’ issues and the work to develop a new vision for the years to come. The Congress reviewed the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves 2008-2013, the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework of 1995. It further looked into the lessons learned and the new challenges faced by the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WBNR) consisting of 651 Biosphere Reserves (BRs) in 120 countries, including 15 transboundary sites. In addition to the plenary sessions,

the Congress provided sessions and parallel workshops focusing on specific themes. The UNESCO Regional Bureau was involved in the first session dedicated to the MAB Regional Networks - of which EuroMAB, the largest regional MAB Network. In the following two sessions, it moderated workshops centring on islands and coastal zones and tourism and, likewise intervene in youth engagement, BR brand and communication.

The Congress was significant for MAB communities and partners, especially BRs, and allowed them to examine progress, achievements and challenges since the Seville Strategy (1995) and the Madrid Action Plan (2008). It was an opportunity to train regional communication coordinators on the tools to achieve scale, consistency and widespread application across the World Network. The UNESCO Regional Bureau supported the participation of 14 representatives from EuroMAB, the network of BRs of Europe and North America. The representation of 11 countries was supported by UNESCO: Belarus, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine. >>full story



My Biosphere, My Future campaign UNESCO’s World Network of Biosphere Reserves aspires for sustainable development through different projects.

## Albania: Investigating the inclusion of Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media in university curricula



▲ 2014 Annual Progress Report for the Government of Albania-United Nations Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016; UNESCO Gender -Sensitive Indicators for Media

The training workshop on the use of the UNESCO Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM) in university-level teaching curricula was held in Tirana, Albania on 17-18 March 2016. The event was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in close collaboration with UN Women in Albania. The training focused on the use of the GSIM in universities, with examples related to the Sustainable Development Goals, the difference between gender equality and women's empowerment and, other areas of interest for the stakeholders.

*"Gender equality means that the different behaviours, aspirations and needs of women and men are considered, valued and favoured equally. It does not mean that women and men have to become the same, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born female or male."* (UN Women, 2011)

Gender Equality, one of UNESCO's priorities, is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for the creation of sustainable and peaceful societies. UNESCO's commitment to gender

equality and women's empowerment is pursued through gender-specific programming and gender mainstreaming with action in all of its fields of competence.

UNESCO has accordingly been promoting women's participation in the media through several initiatives over the years – like for instance the 'Women Make the News' initiative held every year on the occasion of the 8 March celebration. The 2016 theme for International Women's Day is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality". The theme considers how to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal number five - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - and number 4 – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

The Gender Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM), a global framework to gauge gender sensitivity and promote greater diversity in the media, represents another UNESCO initiative in this context. While the GSIM are fairly comprehensive, they are not intended to be exhaustive or definitive. The indicators can

be modified, if necessary, to suit specific contexts. They are meant to be used by media organisations, media workers' unions, professional associations and self-regulatory bodies to internally assess their own operations and practices, set goals, monitor progress and conduct training in order to achieve the professionally sound goals of social inclusivity and diversity among media personnel, as well as in media content.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau, together with UN Women and other partners in Albania, facilitated a two-day training workshop in Tirana in March to familiarise a wide range of stakeholders in the media, academia and civil society with the Gender Sensitive Indicators for Media. The GSIM handbook already translated into Albanian was used.

The workshop's primary purpose was to examine how the GSIM can be incorporated into the curricula of institutions of higher learning offering media/journalism education and training in Albania, as well as the editorial and human resources practices of media houses in the country – in both the public as well as the private sector. The workshop facilitated an initiation of the process

of reviewing and refining the media-related indicators included in the National Harmonized Indicators on Gender Equality and the Status of Women in Albania introduced in 2011 by the Albanian Ministry of Social Welfare with the support of UN Women.

The workshop was attended by media scholars/educators/trainers, senior

media professionals and managers, members of civil society engaged in media/freedom of expression and/or gender/women's rights issues, and any others with a special interest in promoting gender equality and balance in the media.

Within the framework of the Government of Albania – United Nations Programme of Cooperation

2012-2016, UNESCO is responsible for supporting 'Governance and Law', specifically 'Mainstreaming gender and gender-responsive budgeting'. Under this output, UNESCO has indicated its support for an activity, Strengthened institutionalization of the UNESCO Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM) for use in universities. >>full story

## Biosphere Reserves of the Volga river basin area. Map and Brochure released

The publication and map were supported by UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the noncommercial partnership Biosphere Reserves of Eurasia, the National Committee of Russia for the MAB Programme, and the biosphere reserves of the Volga basin area.

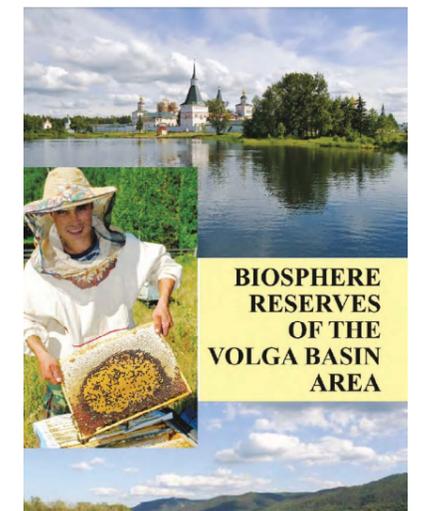
The brochure "Biosphere Reserves of the Volga river basin area" describes the Volga basin area and sustainable development efforts conducted by its 13 biosphere reserves included in the UNESCO's World Network.

UNESCO's biosphere reserves are specially governed territories that aim to address one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century: preservation of the diversity of plans, animals, and microorganisms, which constitute biosphere and are responsible for maintaining the balanced state of natural ecosystems. This must be accomplished while

meeting the needs and wants of growing number of people in the world.

The map and brochure were presented at the regional meeting on "The role of Biosphere Reserves in large river basins and sustainable development within a local, regional and international context: the case of the Volga river basin and the opportunities for the Po river basin" held from 21 to 24 September 2015. The event was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in cooperation with the Non-profit Partnership for Euro-Asian BRs (Russia) and the Po Delta BR Authority (Italy).

Participants included representatives of 13 BRs from the Volga river basin, the Italian and Russian MAB Committees, 4 BRs in Po river basin, UNESCO, other UN agencies that have supported projects in the Volga river basin or delta territory, the

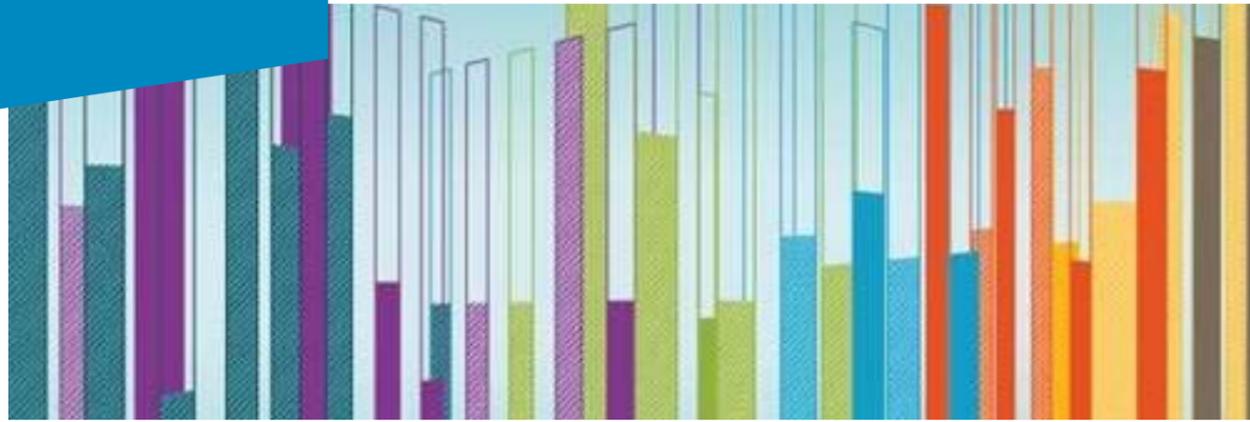


▲ Biosphere Reserves of the Volga river basin area

Living Volga Partnership Programme, local authorities - the Po Water Authority and the Po Delta Land Reclaiming Authority - and 3 other deltaic BRs from France, Romania and Spain. >>map and brochure



▲ UNESCO - Map of Biosphere Reserves in the Volga river basin ; © Bashkirskiy Ural Biosphere Reserve, Russian Federation; © Anastasia Nagirnaya – Volga River basin water lily



▲ © EXPO CNR - Addressing our Emerging Water Futures: The Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Security Nexus

## Countries in South-East Europe share experiences on culture and development



To know that culture impacts sustainable development is one thing, to know how it does it is the role of the UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS). This pioneering advocacy and policy tool, that establishes a common ground for culture and development actors to better integrate culture in development policies and strategies, is being applied in South-East Europe. Its implementation is ongoing in 5 countries and partial results and lessons learnt have been shared to extend activities to other countries in the region.

On 20 April 2016, in Belgrade, the Ministry of Culture and Media of Serbia hosted the regional meeting on “The implementation of Culture for Development Indicators in South East-Europe: results, lessons learnt, recommendations”. The event was organized in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. Besides taking stock of the progress made in the implementation process in the concerned countries, the meeting served to present and assess challenges encountered, threats and opportunities for improvement as well as a monitoring framework based on the Implementation Toolkit provided by UNESCO.

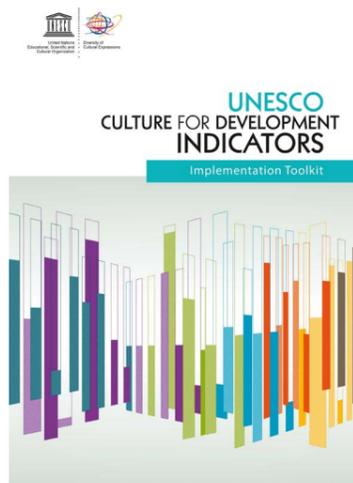
During its pilot implementation phase at global level from 2011 to 2014, the CDIS involved over 24 national level workshops to discuss and validate results, bringing together a large number of stakeholders from ministries, national statistics institutes, academics, development agencies

and civil society. The pilot phase included Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following that experience, since 2015, the UNESCO Regional Bureau is supporting to the implementation of the CDIS in other countries in South-East Europe, starting with Montenegro, Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Albania.

The CDIS process in Montenegro started in February 2015 Following data collection and the construction of indicators, a final workshop took place on 15 April 2015 to present the preliminary results. The analysis and validation of the indicators and the finalization of the report are completed, and the final presentation is to take place in the course of May 2016. The country team in Croatia began data collection and the construction of indicators in late April 2015. The validation of indicators is ongoing. A final workshop to present Croatia’s results is planned for the summer of 2016. The implementation of the CDIS methodology in the Republic of Moldova was officially launched on 8 June 2015 in Chisinau. The construction of the CDIS indicators is well under way. CDIS activities were launched in Serbia (June 2015) and Albania (December 2015), with works in progress.

In 2016, other countries of the region are expected to implement the CDIS. Thanks to these joint efforts, South-East Europe is the sub-region at global level in which the implementation of the CDIS methodology is most advanced, providing an unprecedented



Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS)

opportunity to compare data, results, and sectoral policy at a sub-regional and European level.

Under the coordination of the UNESCO Regional Bureau, the meeting in Belgrade allowed to share as well as confront experiences and practices with partial results in the 7 key CDIS policy dimensions: Economy; Education; Governance; Social participation; Gender equality; Communication; and, Heritage.

Recommendations for future action at policy level were provided on the basis of the outputs collected so far. The meeting set the stage for a reinforcement of the international cooperation on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, at sub-regional level and vis-à-vis the broader European framework. Officials participated in representation of the ministries of culture and relevant authorities of the Member States of the Council

of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe - Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development (CoMoCoSEE), namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. International experts and UNESCO representatives also took part in the meeting. >>full story

## UNESCO Regional Bureau’s recognition at CIAK JUNIOR film festival went to Israel: It’s Not Me!



▲ © CIAK JUNIOR 2016 - “It’s Not Me” by Lahav NPO - Children’s channel

Nine short films from seven countries were in competition at the 27th edition of CIAK JUNIOR International Film Festival held in Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy, from 27-28 May 2016. Over the years, the festival has reached thousands of children from around the world contributing to a culture of peace and sustainable development. This year, the winner of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe’s special recognition was the short film presented by teens from Israel, “It’s Not Me!”.

Over more than two decades, the UNESCO Regional Bureau has been a supporter of the CIAK JUNIOR festival, along with television partners from 25 countries around the world. For UNESCO, young people are essential actors in finding solutions to the issues faced by the world today and its Youth Programme, in particular, works to create an enabling environment in which this goal can be achieved, by

bringing youth voices to the fore and encouraging young people to come together to take action.

On 27 May, the UNESCO Regional Bureau joined the members of the International Jury to review the films competing in this year’s festival. China with ‘The Steps’ won the award for Best Film and Israel “It’s Not Me” the award for Best Subject, as well as a special recognition assigned by the Bureau to the film which best expressed the mission and mandate of the Organization.

The story of “It’s Not Me” (original title ‘Telephone Shavur’), produced by Lahav NPO - Children’s channel, tackles the principles of moral responsibility and accountability, condemning discrimination and dishonesty. The film reflects the need for tolerance and mutual respect, the basic values of a more equitable and peaceful society, to which UNESCO is committed by all means. “Tolerance is harmony in

difference. It is not only a moral duty, it is also a political and legal requirement. Tolerance, the virtue that makes peace possible, contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace. (UNESCO Constitution 1955)

With this recognition, the UNESCO Regional Bureau highlighted the potential of creativity and cultural diversity in line with the guiding principles set forth by the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).

In today’s interconnected world, culture’s power to transform societies is clear and its diverse manifestations - from our historic monuments to traditional practices and contemporary art forms - enrich our everyday lives in countless ways. Creativity contributes to building open, inclusive and pluralistic societies - where tolerance and dialogue underline human relationships. >>full story





▲ © Spring procession of Ljelje/Kraljice (queens) from Gorjani – 2008 Ministry of Culture of Croatia

## South-East European countries share insights to enhance the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Island of Brac in Croatia hosted the Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage on 14-15 June 2016, entitled “Intangible Cultural Heritage and World Heritage: synergies and coordination between the UNESCO 2003 and 1972 Conventions”.

This tenth meeting was jointly organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the Ministry of Culture of Croatia, and the Croatian Commission for UNESCO, with the support of the Sofia Regional Center for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO (Bulgaria). The promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage stands high among the political priorities of South-East Europe in the field of culture. All countries from the region have ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention and are stepping up efforts to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage.

In order to support the Convention’s implementation in the region, the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible

Cultural Heritage was established in 2007 and it represents the main regional forum for the exchange of knowledge and experiences on this topic.

Previous annual meetings of the Network were held in: Bulgaria (2007), Turkey (2008), Croatia (2009), Romania (2010), Serbia (2011), Greece (2012), Bulgaria (2013), Cyprus (2014) and Italy (2015).

These meetings contribute to enhance a common understanding of opportunities and challenges linked to the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage as a key asset of cultural heritage and diversity, as well as to develop institutional and

professional capacities within the relevant national authorities. This year’s meeting was composed of two sessions, devoted respectively to “Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage: progress, experiences and challenges” and “The UNESCO 1972 and 2003 Conventions: convergences and coordination”.

During the first session, participants presented the main developments, achievements and challenges in implementing the 2003 Convention in their respective countries, with special focus on the period 2015-2016. Presentations



▲ © Spring procession of Ljelje/Kraljice (queens) from Gorjani – 2008 Ministry of Culture of Croatia

included information on legal and regulatory frameworks, general policies, cooperation mechanisms, institutions, networks, as well as on specific safeguarding and awareness-raising activities.

The second session included presentations on respective experiences in linking the UNESCO 1972 and 2003 Conventions, both at local and country levels- which was followed by a round table discussion on the potential complementary role of the two instruments, as well as on the challenges and opportunities related to their synergic action and integrated implementation.

The meeting was attended by experts in representation of the ministries of culture of Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria, Croatia; Cyprus; Greece; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Serbia;

Slovenia; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, Turkey. Representatives of Austria, Hungary, Italy, and the United Arab Emirates also participated as observers, as well as international experts and UNESCO Staff. As part of the meeting’s conclusions, participants

accepted the proposal by Bosnia and Herzegovina to host the next session of the Network, in 2017, with a special focus on resource mobilization, fund-raising and partnerships for ICH safeguarding. [>>full story](#)



▲ © Spring procession of Ljelje/Kraljice (queens) from Gorjani – 2008 Ministry of Culture of Croatia

## Second phase of the project : Towards the Great Galleries of the Accademia

**On 29 January 2016, the Palladian wing of the Gallerie dell’Accademia in Venice was reopened to the public, following the completion of the second phase of the project for the refurbishment of the ground floor of the museum. Nine additional rooms were inaugurated at that occasion displaying major works of art, recently restored, thanks to a joint contribution by two private committees, the Venice International Foundation - Friends of Venice Italy and the Venice in Peril Fund, though the UNESCO-International Private Committees Programme for the Safeguarding of Venice.**

The refurbishment of the Palladian wing was carried out on the basis of a project prepared by renowned architect and designer, Tobia Scarpa, under the direct supervision and coordination of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism.

The seven halls composing the Palladian wing have been designed to host the protagonists of Venetian art in the eighteenth and nineteenth

centuries. The new layout begins with a room devoted to artists such as Sebastiano Ricci and Jacopo Amigoni, Rosalba Carriera, the most famous Venetian female artist, Canaletto, Bellotto and Guardi. The paintings underwent conservation works and are presented within wooden frames restored for this specific purpose.

The following rooms retrace the origin of the galleries that started in these rooms since 1808.

Among the paintings displayed therein are the Prospect with portico by Canaletto and the Annunciation by Giambattista Pittoni. A large focus has been given to the works of Antonio Canova. His sketches and plaster casts on show were either donated directly by the artist or purchased at the instigation of Leopold Cicognara, President of the Accademia at that time, as selected works to become an object of study for the sculpture class.

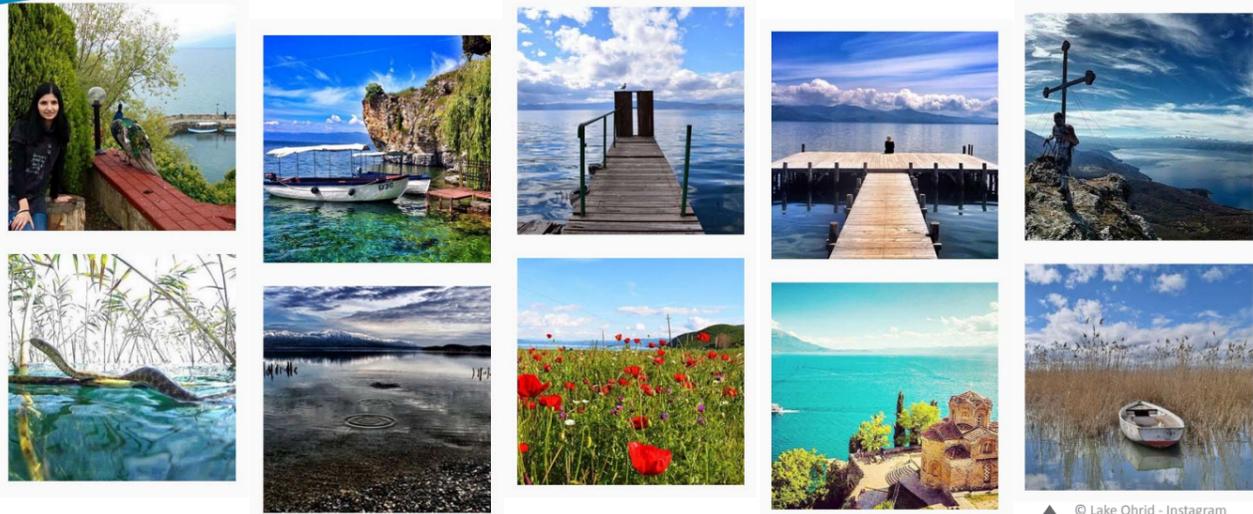
To Canova’s works is also reserved the gallery overlooking the courtyard and the famous Tablino, masterpiece by Palladio. One of the rooms contains

the cattedra (chair and desk) of Leopold Cicognara, restored at that occasion, and some of the most famous plaster casts by Canova. To another great pupil of the Accademia, Francesco Hayez, has been dedicated an entire room.

The layout of the project led by Tobia Scarpa guarantees a formal continuity in the context of the important overall refurbishment of the Great Galleries of the Academy, to which UNESCO contributed since 2014 with the refurbishment of the first five rooms on the ground floor with funds from another private committee, the Venetian Heritage Foundation.



▲ © COREST Consorzio Restauratori- Canova plaster cast



## Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region

The Fifth Management Planning Workshop, in the framework of the project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region” took place in Udënisht, Pogradec area, Albania, on 22 and 23 June 2016.

The Lake Ohrid region is home to one of the world’s oldest lakes and is one of the most unique sources of biodiversity in Europe. The convergence of distinctive natural values with the quality and diversity of its cultural, material and spiritual heritage makes this region truly unique.

Two-thirds of Lake Ohrid is located in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and is inscribed on the World Heritage List as the property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region”. The integrity of this World Heritage property would be significantly reinforced by extending it to the remaining one-third of Lake Ohrid located in Albania.

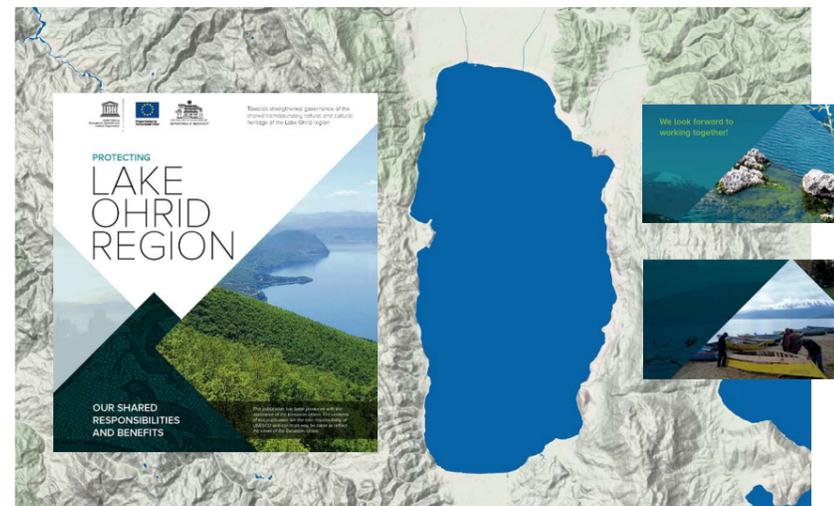
The workshop focused on governance systems and more specifically on the identification of mechanisms for the involvement and the coordination of various activities between different

partners and stakeholders. Additionally the workshop aims to identify priority themes, targets and actions concerning sustainable development options in the Lake Ohrid region in Albania.

This European Union funded project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region” aims to improve transboundary cooperation and management effectiveness for the protection of the natural and cultural heritage in the Lake Ohrid region. The project is coordinated by the World Heritage Centre in

cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe - Antenna in Sarajevo, in partnership with the authorities of both countries, as well as the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS International, IUCN and ICCROM), and is financed by the European Union with the co-financing of the government of Albania.

Last of a series of five, this Fifth Management Planning Workshop will be the opportunity to review the outcomes of the Fourth Management Planning Workshop (12-13 May 2016, Tushemisht) along



▲ © Protecting Lake Ohrid - our shared responsibilities and benefits

with the conclusions of the Third meeting of the Technical Working Group (19 May 2016, Tirana). These Management Planning Workshops have greatly contributed to the

capacity building of the project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region”.

Funded by the European Union and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Albania, the project is going towards its final year of implementation. [>>full story](#)



▲ © UNESCO/A.Fiebig - Family photo; Sinisa Sesum explaining to the press the EU-UNESCO initiative for the protection of the Lake Ohrid; Sonila Kora, Ministry of Culture of Albania, replying to questions of the press regarding transboundary cooperation

## Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage Sites in Albania

This book published by the Italian National Research Council with the support of UNESCO is an outcome of the project “Natural Risk Preparedness and Mitigation - Building capacity in the field of risk mitigation for Cultural Heritage properties in Albania” realized thanks to the ONE UN Coherence funds and additional funds provided by the Government of Italy.



The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, according to the priorities set by the government of Albania and taking the opportunity offered by the One UN Programme, implemented the project “Natural Risk Preparedness and Mitigation - Building capacity in the field of risk mitigation for Cultural Heritage properties in Albania” during the period 2011-2013.



The project aimed to streamline disaster risk management in the Country, using its World Heritage properties as demonstration sites.

and advancement in seismological and geological vulnerability of Cultural Heritage properties. The overall context, the project objectives, its structure and results achieved in terms of capacity building and recommendations are described in the first section of this book.

The project was conceived to assist the country in order to enhance its capacity for Disasters Risk Management (DRM)

In this framework, UNESCO partnered with ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and

the Restoration of Cultural Property, Rome) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, the General Directorate for Civil Emergencies and the Fire Corps, under the Ministry of Interior of Albania, the management authority of National Heritage, the regional departments of Archaeological Parks of Apollonia, Berat, Butrint and Gjirokastra, and the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO. [>>download publication](#)

▼ UNESCO - Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Preparedness and Management at the World Heritage site of Berat (November 2011); painting at the churches of St. Mary of Blachernae and of the Holy Trinity; Butrint



## Rebuilding together. France helps UNESCO rehabilitate cultural institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina



▲ ©GlasRegije – Inauguration of People's library in Dobož

In the aftermath of the devastating floods of 2014, France, Slovenia and the European Union convened a Donors' Conference to mobilise further support to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a mark of solidarity, France donated 1 Million euro to support the reconstruction of 3 cultural institutions in Dobož, Maglaj and Bosanski Šamac. The project is a rebuilding challenge and an opportunity to contribute to the full recovery and wellbeing of the population heavily affected by the floods through the re-establishment of essential cultural public services.

In 2014, the worst floods in living memory of the Balkans affected an estimated one million people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a fourth of the population. The devastation was colossal in a country still recovering from consequences of the war. 81 municipalities were reported to have suffered substantial damages, losses, social or environmental impacts of different degrees; and, hundreds of thousands of households, many of whom, mostly vulnerable groups, displaced and without proper shelter. As part of the Government-led Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) exercise - conducted

at the request of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the support of the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank -, UNESCO undertook an evaluation of the damage and reconstruction needs in the municipalities most affected by the floods. Key cultural infrastructures in the 3 municipalities were identified as exceptionally needful of intervention, having in mind that the continuous interruption of cultural and educational services severely impacted on the population, especially in terms of human development.

UNESCO responded to this emergency recovery need with the project on "Revitalisation of cultural institutions and services in flood affected municipalities Dobož, Maglaj and Bosanski Šamac". The project implemented by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and



▲ © GlasRegije – Inauguration of People's library in Dobož

Culture in Europe and its Antenna Office in Sarajevo has received the generous financial assistance of 1 million euro from France. Of chief importance for the project is the involvement of the local authorities and the inhabitants - especially schoolchildren and young people.

Access to culture and the ability to practice one's culture are essential components of human rights; they likewise contribute significantly to the psychological healing of post-disaster traumas and the strengthening of the social cohesion and resilience of the affected communities. Taking into account the social dimension of the recovery and the undeniable power of culture, the expected outcomes of the project are that of bringing stability and, in the long term, helping build up a stronger cultural sector that can lay the foundation for lasting peace and economic recovery.

The project of a duration of 24 months was initiated in April 2015 with coordinated efforts to rehabilitate the people's library of Dobož (Narodna Biblioteka in Dobož), the Cultural Centres in Maglaj and Bosanski Šamac. These institutions serve the local population by giving access to a broad range of cultural

resources and facilitating the practice of cultural expressions and culture dialogue: traditional crafts, music, costumes, dance, concerts, poetry readings and book presentations.

The project was initiated in April 2015 with coordinated efforts to rehabilitate the people's library of Dobož (Narodna Biblioteka in Dobož), and the Cultural Centres in Maglaj and Bosanski Šamac. These institutions serve the local population by giving access to a broad range of cultural resources and facilitating the practice of cultural expressions and culture dialogue: traditional crafts, music, costumes, dance, concerts, poetry readings and book presentations.

Their rehabilitation was a vital component of the sustainability and development of those communities affected by the floods, that, over the decades have seen a large demographic population shift as many departed the region. The 3 cultural institutions were inaugurated in May.

Within the framework of such constructive cooperation, the Institut français of Bosnia and Herzegovina in partnership with UNESCO and the French Embassy in Sarajevo convened on 3-5 February 2016 an encounter entitled "Deconstruction/Reconstruction: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Laboratory of Europe". The event aimed to reinforce capacity building for the

cultural and creative sector and it allowed for an exchange of know-how and experiences around the question: "How does culture foster intercultural dialogue?". Bearing in mind the link between European integration and reconstruction, Sarajevo was illustrated as a laboratory city in Europe with its cultural diversity and its post-conflict situation. The encounter comprised a series of lectures, workshops and round tables to speak about deconstruction/reconstruction of European territories and to challenge participants to express concepts and ideas. A thematic in-the-field day "Reconstruction beyond rebuilding", with visits to Maglaj and Dobož, closed the event. >>full story

## Dialogue for the Future. Programme of building bridges to the region

The Third Conference of the Dialogue for the Future Platform ended with a clear message; namely, that this project has good prospects to continue as an initiative bringing regional youth together. It was concluded that "In a world tainted with hate, programmes like this can build bridges". The conference was held in Sarajevo on 27 June 2016, gathering over 130 participants.



▲ ©United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Dialogue for the Future 3rd Conference

Culture, education and youth issues where the focus of the third and final conference of the Dialogue for the Future Platform, implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO, in partnership with the United Nations and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These topics, just as in the previous two conferences, were discussed among decision-makers and civil society representatives.

As a part of the final activities of the Project, 40 applications were submitted for a competition Differences Inspire.

The conference was an opportunity to awarded recognition for social engagement - Differences Inspire, aimed to dedicate attention and

acknowledge the importance of "anonymous leaders" for a better future, to individuals or organisations promoting the culture of dialogue and inspiring others to get involved in creating a better atmosphere, environment and life for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. >> full story



▲ ©United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Dialogue for the Future 3rd Conference



▲ ©Sandra Medic – Bođani Monastery

## Cheap-GSHPs project: UNESCO undertook a mission to the Bođani Monastery in Serbia

On 6-8 April 2016, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe undertook a mission to Serbia to get a first-hand contact with the management community of the monastery of Bođani, selected as a virtual case study of the Cheap-GSHPs project. The mission, organized in coordination with the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Vojvodina, aimed at coordinating efforts to accomplish the normative, structural and hydrogeological data as required by the project work plan.

The Cheap-GSHPs project addresses the feasibility and cost of installing and operating efficiently shallow geothermal systems, within a 25% to 30% range, aiming at curbing CO2 emissions accordingly. It also deploys novel heat pumps for higher temperatures capable of reducing the costs for retrofitting in buildings, in particular historical ones, when replacement of the high temperature terminals can be avoided. These solutions will be demonstrated in 6 real case sites with different undergrounds and climate conditions, along with several virtual demonstration cases.

The Cheap-GSHPs project is funded by the European Union in the framework of "Horizon 2020", call LCE-03-2014, under the technology-specific challenges in demonstrating of renewable electricity and heating/cooling technologies. The lifetime of the project is 4 years, up to June 2019.

UNESCO's contribution to the project is focused on demonstrating the compatibility of such innovative systems with the preservation of the architectural integrity in selected real and virtual cases of cultural public buildings in South-East Europe. It contributes to demonstrating and carefully overviewing the compatibility of the proposed innovative geothermal power systems with the conservation of monuments and to enhancing the capacity of management authorities through dedicated trainings.

Besides other real and virtual case studies, UNESCO is responsible for the virtual case study of the Bođani Monastery in Serbia. During the mission, UNESCO met the local religious community to introduce and advance the activities foreseen by the Cheap-GSHPs project. The priests are in charge of the maintenance and custodianship of the orthodox monastery located in the Bačka region, in the northern autonomous Serbian province of Vojvodina. The monastery is at a short distance from the village of Bođani, in the Bač municipality. Declared nationally 'Monument of Culture of Exceptional Importance' in 1990, the Bođani Monastery is protected under the

law of Serbia. The monastery and the surrounding area are also part of the transitional zone of the Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

UNESCO's role in the project is relevant to its interdisciplinary activities aimed at combining geothermal innovative solutions with the conservation of cultural heritage and at mainstreaming sustainable development climate-friendly solutions in the management of specific dedicated sites of high symbolic and demonstrative value, such as the Bođani Monastery. Energy management in historical



▲ UNESCO-CHEAP- GSHPs at work at the Historical Museum of Sarajevo



assets, including listed building, can contribute to dealing with the challenge of CO2 reduction and to increasing the educational impact, which are the objectives of UNESCO within the Cheap-GSHPs project, in

line with the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change.

UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau, joined a consortium of partners coordinated by the Italian National

Research Council (CNR-ISAC) for the project "Cheap and Efficient Application of reliable Ground Source Heat exchangers and Pumps" (Cheap-GSHPs). >>full story

## Ark of Inquiry: success of inquiry-based science education in the classroom outlined in pilot phase report



▲ © Samsung & Venetian Heritage Wing" at Gallerie dell'Accademia

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe conducted the pilot phase of the Ark of Inquiry project in Italy from September 2015 to February 2016. The project reached 629 youth in 38 high school classes with 19 engaging inquiry-based science activities, surpassing the project's initial goal of reaching 420 pupils.

Teachers reported positive experiences using the online platform, and noted that their pupils' curiosity in science was peaked through the implementation of the activities. Key next steps for the project's expansion across Europe in September 2016 are outlined in the report. The pilot phase was completed in high schools in the Veneto region gained success overall. Participating teachers recounted high levels of pupil engagement with the inquiry activities available on the online platform. One teacher in particular revealed that pupils showed interest and enthusiasm throughout the inquiry learning process, and that the activities gave "greater independence" during learning time. Another teacher commented that

"Ark of Inquiry: Inquiry Awards for Youth over Europe" is a research and development project on teacher training, oriented towards raising science awareness, particularly that of youth aged 7 to 18, to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). Funded by the European Commission and involving 13 project partners from 12 countries, the project started in 2014 and has a duration of 4 years."

"making connections to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) practices allows pupils to think about science topics beyond the context of the science classroom".

During the implementation of the pilot phase, 16 activities involved chemistry content, 11 activities involved physics topics, and 6 activities covered biology content. A total of 33 of the selected 38 activities were carried out in a classroom setting (87%) and 5 out of 38 of the selected activities were completed off of school grounds in real-world settings like grocery stores and forested areas (13%). The top 5 activities selected by teachers from the online platform were: Build an Atom; Which Soap is the Best?; Carbon detective in Transport; Sinking and Floating; and, Where does food come from? All of the pupils that completed the activities were 11 years of age or older, and 81% of the Ark of Inquiry activities

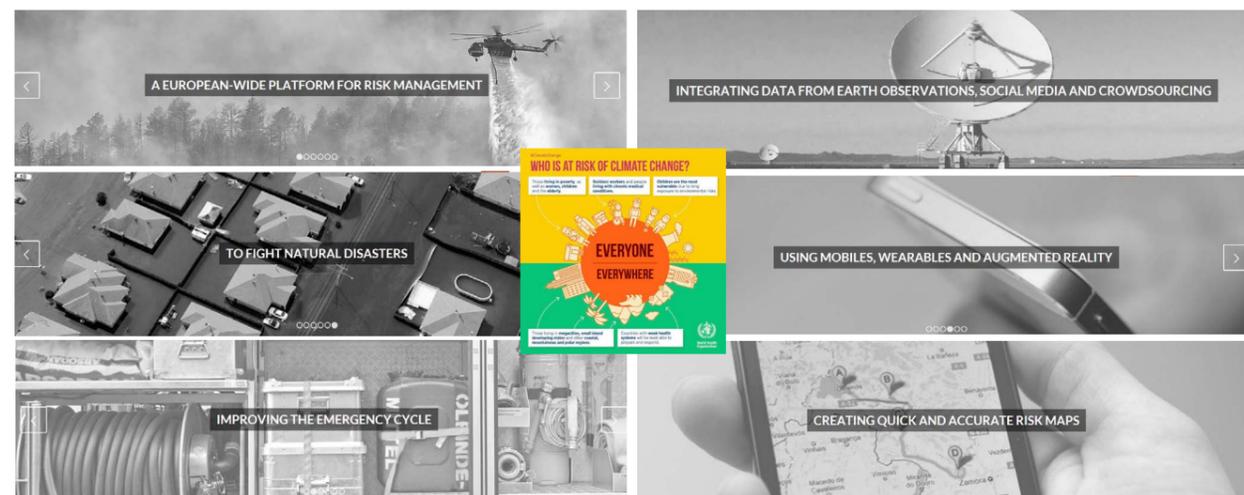
implemented during the pilot phase were catered towards pupils aged 13 to 16 (31 out of the 38 total implemented activities).

At the end of the pilot phase survey and during face-to-face meetings, participating teachers commented that the inquiry activities allowed pupils to apply their scientific knowledge to problems facing the world today. They all agreed that the development of these skills is essential for pupils' success in higher education settings and in their daily lives. >>full story



▲ Ark of Inquiry - Kristina Kravets from Science Centre AHHA/Splash Buoyancy

## I-REACT Kick off: Social Media, smartphones and wearables to better manage natural disasters



▲ I-REACT, Who is at risk of climate change campaign

I-REACT, the EU-H2020 funded project on Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies, officially started on 9 June 2016. The Istituto Superiore Mario Boella of Turin, coordinator of the project, hosted the kick-off meeting.

UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in close cooperation with the Earth Sciences and Geo-hazards Risk Reduction of the UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector, is one of the 20 consortium partners, that will gather in Turin, Italy, to establish common ground of understanding, values and targets to conduct the project, its implementation and strategic plan.

Society as a whole is increasingly exposed and vulnerable to natural disasters because extreme weather events, exacerbated by climate change, are becoming more frequent and impacting. I-REACT is a project over 6,5 million euro that has received funding under the 'Innovation action' scheme of the European Commission with the aim to create a real time prevention and management system for natural disasters. I-REACT is the proposed system to increase the resilience of European citizens and assets to natural disaster. I-REACT will help prevent and manage emergency

situations. Emergency responses will be more coordinated, costs will be reduced and citizens will be actively involved.

Italy plays a pivotal role in the I-REACT project. The Istituto Superiore Mario Boella (ISMB), a leading Information technology and Telecommunications research centre in Turin, coordinates the project together with 20 European partners, including research centres, IGOs, public entities and SMEs.

By 2018, I-REACT will implement a platform that, thanks to advanced technologies, will gather and analyse various data sources to generate real-time information on floods, fires, earthquakes and other natural hazards. The interoperability with Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS), the liaison with the United Nations and its International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) will further enhance the expected outputs.

I-REACT is built on the outcomes of the EU project FLOODIS (Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing a

*I-REACT (Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies) is a Horizon2020 3-year project (2016-2018) involving a consortium of 20 partners. The project will integrate multiple existing systems and European assets to facilitate early planning of disaster risk reduction activities. The focus will be on natural disasters triggered by extreme weather.*

flood information service). Ended in 2015, FLOODIS focused on implementing a crowd-sourcing approach to support the emergency response in case of floods with dedicated demonstrations carried out by UNESCO in Italy and in Albania. FLOODIS implemented a smartphone application to collect real-time reports from both citizens and civil protection agents, and to provide short and long-term projections of the flood extent for supporting in-field emergency rescue units. I-REACT exploits an identical approach, multiplying the opportunities: on top of photos taken from smartphones, I-REACT will also exploit social media - capturing messages and images from Instagram and Twitter. It will collect satellite images as well as reports from wearable technologies (bands, smart glasses) worn by on-site operators.

By means of a BigData architecture built into the Microsoft Azure cloud platform, I-REACT will gather all the aforementioned information and provide accurate and near-real time forecasts of emergency events. >>full story

## Disaster Risk Preparedness for Albania with an interface between FLOODIS and DEWETRA

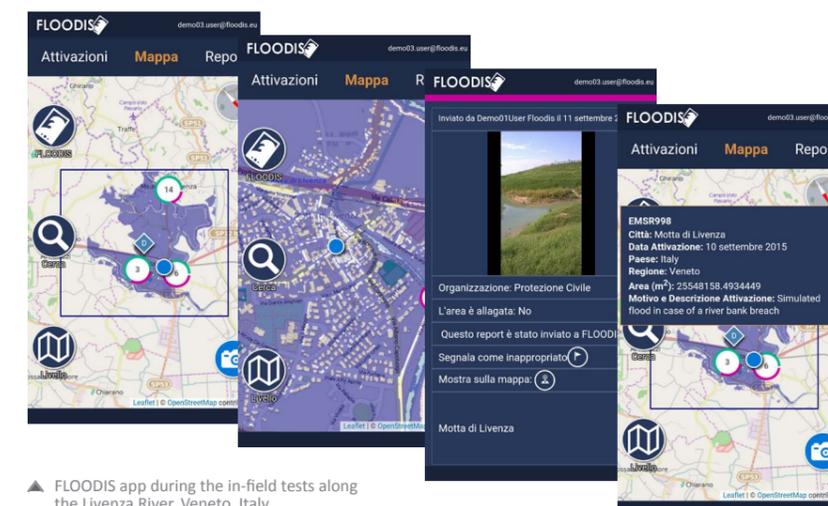


In June, UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe held consultations in Tirana on the FLOODIS project spin off activity implemented by UNESCO in the framework of the "Government of Albania-UN Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016" and funded by the Delivering Results Together Fund (DRTF). This second phase of the project is aimed at interfacing the DEWETRA platform, a real-time integrated system for hydro-meteorological and wildfire risk forecasting, monitoring and prevention in use in Albania with FLOODIS application.

Floods are rising in Albania, requiring a more efficient and effective coordination between civil protection authorities and the entities in charge of weather forecasting and environmental monitoring with the inclusion of professional volunteers and skilled users from the local communities and required external expertise to enhance safety of persons and property.

This is the challenge that prompted Albania to join the EU-funded FLOODIS project to test the area of Shkodra with success in June 2015. The project FLOODIS (Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing a flood information service), a collaborative European Community project funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7-SPACE-2013-1), ran from 2013 to 2015 under the leadership of ISMB in Turin with the participation of UNESCO through its Regional Bureau.

Aiming at supporting the implementation of the EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC in Albania, FLOODIS intends to support the development of policies and provide technical assistance necessary to strengthen early warning and flood monitoring systems promoting the national framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The project, implemented with UNESCO as a partner, was



▲ FLOODIS app during the in-field tests along the Livenza River, Veneto, Italy

*FLOODIS (Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing a flood information service), a collaborative European Community project, led by ISMB based in Turin with the participation of UNESCO, and funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7-SPACE-2013-1), ran from 2013 to 2015.*

developed to provide disaster alert and information system leveraging on existing space and mobile communication assets for emergency response teams and affected citizens.

Following the optimal results achieved in the testing phase of the FLOODIS application, a second phase begun in order to operationalise its real time reporting function, being a highly valued service according to the Civil Protection authority in Albania, within the DEWETRA platform. The DEWETRA platform is a real-time integrated system for hydro-meteorological and

up-to-date, reliable risk scenarios.

The objective of this on-going technical and scientific cooperation supported by UNESCO is to provide an additional tool to enhance communication flow between the Operational centres of the Civil Protection and its field agents while monitoring and reporting on targeted flood related, hazardous events at a national scale within the country.

FLOODIS application, in particular the real-time reporting module, may considerably decrease the general



▲ © Antennare - FLOODIS in-field testing of Livenza river

wildfire risk forecasting, monitoring and prevention created by CIMA foundation, on behalf of the Italian Civil Protection Department, endorsed by the World Meteorological Organization, and operated in Albania in joint cooperation with IGewe. The system is based on the rapid data availability for the establishment of

costs both direct and indirect of a flood related hazard as demonstrated by a dedicated Cost-benefit Analysis (CBA) undertaken by Alpha Consult in the aftermath of FLOODIS demonstration in Italy and Albania. >>full story

**THE OCEAN HAS ABSORBED 30% OF CO2 PRODUCED BY HUMANS BUFFERING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

The ocean is the heart of our planet. Like your heart pumping blood to every part of your body, the ocean connects people across the Earth, no matter where we live. The ocean regulates the climate, feeds millions of people every year, produces oxygen, is the home to an incredible array of wildlife, provides us with important medicines, and so much more! In order to ensure the health and safety of our communities and future generations, it's imperative that we take the responsibility to care for the ocean as it cares for us.

This year, the theme is **Healthy oceans, healthy planet**, and we're making a special effort to stop plastic pollution.



"2016 is the year when the world starts to implement the promises made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. UNESCO's message on World Oceans Day is clear – the ocean is essential to moving forward. A healthy ocean is a healthy planet, and a healthy planet is absolutely vital for the well-being of generations to come."

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the World Oceans Day

# World Oceans Day

## World Oceans Day, Ocean and climate: from words to action

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Ocean and Climate Platform emphasized the ocean's crucial role in relation to sustainable development and climate on World Oceans Day, celebrated every year on 8 June. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe gave support to the promoting of the celebration.

In a round table debate entitled "Moving from Agreement to Action" at UNESCO Headquarters, policy makers, experts, private sector representatives, and nongovernmental organizations took stock of threats to the ocean, including acidification, rising water temperatures and coral bleaching and highlighted the need for urgent action.

"The state of our planet depends on the state of the ocean," declared UNESCO Deputy Director-General Getachew Engida, speaking on behalf of Director-General Irina Bokova.



© World Oceans Day - We love our oceans and we should care every day! Plastic pollution/impact

"In 2015, for the very first time, the key role of the ocean for sustainability, for poverty reduction, for human development was recognized at the highest level, as a core part of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,"

he said before calling on the international community to proclaim a UN Decade for the Ocean and the Planet.

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Ocean and Climate Platform spearheaded a strong mobilization, which helped include the Ocean in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in December last year. They were also behind the decision of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to issue a report, in April 2016, on the Ocean. Six months ahead of the next climate conference, COP22, World Oceans Day was an opportunity to proclaim that the time has come to put into practice the commitments expressed by the signatories of the Paris Agreement.

The Ocean and Climate Platform and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission will organize the 2nd Ocean and Climate Forum at the COP22 next November.

Both bodies are committed to pursuing scientific knowledge, improving ocean governance and implementing the Paris Agreement over the coming years. >> full story

## DO YOU SPEAK OCEAN? OPEN RESOURCE ON OCEAN LITERACY



© UNESCO - World Oceans Day: from words to action

Sea Change EU H2020 funded project aims to establish a fundamental "Sea Change" in the way European citizens view their relationship with the sea, by empowering them, as Ocean Literate citizens, to take direct and sustainable action towards a healthy ocean and seas, healthy communities and ultimately a healthy planet. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe is giving support to its promotion and dissemination.

Most European citizens are not aware of the full extent of the medical, economic, social, political and environmental importance of the sea to Europe and indeed to the rest of the world. Many of us are not aware of how our day-to-day actions can have a cumulative effect on the health of the ocean and seas – a necessary resource that must be protected for all life on the planet Earth to exist. In other words, European citizens lack a sense of "Ocean Literacy" – an understanding of the ocean's influence on us and our influence on the ocean.

By using the concept of Ocean Literacy, Sea Change will create a deeper understanding amongst European citizens of how their health depends on the health of our seas and ocean. Sea Change will move to bring about real actions using behavioural and social change methodologies. The ocean makes planet Earth a habitable place to live and the marine environment is a source of vital human health benefits.

The ocean is vitally important to Europe. The 28 Member States have between them the largest maritime territory in the world (approximately 3.9 million km<sup>2</sup>) and all of us depend on the ocean and its resources. Despite the importance of Europe's sea areas, their sustainable development and protection faces threats from natural and human pressures. By better understanding the relationships between us and the sea, we will be better able to protect these precious resources.

Building upon the latest social research on citizen and stakeholder attitudes, perceptions and values, the Sea Change partnership will

design and implement mobilisation activities focused on education, community, governance actors and directly targeted at citizens. These actions will be assessed for their effectiveness which, in turn, will allow the project to improve its techniques and spread a "Sea Change" in behaviour across Europe.

The Sea Change objectives will be achieved by a closely interlinked programme that will include engaging with schools, citizens, decision makers and industry representatives with the idea that we ALL share one ocean and that this ocean is fragile.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2016

#### January

The role of Universities in Supporting UNESCO Designated Sites as Drivers for Sustainable Development at Local and Regional Levels Athens, Greece. 18-19 January 2016

Ark of Inquiry: 4th consortium meeting Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 24-27 January 2016

#### February

Construction - Destruction Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 3-5 February 2016

2nd dialogue Platform Conference - Dialogue for future project Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 8 February 2016

2nd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe - Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development Istanbul, Turkey. 24-25 February 2016

#### March

3rd Transboundary Platform Meeting for the safeguarding of the Lake Ohrid region Pogradec, Albania. 7 March 2016

4th World Congress on Biosphere Reserves Lima, Peru. 14-17 March 2016

Workshop on using the Gender Sensitive Indicators for Media in university curricula side event on Women in Science in the Media Tirana, Albania. 17-18 March 2016



#### April

Mission to Bodani Monastery "Cheap and Efficient Application of reliable Ground Source Heat exchangers and PumpS" (Cheap-GSHPs) Bodani, Serbia. 6-8 April 2016

Visit of H.E. Mr. Stanley Mutumba Simataa, President of UNESCO General Conference to the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe Venice, Italy. 9-12 April 2016

Mission to History Museum of Sarajevo "Cheap and Efficient Application of reliable Ground Source Heat exchangers and PumpS" (Cheap-GSHPs) Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 18-20 April 2016

General Assembly of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe Sofia, Bulgaria. 19 April 2016

Regional Meeting of the SEE Experts Network on the Implementation of CDIS in South-East Europe Belgrade, Serbia. 20 April 2016

Blue helmets -Delivery of diplomas Rome, Italy. 29 April 2016

#### May

Training course on "Promoting nature, culture and World Heritage in the Lake Ohrid region" Pogradec and Tushemisht, Albania. 10-11 May 2016

Fourth Management Planning Workshop of the Lake Ohrid region Tushemisht, Albania. 12-13 May 2016

Conference "The Local Landscape Observatory for the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve" Porto Viro, Po Delta. 13 May 2016

Inauguration Peoples Library in Dobojo and Cultural Centre in Bosanski Šamac Dobojo and Samac, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 16 May 2016

CIAK Junior International Film Festival – XXVII edition Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy. 27-28 May 2016

First Annual Review "Cheap and Efficient Application of reliable Ground Source Heat exchangers and PumpS" (Cheap-GSHPs) Dublin, Ireland. 30 May - 1 June 2016

#### June

Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB Zagreb, Croatia. 1 June 2016

Ark of Inquiry: Mid-term Review Brussels, Belgium. 7-8 June 2016

Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference Batumi, Georgia. 8-10 June 2016

Kick-off Meeting of the European Project I-REACT (Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies) Turin, Italy. 9-10 June 2016

10th Annual meeting of the Regional Network of Experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe Brac, Croatia. 13-15 June 2016

Consultations meetings for the rollout of FLOODIS II in Albania Tirana, Albania. 15-17 June 2016

High-Level Forum on Implementing Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at Local Level Florence, Italy. 16-17 June 2016

Meeting on Delta Po Biosphere Reserve brand and marketing Porto Viro, Italy. 20-23 June 2016

Training programme "Building a strategy and writing projects for EU: Conception of common projects for the valorization of cultural heritage in BiH" Dobojo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 21-22 June 2016

Fifth Management Planning Workshop of the Lake Ohrid region Udenisht, Pogradec area, Albania. 22-23 June 2016

Exhibition 'Behind Food Sustainability at Eco Design Week - Delta del Po Porto Levante, Porto Viro, Taglio di Po, Scardovari, Pila, Italy. 23-26 June 2016

Euro-Med Conference on "Translation for Dialogue" Piran, Slovenia. 23-24 June 2016



Dialogue for the Future Project – Final conference Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 27 June 2016

#### July

40th session of the World Heritage Committee Committee Istanbul, Turkey. 10-20 July 2016

Sea Change Project: Launch of Campaign Europe. 18 July 2016

Summer University of Samothraki 2016: Integrated Management Approaches for Biosphere Reserves and other Designated Areas Samothrace, Greece. 9-22 July 2016

#### August

Biosphere Reserves branding through high quality food products and gastronomy Langhirano, Appennino Tosco-Emiliano Biosphere Reserve, Italy. 30 August - 1 September 2016

#### October

Sub-regional Workshop Managing Disaster Risks in UNESCO Designated Sites Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 10-13 October 2016

40th session of the World Heritage Committee UNESCO Headquarters. 24-26 October 2016

#### November

Workshop and study-tour for Bosnia and Herzegovina on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property Rome, Italy. 21-25 November 2016

#### December

Workshop on managing urban heritage and fostering creativity in UNESCO designated sites Turin, Italy. 1-6 December 2016

>> all events

## Backstory

### President of the General Conference meets the UNESCO Regional Bureau



▲ © UNESCO - group photo during the visit

On 11 and 12 April 2016, during his visit to Venice, Italy, H.E. Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa, President of the General Conference of UNESCO, met Ana Luiza Thompson Flores, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Venice and her team to examine the mandate and activities of the Bureau as well as its unique governance system, which relates to the annual contribution of Italy to the programme activities of the Bureau.

The President acknowledged the diversity of activities led by the Bureau, in Europe and particularly South-East Europe, as well as in Central Asia with regards to the UN interagency coordination mechanism and processes, in cooperation with the concerned UNESCO Offices, in the field of the Natural Sciences and Culture. The President was also presented with both the opportunities and challenges related to the governance of the Bureau, which relies, in addition to the Medium-Term Strategy and the Programme and Budget of UNESCO, on the role of the Bureau's Steering Committee and Scientific Council as regards the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of the Italian contribution work plan.

"At a time when the UNESCO Governing Bodies are discussing key structural issues of the Organization, such as its governance architecture, it is important to recall that effective results delivery at country level is essential and that the UNESCO Field Offices are a key component in this regard", stated the President of the General Conference. The Director thanked the President for his visit as it is the first time that a President of the General Conference visited the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

Presentations delivered by the Director, the Head of the Bureau's Antenna in Sarajevo and the Programme Specialists for Natural Sciences and Culture provided a detailed overview of the strategic position of the Bureau, notably taking into account its role in supporting the implementation of the regional cooperation strategy of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe, among others. The President also congratulated the team for its pro-active fund-raising efforts, which are indeed key in programme delivery. >>full story



### Stanley Mutumba Simataa, President of the 38th session of the General Conference on official mission to Venice



On the occasion of his mission, the President benefited from the courtesy visit of Mr Umberto Marcello del Majno, Chairperson of the Association of International Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice, who, together with the Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau, renewed the commitment of both institutions to pursue effective relations in view of the safeguarding and promotion of the cultural heritage of the City of Venice.



▲ © Stanley Mutumba Simataa - President of the 38th session of the General Conference. UNESCO / P. Chiang-Joo; various photos during his mission to Venice

# Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

## Contact Us :

Palazzo Zorzi, Castello 4930 - 30122 Venice - Italy  
Tel: +39.041.260.15.11 Fax: +39.041.528.99.95

[veniceoffice@unesco.org](mailto:veniceoffice@unesco.org)

For more information, please visit our website:

[www.unesco.org/venice](http://www.unesco.org/venice)



Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization