



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**Regional Bureau
for Science and Culture
in Europe**



2015 Highlights

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), dedicated its resources in 2015 to continue to support the Members States and regional cooperation in South-East Europe in the fields of Science and Culture building-on the groundwork laid in the previous years.

This Report highlights a number of achievements accomplished in 2015 demonstrating the work undertaken in the field of Science and Culture and in the pursuit of an inter-sectorial approach. While not comprehensive of all activities undertaken throughout the year, it provides readers with a summary of activities, mainly in South-Eastern Europe Member States.

Building upon the twin pillars of Science and Culture of the Bureau, considerable time and resources were dedicated during 2015 to interdisciplinary activities, also, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the Bureau's host country as the organizer of the 2015 international EXPO. In this framework, the Bureau show-cased UNESCO-listed sites and elements, such as World Heritage, Biosphere Reserves, and Intangible Cultural Heritage, as laboratories for developing good practices of sustainable territorial development. This was undertaken through a broad set of activities, such as the exhibition "Behind Food Sustainability" and the Treasure Hunt in Venice for children to find out about water, the "blue gold" of the 21st century. In addition, the Bureau continued providing specialized training opportunities on the integration of disaster risk management within the governance of natural and cultural sites.

In the field of Science, particular attention has been paid to long-term solutions to reduce pressure on the environment while advancing economic development and promoting justice and equity. To deal with such challenges, the Bureau focused on actions that integrated scientific information and knowledge, in particular through interdisciplinary knowledge brokering processes. In line with the priorities of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO, the Bureau provided support to decision- and policy-makers for a sound management of water resources and Biosphere Reserves, with a particular focus on shared river basins and ecosystems, considering in particular disaster risk reduction and management. The Science Unit also promoted science education within the region.

The programme of the Culture Unit in 2015 focused on promoting culture, including heritage and contemporary cultural expressions, as a driving force for sustainable development in South-East Europe. This was pursued through action in three main areas: improving the protection and management of cultural heritage; promoting the role of culture as driver and enabler for sustainable development; supporting regional cooperation and intercultural dialogue. Depending on the specific needs and opportunities, activities took the form of capacity-building actions; technical assistance and advice; management of restoration, conservation, and reconstruction works; and awareness-raising actions at the level of the general public and of political decision makers.

While 2015 was a year of many challenges for the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the following pages will demonstrate its dedication and resilience in ensuring the delivery of programme activities.

Many of the activities presented in this report were possible consequent to the Bureau's new approach to fund-raising, combining cooperation with donor countries with diverse funding opportunities, including UN funds and partnerships with privates. Special attention was paid to strengthening the strategic cooperation with the European Union, both through direct negotiation and the participation in competitive financing programmes (notably, Horizon 2020), as the priority fund-raising axis in the years to come.

In the future, the Bureau will also count on the continued support, both in kind as per the provision of its premises and through a financial contribution, of the Italian national and local authorities, to which it expresses its gratitude.



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2015 Events



**Joint action
on cultural
and natural
heritage**

During 2015, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe greatly strengthened its interdisciplinary action through the joint work of its Science and Culture units, focusing on two main topics:

1. Raising awareness of the importance of cultural and natural diversity and water for sustainable development, within the framework of EXPO 2015

Building on the opportunity offered by the Milan EXPO 2015 “Feeding the Planet – Energy for Life” and the “Venice to EXPO 2015” collateral programme, the Bureau led UNESCO’s contribution to the EXPO 2015 showcasing UNESCO-designated sites and elements (including World Heritage properties, Biosphere Reserves, the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the UNESCO Creative Cities Network) as laboratories for developing good practices of sustainable territorial development. A broad set of activities was implemented to this end, in Milan and in Venice, as well as in many other locations in Italy. In line with the theme of Venice to EXPO 2015, special attention was also paid to water as an indispensable but fragile resource, with the production of dedicated educational cartoons and games targeting children, a conference dedicated to waterscapes and historic canals, and a series of installations dedicated to “Water Worlds”.

2. Building capacities for the integrated management of cultural and natural heritage

In continuity with the pilot actions launched in 2014, the Bureau further leveraged its multi-sectoral mandate in 2015 providing specialized capacity-building opportunities on the integrated management of cultural and natural heritage to site managers and other stakeholders from Europe and beyond.

Training activities especially focused on: a) the management of food-productive landscapes in UNESCO designated territories (Biosphere reserves and World Heritage Cultural Landscapes); b) the integration of disaster risk management and energy efficiency within the governance of natural and cultural sites, combining World Heritage management standards with scientific knowledge and experience.

All the mentioned activities were designed and intended also as pilot actions on which to further develop the Bureau’s interdisciplinary work in the years to come, with a view at developing the Bureau’s expertise, capacities and network of partners on specific topics. In this regard, cooperation and the sharing of experiences between World Heritage properties and Biosphere Reserves as laboratories for sustainable development was considered as priority.

UNESCO's contribution to EXPO 2015

The theme chosen for EXPO Milan 2015, “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, provided an opportunity for UNESCO to share its experience of the relationship between people, culture, nature and the production/consumption of food with a global audience, and to explore the vital role of cultural and natural diversity as drivers for sustainable development.



As well as participating in EXPO Milan as a member of the UN system under the banner “The Zero Hunger Challenge. United for a Sustainable World”, UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, developed a broad set of activities and events in and around Venice as well as other Italian sites as part of the **Venice to EXPO 2015** programme:

- The “**Behind Food Sustainability**” exhibition;
- **Water Worlds**, including the “Exploring the Venice Lagoon” multimedia installation and two international conferences, “Waterscapes and Historic Canals as a Cultural Heritage” and “Water for a Sustainable World”;
- **Children’s EXPO**, including the Treasure Hunt in Venice, the Parco degli Alberi Parlanti in Treviso and Young Leonardo cartoons at EXPO.

The Regional Bureau spearheaded UNESCO’s efforts within the framework of EXPO 2015, in order to use this opportunity as a platform for raising awareness on important issues relating to sustainable development at the local, regional and global levels. UNESCO, as part of the United Nations (UN) system, participated in EXPO 2015 together with over 20 other UN specialized agencies and programmes, coordinated by a UN-EXPO 2015 team under the leadership of FAO. The theme “The Zero Hunger Challenge: United for a Sustainable World” was a call for action to ensure that all people have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious and sustainable food. Over its 6-month duration, from May through October 2015, EXPO Milan 2015 attracted over 21 million visitors.

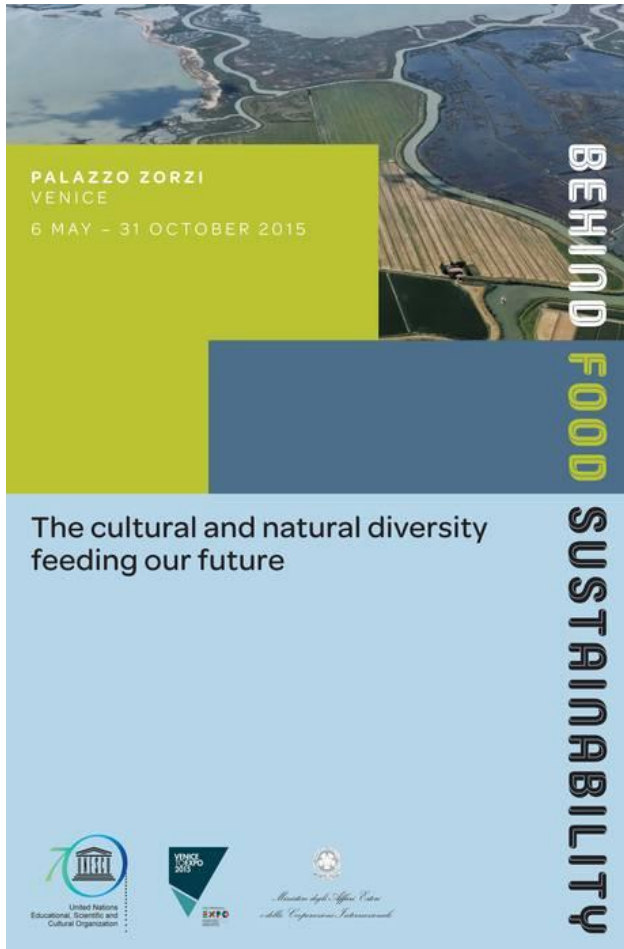
The two cities, Milan and Venice, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to qualify the direct and indirect participation of the Venice area to EXPO 2015. UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau located in Venice, took advantage of this unique opportunity to further promote UNESCO’s mission and mandate in line with the main theme of EXPO 2015 and with the selected special theme for Venice’s participation in EXPO 2015: “Water, Energy for life”, allowing the World Heritage site of Venice and its Lagoon to share its experiences with other communities around the world.

Organized around these themes, the projects, events and activities of UNESCO served to introduce many of the Organization’s flagship programmes to the public.

Behind Food Sustainability

As UNESCO's major contribution to EXPO 2015, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe produced and exhibition on the link between cultural and natural diversity and food sustainability, presented at its premises in Venice. The exhibition was on display in 9 different locations in Italy as well as online.

In line with EXPO 2015's theme, 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life', the UNESCO exhibition "Behind Food Sustainability" took a look at what communities and territories around the world can teach us about man's relationship with food and nature.



The exhibition selected and presented good practices from UNESCO's global networks of designations, including World Heritage properties, Biosphere Reserves, elements from the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the Creative Cities Network. It provided a platform for communities to share the knowledge they have acquired over the course of generations, bearing witness to their values and passing on the lessons learned in the field of sustainable development to others.

UNESCO's networks of cultural and natural sites and intangible cultural heritage elements celebrate natural and cultural diversity in all its forms, as a crucial factor for sustainable development. The communicative value of these international networks is unparalleled.

EXPO 2015 offered the opportunity to look at such networks in terms of food sustainability, and to use their experiences to raise awareness on the importance of cultural and natural heritage as assets for achieving sustainable forms of food production and consumption. Viewed together, these examples of humanity's resourcefulness and of man's relationship with nature hold the key to understanding present and future challenges related to sustainable development.

The exhibition was developed around 5 main thematic areas, each focusing on a particular sustainability challenge:

Managing Water: Our water resources face huge pressure from population growth, climate change and pollution. Improved water management plays a vital role in increasing food production and reducing food insecurity.

Looking after the Land: Productive land is essential to the needs of humankind. Our ability to feed the world in the future largely depends on the sustainable use of this resource.

Balancing the Food Economy: Food production and distribution stimulate economic growth. By drawing on the local cultural, social and natural resources, food-related practices can become more sustainable and create wider opportunities.

Protecting Diversity: The biological and cultural diversity of the planet, key to our present and future well-being, is under threat. Ensuring its survival is a necessary step on the road to achieving a fairer and more sustainable food system.

Fostering Participation: Food-related practices have a social and cultural dimension, based on community participation. This is vital for building identities and supporting social cohesion and development.



The 5 themes were developed and presented by means of different media, combining physical panels with a dedicated video and digital contents on touch-screen tablets. The material was also made available online.

“Behind Food Sustainability” was exhibited at this Regional Bureau located in Venice at Palazzo Zorzi, from 6 May to 31 October 2015. In order to reach the widest possible audience, additional copies were produced and displayed in 8 other locations in Italy: the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, the Padua Botanical Gardens, the Sila Biosphere Reserve, the Circeo Biosphere Reserve, the Appennino Tosco-Emiliano Biosphere Reserve, the Dolomites World Heritage property, Turin (on the occasion of the 3rd World Forum on Local Economic Development from 13 to 16 October 2015) and Genoa (in the framework of the 2015 Science Festival from 27 October to 6 November 2015).

Photo credit: ©UNESCO 2015 - Behind Food Sustainability Exhibition

UNESCO encourages Biosphere Reserves to work on sustainability within the framework of EXPO 2015

Biosphere Reserves from Italy and beyond came together at a meeting organized by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of Land and Sea, in close cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. The event took place on 20 June 2015 at the Centre of the Earth - Biodiversity Park at EXPO Milan 2015, and was accompanied by the launch of the “Behind Food Sustainability” video produced by UNESCO.

The meeting heralded a renewed communication drive by the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Network, Biosphere Reserves in Italy and invited UNESCO designated sites from Austria, France, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland, focussing on crucial societal issues such as sustainable development, food security, and the protection of environmental and cultural assets. The sites also demonstrated their



potential to be “models” for innovation in territorial governance far beyond their borders.

The meeting represented an opportunity to open multiple channels of communication on development and sustainability issues.

The importance of the new Italian Reserves recently included in the World Network was highlighted during the meeting, not only in terms of biodiversity conservation but also for their contribution to the

promotion of sustainable development, with a particular focus on traditional knowledge and the production of food.

The “Behind Food Sustainability” video was shown as part of the presentation and various experiences were presented from the following Biosphere Reserves: Po Delta (Italy), Camargue (France), Selva Pisana (Italy); Ticino Valley (Italy), Wienerwald (Austria), Circeo (Italy); and Monviso/Queyras (Italy/France). This event also inaugurated a series of replications of the “Behind Food Sustainability” exhibition displayed at various locations in Italy.

Photo credit: ©UNESCO/Marco Branchi, The Appennino Tosco-Emiliano Biosphere Reserve, Italy

The new Po Delta Biosphere Reserve's contribution to Venice to EXPO 2015

On 9 June 2015, the International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) added 20 new sites to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, bringing their total number to 651 sites, including 15 transboundary sites, in 120 countries. The Po Delta is one of the 3 sites in Italy, along with The Ledro Alps and Judicaria and Appennino Tosco-Emiliano, to have been added on this occasion.



The Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy's only delta, represents an exceptional heritage of biodiversity due to its wide range of habitats. Tourism, agriculture and fish farming are the main economic activities. The richness of the stunning landscapes, the natural heritage, the architecture and the urban settlements of the Delta area presented as an opportunity for the two regions that share this territory, Emilia-Romagna and Veneto, to submit their nomination to the Man and the Biosphere World Network.

During 2015 the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe supported this new Biosphere Reserve, with a view to conserving important natural and historical assets, but also to developing and implementing projects for the sustainable development of the Po Delta territory, benefiting its population. The project "The Po Delta Towards EXPO 2015: Man - Nature - Development", supported by the Foundation "Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo" was conceived with this purpose.

As part of the Venice to EXPO 2015 programme, this Regional Bureau organised a series of activities centred on the "Behind Food Sustainability" exhibition and the new Po Delta Biosphere Reserve. "Un Po di Storie" interactive installation and of the "Delta Po" App at the Conference Centre in Rosolina Mare, were both developed with the contribution of the "Centro Civiltà dell'Acqua Onlus".

The aim was to encourage greater public interest on a topic which is of considerable historical value but which also holds great potential for sustainable development in this area: navigation on inland rivers and lagoons. The specially designed "Delta Po" App for smartphones and tablets, still accessible, allows visitors to further explore the delta landscape. The exhibition "Behind Food Sustainability" was on view at the Padua Botanical Garden between September and October 2015, before being definitely installed at the Cà Vendramin Museum in the Po delta area.

Photo credit: ©F.Gasperoni – Parco Delta del Po

European waterscapes and historic canals, a crucial cultural heritage to safeguard

The international conference “Waterscapes and Historic Canals as a Cultural Heritage” took place in Venice, Italy, from 14-15 May 2015 as part of the broad set of activities organized by UNESCO in the context of EXPO 2015. The event was organized by the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice and the Centro Internazionale Civiltà dell’Acqua, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti.

Following a first workshop on issues concerning the European historic canals and their related heritage as an opportunity to promote “responsible” tourism, this second conference highlighted the crucial importance of waterscapes and historic canals as visible infrastructural networks constituting a significant part of European history.

The event gathered many perspectives on waterscapes and fostered new strategic planning in specific riparian contexts and in the wider stratification of rural and urban landscapes crossed by historical hydrography. It developed a research line related to European Waterways as cultural heritage and focused on more detailed aspects of waterscapes interpretation, cultural tourism along historic canals and fluvial waterfronts’ management.

The conference was an integral part of the set of activities that UNESCO had developed for EXPO 2015, in particular to contribute to the “Venice to EXPO 2015” initiative.



Photo credit: [@waterscapesculturalheritage.org](https://waterscapesculturalheritage.org) - Casoni

Exploring the Venice Lagoon - Visualizing Water Worlds

Set up as part of the 'Venice to EXPO 2015' Programme, the interactive multimedia installation exploring the places and values of the World Heritage site "Venice and its Lagoon" was presented in Venice at Palazzo Zorzi from 21 May to 31 October 2015.

"Venice and its Lagoon", inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 for the uniqueness of its cultural values, contains historical, archaeological, urban, artistic heritage and exceptional cultural traditions integrated into an extraordinary and outstanding environmental and natural landscape.

The 'Exploring the Venice Lagoon' installation offered visitors the opportunity to explore the historic waterways that extend inland from Venice, part of a complex and unique ecosystem containing a wealth of cultural and historical heritage. The exhibition was part of the activities developed by the local authorities to raise awareness on the Management Plan 2012-2018 for "Venice and its Lagoon" World Heritage property, which was prepared by all the bodies responsible for the site through their appointed representatives sitting on the Steering Committee coordinated by the City of Venice.

Another multimedia exhibition, 'Visualizing Water Worlds', presented at Dock 105 of Venice's Arsenale, was prepared by the City of Venice (Office of the World Heritage property "Venice and its Lagoon") and the Centro Internazionale Civiltà dell'Acqua Onlus, with the participation of the UNESCO Regional Bureau located in Venice, and in partnership with Vela S.p.a., Through Waters and the Eulabor Institute.

The exhibition aimed to provide a captivating, sideways look at the various 'liquid worlds' where humanity has lived over centuries and which are today at the centre of a new drive towards sustainability and good governance. It wished to sensitize the wider public to the many cases of pollution and water scarcity that occur around the world. Various installations were focused on specific themes such as the "Tribunal de las Aguas de la Vega de Valencia", Spain, founded to resolve water-related disputes; the historic waterways of the Serenissima on the Venetian mainland; the water-based crisis and issues of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean; and, the celebration of water in the work of 25 international artists.

A photographic exhibition, 'Arsenale '900: momenti, vicende, protagonisti', was set up in collaboration with the Istituto Veneziano per la Storia della Resistenza e della Società Contemporanea (IVESER) and the Archivio della Comunicazione of the Municipality of Venice. The project involved local schools through workshops, cartoons and laboratories for younger participants on water conservation and protection.

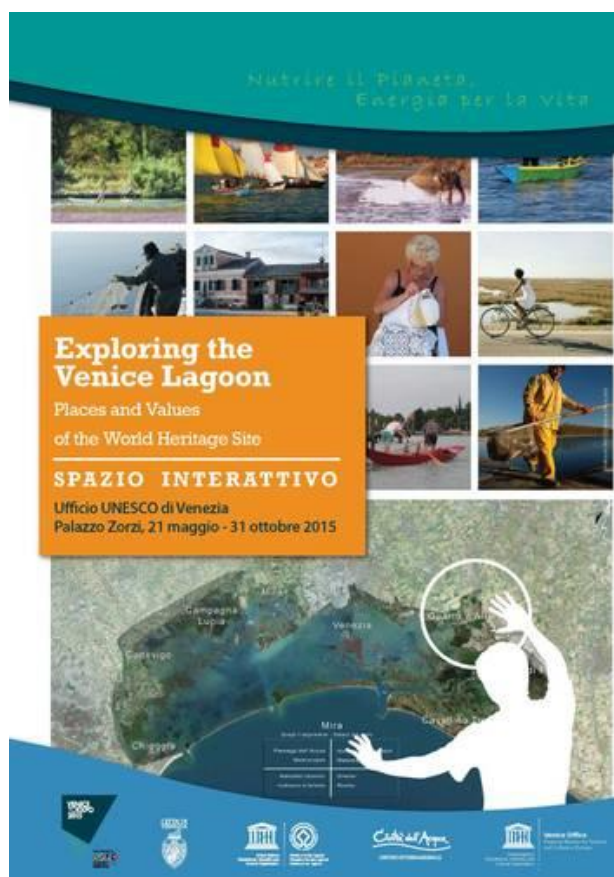


Photo credit: ©Municipality of Venice/UNESCO

Leonardo for EXPO reached tens of thousands of young viewers

UNESCO and FAO collaborated to produce the 'Leonardo for EXPO' cartoons series, on display at the Children Park of the EXPO 2015 in Milan as part of the United Nations multimedia installations. Kids from around the world - an estimated 200,000 between May and October 2015 - were immersed in an environment that combined nature and imagination, exploring the complex subjects of life on Earth and sustainability in a stimulating and fun way.

The Children's Park at EXPO Milan 2015 hosted one of the UN Spoon Installations from the "Zero Hunger" Itinerary, with content made specifically for girls and boys. In particular, the animated series "Leonardo for EXPO" was screened alongside other content dedicated to children.



Building on the international success of the 'Leonardo' series, 13 new episodes, starring a young Leonardo da Vinci, were produced exclusively for EXPO 2015. The multimedia content was developed by RAI Fiction and Gruppo Alcini under the scientific supervision of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, and in cooperation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In each episode Leonardo and his friends embark on adventures around the Italian countryside, making exciting new discoveries that bring them face to face with some of the issues that are at the centre of the sustainability debate.

Sustainable resource management, for example, is at the heart of "The upside down umbrella" episode, in which the Leonardo surveys the fields surrounding his hometown, Vinci, from an improvised flying device. Shocked at the sight of the arid countryside, blighted by drought, he solves the problem by devising an ingenious irrigation method, which uses available water resources to their full potential.

"The cooking contest" episode focuses on food waste. Leonardo has a real challenge on his hands: with his friends, Gioconda and Lorenzo, he has to prepare a banquet using only leftovers. Their rivals have discarded a huge amount of good food, but our 3 heroes find a way to use what is left creatively and intelligently, without letting anything go to waste. Another episode, "The Solar-Powered Oven", takes on the subject of renewable energy. As Leonardo watches a lizard – a cold blooded animal – warming itself in the sun, he comes up with a plan to harness the sun's rays to power a "solar-powered oven", a cooking method which frees the cook from the constraints of using wood and fire.

From May until September 2015, the 'Leonardo for EXPO' episodes were on display at the Parco degli Alberi Parlanti in Treviso, where children got the chance to visit Leonardo's treehouse, and took part in a series of challenges to test their knowledge of food and where it came from.

Photo credit: ©Gruppo Alcini - Young Leonardo

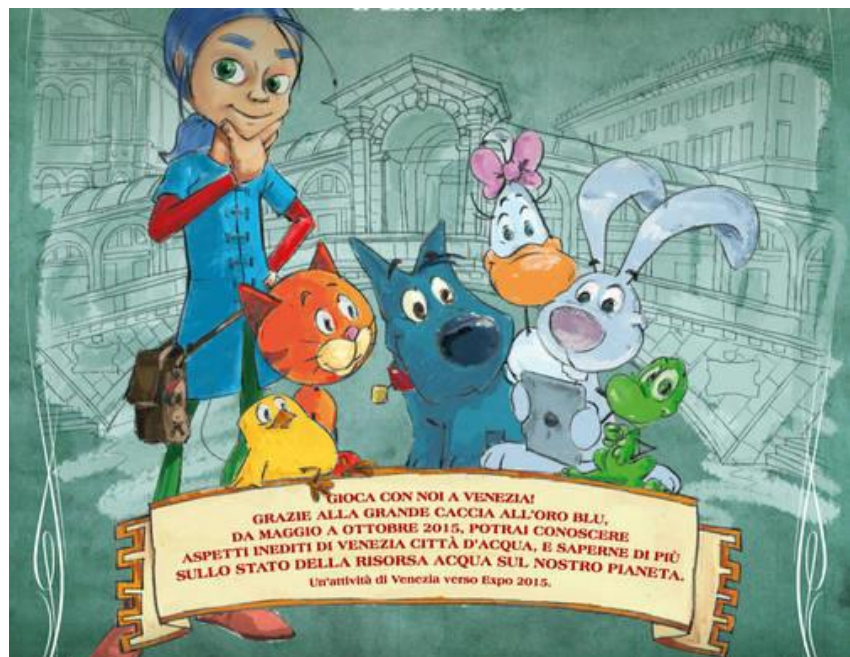
Treasure Hunt in Venice. Children found out about water, the blue gold of the 21st century

The Treasure Hunt was promoted by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and Gruppo Alcini, with the scientific support of the Secretary of the UN World Water Assessment Programme in Perugia (WWAP). This activity, inspired by the “H2Oooooh!” initiative, as part of UNESCO’s contribution to Venice to EXPO 2015, featured the “Pet Pals” in a treasure hunt centred on water and its sustainable use.

Map in hand and guided by a fun new App, young participants eagerly embarked on an adventure around the Venetian streets to learn more about the blue gold, a vital and limited resource. Water is, after all, the source of life. Kids from primary and middle schools were invited to take part in the treasure hunt, which lasted from May to October 2015. The objective was to reach five stops: the Museo di Storia Naturale, the Chiostro di San Salvador, Palazzo Zorzi, UNESCO’s premises in Venice, the Museo Navale and the Tesa 105 of the Arsenale.

A totem was placed at each stop to indicate where to ask for the stamp (featuring the corresponding Pet Pal) to be placed on the treasure map. Once all 5 stamps were collected, participants received a board game allowing them to continue to explore these topics from home.

Where is the largest reserve of fresh water on the planet located? How many people lack access to water in Africa? How do we consume most of the planet’s available freshwater? What percentage of freshwater found in the world is accessible? How much water does an average 8-minute shower consume? These questions, and many others, were developed by UNESCO and the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) set up in 2000 to monitor the state of the world’s water resources, publishing recommendations and proposals to enhance the assessment and decision-making capabilities of member states.



The Treasure Hunt and the board game reached out to Venice’s younger visitors and encouraged them to raise and reflect on questions that are of the utmost importance for the future of the planet - like water scarcity by 2050, water as a source of energy, fresh water reserve on the planet, limited or denied access to water in some locations.

Photo credit: ©Gruppo Alcini - Treasure Hunt in Venice

Sustainable management of UNESCO designated territories showcased in Turin

From 13 to 16 October 2015, Turin hosted the 3rd World Forum on Local Economic Development. Within this framework, the Centro Studi Silvia Santagata-Ebla and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe organized the pilot edition of a capacity-building workshop on the Management of “UNESCO Designated Sites for Sustainable Development: World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves”.

Conceived as part of the activities promoted by this Regional Bureau within the framework of EXPO 2015, this initiative was intended as a pilot activity to be possibly replicated in the coming years on different topics. The “Behind Food Sustainability” exhibition served as a source of inspiration and as starting point to select sites from around the world to take part in the workshop. The programme was generously supported by the City of Turin, the Compagnia di San Paolo, the Foundation Cassa di



Risparmio of Turin, the ILO International Training Centre, and the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), based in Turin, Italy.

The programme started on 16 October 2015, coinciding with the closing session of the World Forum on Local Economic Development in Turin. The first three days were dedicated to visits to World Heritage properties and Biosphere Reserves in the Piedmont Region and meetings with local stakeholders. The final three days included lectures, presentations, tutorials and open-floor discussions among participants on various issues

related to sustainable territorial management. The final day consisted in a visit to EXPO Milan 2015 and a concluding session at the Swiss Pavilion, supported by the cities of Geneva and Lausanne.

The workshop aimed to improve the institutional and professional capacities of local agencies, site managers, and key stakeholders involved in the management of UNESCO designated sites, with a special focus on World Heritage properties and the Biosphere Reserves Network. Participants in the workshop were over 30 site manager and operators from World Heritage properties and Biosphere Reserves from across the world, with the assistance of international resource persons.

The innovative approach of this programme relied on bringing together stakeholders from both World Heritage properties and Biosphere reserves, with a special focus on territories in which food-related activities (agriculture, husbandry, fishery, food processing, festivals and rituals, etc.) still play a key role in the local social and economic fabric. On this basis, the workshop provided a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary capacity building programme to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing among participants, as well as the creation of an international community of practice.

Photo credit: ©SiTI - Higher Institute on Territorial Systems for Innovation - Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato

Malta's World Heritage sites as learning cases for interdisciplinary training on Disaster Risk Reduction

The workshop - jointly organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction, Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO, and the Maltese National Commission for UNESCO - brought together heritage professionals, site managers and emergency responders from South-East European and Mediterranean countries from 14-19 November 2015 in the City of Valletta, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980.

In 2007, the World Heritage Committee adopted a 'Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties', which encourages all State Parties to develop disaster risk management plans for the World Heritage properties in their respective countries. The new internationally endorsed 'Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030' also clearly highlights the importance of reducing disaster risk in cultural heritage sites.

Natural hazards, including the effects of climate change, are increasingly impacting people's lives and our shared heritage. Investing in risk preparedness can help to mitigate or effectively reduce the impact of disasters, and to avoid high expenditure in the response and post-disaster recovery stage. On the other hand, experience shows that the heritage itself can contribute to reducing the effects of disasters in various ways.

With this in mind, the workshop in Malta adopted a participatory methodology and a special focus was placed on risk preparedness for geohazards, specifically landslides, earthquakes, wild fires and floods, as well as structural fires, with the participation of an interdisciplinary team of international experts.

Beneficiary trainees were emergency responders and World Heritage sites managers from Albania, Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Turkey.

The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness amongst professionals and responsible agencies of the need to develop appropriate and tailored disaster management plans and to build capacities in the development of appropriate risk management mechanisms in cultural sites of the South-East European and Mediterranean areas. Two World Heritage sites of Malta - City of Valletta and Megalithic Temples of Malta - were used as learning cases to serve the entire region.



Photo credit: © Queryzo - City of Valletta from the Upper Barrakka Gardens

Sharing knowledge on sustainable energy for World Heritage sites

On 13-19 December 2015 the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture hosted the Winter School on “Sustainable Energy Governance in World Heritage Sites”, as a unique opportunity to enhance capacity building in sustainable energy.



Over the years, UNESCO has promoted education and international cooperation on renewable energy and, more recently, launched the Climate Change Initiative RENFORUS (Renewable Energy Futures for UNESCO Sites) to enhance and apply the Climate Change’s knowledge base to building green societies, involving the sustainable use of renewable energy sources in UNESCO designated sites.

Within this framework, UNESCO through its Regional Bureau in Venice, in cooperation with the EU-funded project EFFESUS (Energy Efficiency for EU Historic Districts’ Sustainability) organized the third edition of the Winter School on sustainable energy governance in World Heritage sites.

Over one week, participants benefited from lectures and tutorials linking advanced technologies and traditional knowledge in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy with the preservation of integrity and authenticity of urban World Heritage sites. A broad array of narratives from UNESCO World Heritage properties constituted the backbone of the desk-based part of the school; the governance level was investigated in addition to renovation and adaptation of physical structures.

The activity aimed at developing capacities for integrating energy into the management systems of World Heritage properties, accommodating scientific knowledge to traditional buildings. The School comprised team working sessions and on-site exercises using the World Heritage site of ‘Venice and its Lagoon’, including some of its buildings, as a real demonstration case.

Target beneficiaries of the school were a multidisciplinary group of representatives from the management authorities of enlisted European properties, including South-East Europe and the Mediterranean area, and postgraduate researchers.

Photo credit: ©Wiki commons – Global warming, European winters

Sustainable Energy: UNESCO participates in the Horizon 2020-funded Cheap-GSHPs Project

In 2015 UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, 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), financed by the EU Horizon2020 programme.

The project aims at reducing the total cost of low enthalpy geothermal systems by 20-30%, by improving actual drilling/installation technologies and the design of Ground Source Heat Exchangers. The EU considers shallow geothermal energy systems ideally suited to meeting its ambitious energy saving targets and contributing to climate change mitigation policies. Enhanced research with demonstrative application may further improve the efficiency of shallow geothermal systems and reduce installation costs, increasing their use and circulation.

The Cheap-GSHPs project will lead to significant improvements in the costs and the safety of shallow geothermal installations along with the development of a decision support system and other tools. Such solutions should lower CO2 emissions and reduce dependence on intrusive HVAC systems. The project will be implemented by a multidisciplinary and complementary consortium composed of partners specialized in relevant disciplines (physics, climatology, chemistry, mechanics, engineering, architecture, drilling and GSHE technology).

UNESCO's contribution to this project will focus on demonstrating the compatibility of such innovative systems with the preservation of architectural integrity in selected real and virtual cases of cultural public buildings in South-East Europe, including the Technical Museum of Zagreb (Croatia), and the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Sarajevo.

This Regional Bureau, in cooperation with CNR-ISAC (Italy), will also play a role in the conceptualization of a training, education and dissemination plan that will detail the actions and deliverables for each target group and for each partner country. In particular, UNESCO will be accountable for the organization of training and delivering of a manual specifically focused on Historical Buildings.

The Cheap-GSHPs project is funded by 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.

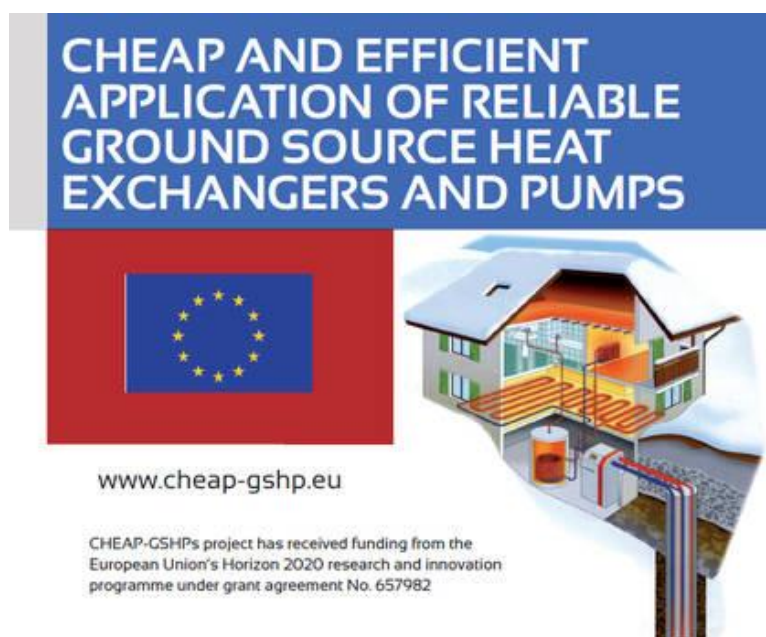


Photo credit: ©Cheap-GSHPs project



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**Science for
Responsible
Development**

How can the world effectively address the accumulated and emerging global problems in a manner that advances economic development, promotes justice and equity, and reduces pressure on the environment? Rather than relying on short-term solutions, which can damage the environment and degrade natural resources, we must devise answers that will have a lasting effect and yield valuable lessons for the future. Isn't this what is expected from UNESCO to help the world meet the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations Assembly on 25 September 2015?

To deal with such challenges, a better integrated scientific information and knowledge should be made available and a better connection to policy should be guaranteed. In particular, through interdisciplinary knowledge-brokering processes, 3 actors - stakeholders, scientists and policy makers - should co-share information and co-create knowledge for a better understanding of the problems to be solved to reach most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030. These were the main issues raised during the side-event organised in Budapest within the framework of the **Third World Science Forum**.

In 2015, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe supported dissemination events such as the "**Lights of the World Conference**" and promoted science education through the "**Ark of Inquiry**" project. The Bureau was mostly committed to improving the science-society interface. It took the lead in training policy makers, scientists and stakeholders to define and implement policies and actions related to, primarily, the **governance of Biosphere Reserves**, then to the **management of shared water resources** and the needed adaptation to climate change - considering in particular **disaster risk reduction and management**.

The answer to many of the challenges to sustainable development lies in the relationship among people, their ecosystems and their cultural and natural heritage. That is why the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its **World Network of Biosphere Reserves** are central to our actions over the years. In 2015, managers were given the opportunity to strengthen their capacities in **communication and branding**, in the **governance of transboundary Biosphere Reserves** as well as considering their role in all key aspects of **sustainable development in large river basins**.

Within the framework of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Bureau's action in 2015 was focused on providing guidance and training opportunities in **sediment management, flood risk mitigation and management** in transboundary river basins (like for instance the Sava river), as well as addressing emerging water futures like **the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Security Nexus**.

2015 also marked the successful conclusion of the **EU-funded FLOODIS project** dedicated to the integration of GMES emergency services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing flood information services.

The Third World Science Forum. Budapest, Hungary. 4-7 November 2015

The World Science Forum was organised by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in partnership with UNESCO, ICSU, AAAS, TWAS and EASAC. The Forum brought together scientists, decision-makers from the worlds of politics and industry, representatives of the civil society and the media to express their views on the new challenges facing science in the 21st century.

Over 900 science leaders from 100 countries gathered at the World Science Forum, whose main theme was "The Enabling Power of Science", reflecting on how science opens new paths for the improvement of human life, business innovation and policy-making. This edition's programme brought together leading decision-makers in the run-up to the December 2015 Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris and very much influenced by the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development announced in September.

In this context, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe was asked to organise a side-event entitled "*Knowledge Brokering for a Better Connection between Science, Policy and Practice in Complex Policy Problems*". The well-attended workshop clearly highlighted the role UNESCO can play as a knowledge broker within the overall framework of the newly-adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Concluding the workshop, participants asked UNESCO to consider the possibility to take the lead in training policy makers, scientists and stakeholders in knowledge brokering - in particular those who will be involved in the definition and implementation of policies primarily related to the needed adaptation to climate change (renewable energy and energy efficiency), the management of natural resources (water), disaster risk reduction and management, coastal zones management, and the governance of UNESCO Designated Sites. Partner representatives of the *Ark of Inquiry* project networked with participants and speakers to raise awareness about the aim of the project. The *Ark of Inquiry* representatives brought the attention to the importance of science education at an early age; incorporated into a number of the panellists' presentations, it was noted as an important pre-condition for young generations to enter into science and engineering careers.

The final Declaration of the Forum clearly reinforces this notion: "*For science, technology and innovation to attain their full potential and to be truly transformational, people's knowledge, talent and skills need to be improved with a particular focus on the mastering of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It is hence critical to promote adequate investment in STEM education at all levels.*"



Photo credit: ©BMBF/M. Moises - World Science Forum participants peruse Ark of Inquiry project materials

The Lights of the World conference highlighted the central role of light in the modern world

In the context of the celebrations for the International Year of Light 2015 and the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, the “Lights of the World” conference took place in Bucharest, Romania, at the Parliament Palace from 30 October to 1 November 2015. The event was supported by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe with a view to promoting science, education and culture.

The event presented the concept of light from a transdisciplinary perspective, highlighting its multiple applications and symbols in science, education, space and culture as a vector of sustainable development in 21st century society. It promoted scientific and cultural Romanian values, engaging in a creative and fruitful conversation with similar European and universal values. It highlighted the important role of light for many aspects of human life and promoted a transdisciplinary approach to the concept of light.

The conference consisted of an International Congress of plenary talks and presentations in parallel sessions on Basic and Engineering Sciences, Space, Society, Sustainability, Biodiversity, Education, Culture.

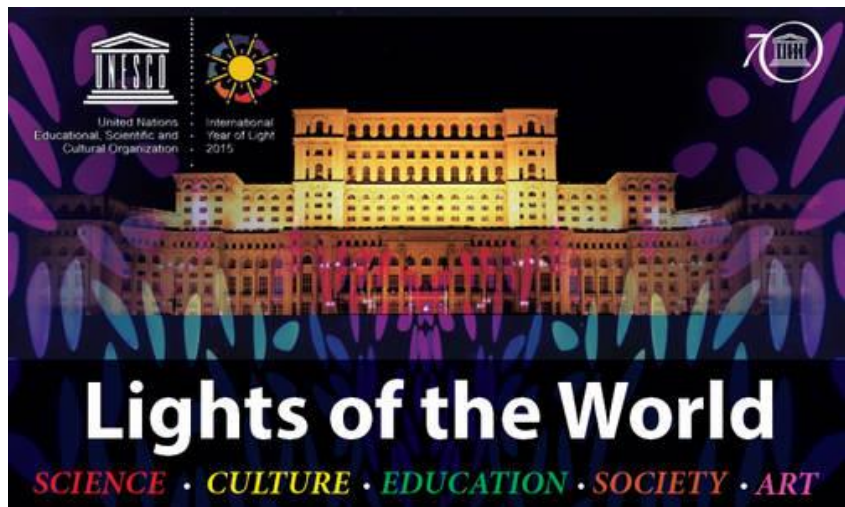
Two special events were held.

The first, the Scientix National Conference - The community for

science education in Europe, hosted guest presentations about science education in Romania, demonstrative workshops for teachers, presentations of educational projects and their results, debates. LIGHTtalks – Careers in Photonics, an event within the EU LIGHT2015 project, promoted photonics and its applications and presented career opportunities within this area to the interested public; it targeted students and young researchers. Satellite events included an Art Exhibition, the exhibition “Light Fields”, a collection of abstract paintings, heralding a new interdisciplinary approach: physics and art; “Light from books”: presentation of new books and a book fair; and, “Sound and colour” – a music and light show.

Participants included representatives of international organizations (UNESCO, European Physical Society, etc.), numerous scientists, artists, opinion leaders from all over the world, in particular from South-East Europe. The President of the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) and the first Romanian cosmonaut, the ROSA Honorary President and the president of the European branch of the Association of Space Explorers - ASE Europe, as well as other important personalities, delivered speeches.

The conference was organised by the National Institute for Materials Physics (INCDFM) and the UNESCO Cat. 2 International Centre for Training and Research in Physics, Magurele, the Romanian Cultural Institute (ICR), the University of Craiova, the University of Bucharest, the National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (INCDFLPR), the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA), the Institute of Space Science (ISS), the Parliament Commission for UNESCO, Horia Hulubei Foundation, UNESCO Chair and the Romanian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO. Partners of the event included: UNESCO, the European Physical Society (EPS), the Romanian Physical Society, the Order of Architects from Romania (OAR), the National University of Theatre and Film, Bucharest (UNATC) and the Romanian Association of Theatre Artists (UNITER).



The EU-funded project Ark of Inquiry

***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. UNESCO with the support its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe is involved in a large number of Work Packages (WP). It is leader of WP7 (Dissemination), and it plays a contributing role to WP2 (Collection of inquiry activities and environments), WP3 (Supporting community), WP4 (Training), WP5 (Evaluation) and WP6 (Implementation).**

Led by the University of Tartu, Estonia, the 13-member consortium of the *Ark of Inquiry* project seeks to create a “new science classroom” in Europe, responding to the emerging challenge to fulfil the need for increased responsible research and innovation in future generations. Traditional methods of teaching science in Europe are proving ineffective in motivating students to seek out careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects, especially girls. Applying inquiry-based learning methodologies in the classroom allows teachers to engage their students by creating a real-life



learning experience, which stimulates their pupils' interest in science and encourages them to reflect more on the relationship between science and the world around them.

Ark of Inquiry believes that responsibility starts at a very early age and that questions like, “Which world do we want to live in?”, and “How do we want to use technology to create a sustainable future?” should already be dealt with, starting at primary schools. The project addresses global

challenges and its applications need not stop at Europe's borders. The depository of inquiry-based science activities that is being assembled, along with innovative awards and evaluation systems to motivate pupils both inside and outside the classroom, will soon be available to teachers and other learning supporters worldwide.

A platform is being developed through which carefully selected inquiry-based activities will be made widely available across Europe. The platform will bring together these inquiry-based activities and connect them with learners and community members (teachers, university students, researchers, staff of museums and universities). Face-to-face training is also being provided to enable teachers, the primary target audience to support and motivate the pupils taking part in their inquiry-based activities. The project has in fact already developed supportive web-based materials for all of the community members working with the *Ark of Inquiry* project.

UNESCO took part in the consortium meeting in Finland in June 2015 to coordinate the last steps needed before the official launch of the pilot phase in September 2015. Lasting until spring 2016, this phase will be a key testing period to train the material, the platform and the activities selected for inclusion in the project. 35 schools in 7 countries chosen to act as pilot schools received intensive support from UNESCO and the other project partners who will evaluate how the platform is functioning before the large-scale implementation is set to begin in fall 2016.

Enhancing the vital communication and branding capacities of Biosphere Reserves

Cooperation, management and communication are considered the highest priorities for the future management of Biosphere Reserves. The introduction of a tool kit for Biosphere Reserves was the subject of the training workshop for the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine held in Cahul from 28-29 October 2015 with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and in close cooperation with the UNESCO MAB Secretariat.

The MAB Communication and Branding Biosphere project (EuroMAB pilot study) was presented at EuroMAB 2015 and reported on at the 27th session of 2015 International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, on 8-12 June 2015.

The project was tested by 4 volunteer pilot Biosphere Reserves (BRs) - of different languages, challenges, ecosystems and target audiences. A specific workshop was held in each of these sites in France, Spain, Ireland and Canada, involving local stakeholders, the selected communication company 'WITHIN People' and the MAB Secretariat.

The preliminary results of the project were thought to be highly relevant to the development of a more effective communication strategy concerning the vision and mission of the MAB programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). The next step was to broaden perspectives to enhance communication tools by engaging other BRs in this project. The aim was to test the tools within other local and socio-cultural contexts, as well as to train regional communication coordinators to use the tools effectively.

With this in mind, the city of Cahul in the Republic of Moldova hosted the workshop on communication and branding for BRs. Particular attention was paid to the process of establishing a BR in the Lower Prut area, strengthening transboundary cooperation with Romania and paving the way for a potential expansion of the existing Danube Delta transboundary BR. The event involved stakeholders and helped them familiarise with the project and use the MAB communication and branding toolkit. The overall objective was to enhance their professional and institutional capacities, to strengthen cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation, to attain sustainable development of the territories concerned, and to boost the understanding of common values and messages relating to BRs.

The 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, "A New Vision for the Decade 2016-2025", to be held in March 2016 in Lima, Peru, will offer an opportunity to assess the lessons learnt and the new challenges faced by the WBNR and to further train regional communication coordinators on the communication tools to achieve scale, consistency and widespread application across the network.



Photo credit: ©UNESCO MAB Brand and Story Toolkit

The contribution of Biosphere Reserves in the sustainable development of large river basins in Europe

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” took place on 21-24 September 2015. The event was organised 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).

Biosphere Reserves (BRs) play an important role in fostering an improved awareness and evaluation of the biodiversity resources of terrestrial, water and associated ecosystems. They promote the understanding of the principles of sustainable development among local authorities and communities with a view to contributing to the improvement of their livelihoods, which are closely linked to the river basins.



The meeting was held in two different venues - first, at Palazzo Zorzi, premises of the UNESCO Office in Venice, for the first two days before moving to the Albarella Island of the Po Delta BR for the last two days. The first part of the meeting allowed the 2 basin environments of the Volga and the Po to exchange views and experiences.

The meeting investigated opportunities to strengthen the role of BRs in all key aspects of sustainable development in large river basins. It focused on the integrated management of natural resources and ecosystem services in river basin areas. During the meeting, informative and awareness-raising materials promoting the role of BRs in

the Volga river basin were presented. The second part in the Po Delta BR focused on the specific deltaic areas of large rivers (Volga, Po, Ebro, Rhone, Danube) and their sustainable development.

The meeting contributed to strengthening the science-policy interface, integrating the UNESCO MAB and IHP programmes and sub-regional, regional, international initiatives, and performing joint follow-up actions on recent achievements including projects, initiatives and existing partnerships. Participants included representatives of 13 BRs from the Volga river basin, the Italian and Russian MAB Committees, 4 BRs in Po river basin, UNESCO, UNEP, local authorities - the Po Water Authority and the Po Delta Land Reclaiming Authority - and 3 other deltaic BRs from France, Romania and Spain.

Many of these actors are expected to attend the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru and, on this occasion, they will contribute to the launching of a world network of deltaic BRs in the framework of which further concrete activities could be developed.

Photo credit: ©Anastasia Nagirnaya – Volga River basin water lily

Transboundary Biosphere Reserves in Europe: Instruments, Methods and Governance

The MAB National Committees of France and Germany, the Transboundary Vosges du Nord/ Pfälzerwald Biosphere Reserve, UNESCO MAB Secretariat and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe jointly organised an international meeting from 2 to 5 June 2015. The management of transboundary biosphere reserves in Europe was the focus of this event held in Château De Liebfrauenberg, Goersdorf, Vosges du Nord (France).

Over the last 20 years, 14 Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBRs) have been designated by UNESCO around the world, in 23 countries in Europe, Africa and Latin America. Each of them includes 2 to 3 countries. As borders between states are political rather than ecological, ecosystems often occur across national boundaries, and they may be subject to different, or even conflicting, management and land use practices. TBRs provide a tool for common management and allow the establishment of cooperation projects on the management of socio-ecological systems over borders.

Located along the French/German border, the Vosges du Nord/Pfälzerwald share natural features - including water, sandstone and forests. This TBR seeks to develop methods for the sustainable management of natural resources and to establish a new relationship between people and the environment. This is achieved mainly through research and education with the participation of local communities.

In 2004, an international conference followed by an expert workshop took place in the German part of the TBR Pfälzerwald/Vosges du Nord, in Fischback and Edesheim. Ten years later, there was a need to assess the situation and progress achieved with the TBR approach and its development in Europe, as well as lessons learned, and to extend the approach outside the UNESCO MAB area.

Participants in the meeting included: managers/representatives of TBRs in Europe; representatives of transboundary European sites; representatives of National Commissions for UNESCO and MAB National Committees; Representatives of the European Union, other cooperation programmes and Conventions in Europe; representatives of IUCN, WWF, Europarc Federation, Europarc D/F; UNESCO representatives; and, key stakeholders of Pfälzerwald-Vosges du Nord TBR. The meeting in Goersdorf focused on strengthening the everyday management and governance in TBR and involving local people in transboundary sustainable development projects; enhancing institutional and funding mechanism in TBR; promoting TBR, improving their visibility and recognition/acknowledgement by authorities at regional, national and international levels, including the EU; and, promoting TBR as a tool for cooperation in Europe. At present, 15 countries in the region under the coverage of this Regional Bureau for environment and sustainable development activities (South-Eastern European, Mediterranean, Black-Sea and Caucasus countries) have initiated and/or undergone processes of establishing TBRs.



Towards Practical Guidance for the Monitoring and Management of Sediment in the Sava River Basin

The Sava River Basin is the major sub-basin of the Danube River, located in South-East Europe. The 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. Within the framework of a cooperative effort associating the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the International Sava river Basin Commission (ISRBC), the European Sediment Network (SedNet) and the UNESCO-IHP International Sediment Initiative (ISI), ISRBC established the core expert group for the implementation of a project dedicated to the Establishment of the Sediment Monitoring System for the Sava River Basin.

Sediment is an essential, integral and dynamic part of any river basins. In natural and agricultural basins, sediment is derived from weathering and erosion of minerals, organic material and soils in upstream areas and from erosion of river banks and other in-stream sources. As surface water flow rates decline in lowland areas, transported sediment settles along the river bed and banks by sedimentation. This also occurs in floodplains during flooding, and is present as siltation of reservoirs and lakes. A healthy river needs sediment as a source of life; sediment is a resource for human needs, but may become a source of pollution through erosion and floods.



During the Ministerial meeting held on 6 July 2015 in Brčko, the Parties to the FASRB signed a Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB which affirmed the need for efficient cooperation among the Parties and for the promotion of sustainable sediment management (SSM) solutions. With a view to contributing to the implementation of this protocol, the main objectives of the project developed in 2015 were to establish the strategic goals and specific objectives of the sediment monitoring and data

exchange system for the Sava River Basin; to review the existing sediment monitoring data; to revise the technical international standards and technics of monitoring and assessment in view of their application in the Sava River Basin; to establish an online free database on sediment taking into account the initial functionalities of the Sava Geoportal implemented by ISRBC; and, to prepare and release the monitoring data on-line. Specialists nominated by the concerned countries formed an expert working group which met several times during the year and delivered in November 2015, with the help of the ISRBC Secretariat, a very comprehensive report describing the present situation and suggesting solutions and measures for an improved monitoring and management of sediments in the Sava River Basin.

The proposal for the Establishment of the Sediment Monitoring System for the Sava River Basin was developed within the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB) ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia. The related project “Towards Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using Sava River as a Showcase” led to the organisation in 2012 of a training course on the “Guidance on Sustainable Sediment Management in the Sava River Basin” and, in 2013, of a first estimation of the Sediment Balance of the Sava River.

Photo credit: ©UNESCO - Sava river

Flood risk management measures and links to the European Union Water Framework Directive

Croatia hosted a cross-sectoral workshop on “Flood Risk Management Measures & Links to the EU WFD” in Zagreb on 11-12 November 2015. The event was jointly organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC).

The demand by citizens and environmental organisations for cleaner rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal beaches has been increasing over a number of years. The European Union Water Framework Directive (EU WFD) - integrated river basin management for Europe was adopted in 2000 to respond to this demand. The Directive commits EU member states to achieving good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU and prescribes measures aimed at achieving common goals rather than adopting the more traditional limit value approach.



This capacity-building workshop was dedicated to flood risk management measures and addressed interests and needs of a broad range of participants including representatives of the institutions and organizations

from the Danube River Basin, and in particular from the Sava River Basin, involved in integrated flood risk management, policy and decision makers at the national and international levels, authorities dealing with water and flood management, the civil protection sector and experts in the field of floods. The workshop helped assess and discuss policies and practices in the Danube River and Sava River basins.

The workshop in Zagreb involved group work on specific topics, as well as discussions on the links and on the benefits of an interdisciplinary approach to flood risk, river basin and civil protection management. Wide participation was seen on the part of representatives of the institutions and organizations from the Danube River Basin, particularly the Sava River Basin, that were involved in integrated flood risk management, as well as their mutual relations and cooperation, policy and decision makers at a national and international level, authorities dealing with water and flood management, including the civil protection sector and experts in the field of floods.

The workshop contributed to the implementation of the Protocol on Flood Protection to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), laying the groundwork for the sustainable development of the region and, promoted ISRBC activities in the field of flood risk management in accordance with the EU Floods Directive.

During the workshop, 22 papers were presented in 3 sessions. After each session, discussions were organised in 3 separate groups, with some 27-30 participants in each one. Discussions were then summarised by the moderators and presented at the closing session. All presentations and conclusions will be included into the proceedings to be published at the beginning of 2016.

Photo credit: ©Bosnia and Herzegovina National Report on Floods - Evacuation of people in Prud

Connecting solutions for water, food, energy and ecosystems to address our emerging water future

The international workshop “Addressing our Emerging Water Futures: The Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Security Nexus” took place in Milan, Italy, on 18 September 2015 (CNR) and 19 September 2015 (EU-Pavilion at the EXPO site). Organised by the Italian National Research Council, the JRC-Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, FAO and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the event addressed solutions for a Nexus governance of water resources.

Climate change, population growth, urbanisation, economic development and land use are expected to lead to water scarcity in all countries and continents, with increased competition for resources, constraints on socio-economic development and inequality of access. With the agricultural sector accounting for about 70% of water use worldwide, and considering projections for 2050 that 60% more food will need to be produced to feed a population of 9-10 billion people, water will become increasingly crucial to food security.



Water crises are one of the major global risks to the social stability that the world is largely unprepared for. To reduce risks to long-term water security, there is a need to design resilience strategies and solutions capable of overcoming sectoral divides and meeting the different water needs of users in a region. This was the reasoning behind the 'Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus'.

The workshop in Milan was intended to complement numerous specific events

on the effects of water scarcity on agriculture and humanity in general taking place at EXPO 2015. The event helped raise awareness and increase knowledge with the aim of implementing best sustainable practices when dealing with the problem of water, food and energy. It brought together participants from Europe and beyond, ranging from science to industry, policy and civil society. The first day featured 4 sessions: The challenge of decentralised governance; Investing in human and social infrastructure; Enrolling technologies in the Nexus; and, Allowing transition to practice. The format adopted included lectures by key leaders in their fields. At the end of each lecture, a panel featuring prominent personalities from social and political fields highlighted possible consequences and interactions of the proposed approach for the Nexus, and the overall benefits/costs of presented innovations at a local, regional and global level.

This Regional Bureau represented UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) at the event, and chaired the fourth session on “Allowing transition to practice”. People in the audience formed groups and played the “Water Nexus” role game to analyse the interactions between actors in the nexus between food, ecosystem services and water management. The game contained a real-world problem on the water-ecosystem-food nexus to be solved through a simulated negotiation between different parties.

On the second day, an event for the general public and the press was held at the EU Pavilion at the EXPO site. The conclusions were debated with the public and collected in an opinion paper that was released to stakeholders and the scientific community.

Water for a Sustainable World. A vision of 2050

In the context of Aquae Venezia 2015, the UN World Water Assessment Programme promoted in Venice, Italy, on 21-22 May 2015 “Water for a Sustainable World”, a conference dealing with the World Water Development Report 2015. The conference studied the role water resources play in fundamental social processes such as economic growth, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

Water is at the core of sustainable development. Water resources, and the range of services they provide, underpin poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability. From food and energy security to human and environmental health, water contributes to improvements in social wellbeing and inclusive growth, affecting the livelihoods of billions.

The year 2015 marks a critical milestone on the road to sustainable development. As the Millennium Development Goals come to a close, a new cycle of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is poised to guide national governments and the international community in the quest to achieve a sustainable world.

Launched in a worldwide preview in New Delhi, and developed by the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and UN-Water, the report, entitled “Water for a Sustainable World” (WWDR 2015), was presented in Venice at the Aquae Venezia pavilion dedicated to water. The pavilion was an extension of the EXPO 2015 Universal exposition in the Venetian Lagoon, which explored the relationship between Man and Water.

The conference looked into the relationship between water and the 3 spheres of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental. The event focused on the role of water supplies as vital for economic growth, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. It was an opportunity to analyse the challenges and the important changes that will affect the global community leading up to 2050. It is estimated that by then the water demand will have grown by 55% as a result of increasing industrial demand, use in energy production and increasing domestic use due to demographic growth. Lastly, the conference proposed solutions and examined success stories, at both local and global levels.

United Nations agencies were represented by: UN-WATER/WWAP, Water Sciences Division and Secretary of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO; UNESCO Regional Bureau in in Venice in representation of the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences; a Special Advisor to the Director-General of UNESCO; and, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe.

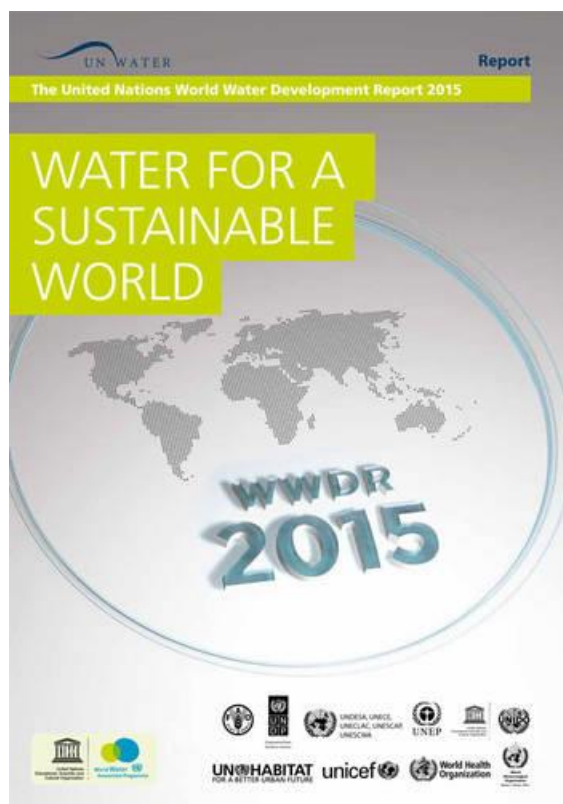


Photo credit: ©Water for a Sustainable World - WWDR 2015 Report

Earth observation, crowdsourcing and satellite navigation systems to increase resilience to flood emergencies

FLOODIS (Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing a flood information service) is a collaborative European Union project led by ISMB in Turin and funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7-SPACE-2013-1) to provide a flood information service aimed at better addressing and mitigating crisis situations arising before, during and after heavy flooding.

The final workshop of FLOODIS project was held on 2 October 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. The event was organised by the UNESCO Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction and the Science Unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in cooperation with the European Commission.



During the workshop, the Istituto Superiore Mario Boella (ISMB, Italy) presented and demonstrated the solutions offered by the FLOODIS system to an audience of governmental stakeholders and civil protection authorities from Member States and representatives of Directorate Generals of the European Commission. UNESCO and European Union projects providing examples of excellence in

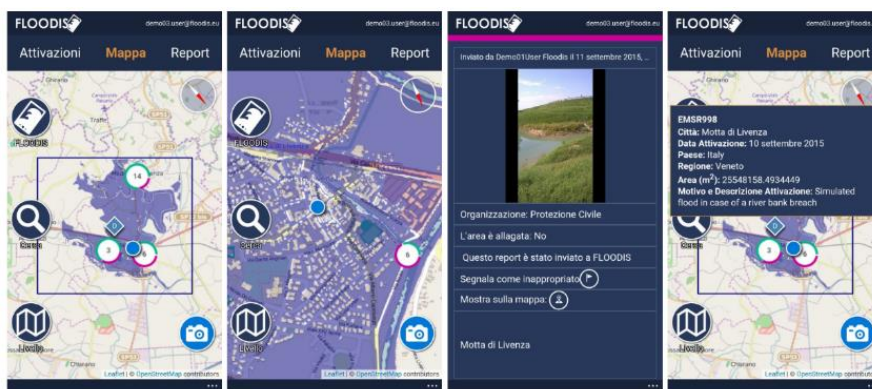
Earth Observation, Crowdsourcing, and Satellite Navigation Systems applications were also presented, and open sessions were dedicated to end-users needs and on how to improve resilience to disaster caused by natural hazards.

In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the international workshop aimed to bridge the existing gap between innovative space-based solutions and end-users in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction. The lack of information, the inherent complexity of modern tools and their poor interoperability place constraints on the end-users who seek to benefit from the use of innovative solutions. The workshop evoked core concepts at the basis of the European Civil Protection Forum 2015, Partnership for Innovation, as set out by European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, who highlighted the importance of interfacing emergency responders and the science/research communities. UNESCO's role in enhancing the capacity of its Member States in Disaster Risk Reduction through the use of technological innovation and science is fully in line with this strategic vision. It entails meaningful action and a well-devised, innovative mobilisation of citizens and volunteers, through the use of an integrated system, encompassing social media and crowdsourcing approaches.

The workshop reflected the spirit of the memorandum of understanding between UNESCO and the European Commission, which set out clear strategic priorities and encouraged further dialogue between the two organisations on areas of shared interest. The agreement builds on a longstanding collaboration related to UNESCO's core mandate: education, the sciences and culture.

After Albania, FLOODIS tested the capacity of flood information service on the sensitive Livenza river in Italy

The final end-user validation workshop and field testing were part of the planned activities of the EU project FLOODIS, Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing a flood information service. The event jointly organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the Civil Protection Department of the Region Veneto in Italy, took place on 11 September 2015 with the support of the project partners and the AAWA Alto Adriatic Water Authority.



The field testing, of paramount importance for the final evaluation of the project, aimed to check FLOODIS system core ability to send back actual information about the situation “in the field”, providing up-to-date, local information to disaster management centres, civil protection agencies, emergency response units, as well as affected citizens. The FLOODIS prototype system was demonstrated to end-users for the first time in the Shkodra region of Albania in July. In 2010, the area around the city of Shkodra, to the south of Lake Shkodra, had been badly hit by floods. The team demonstrated the system to representatives of the General Directorate for Civil Emergencies, with the support of the Red Cross of Albania. CIMA Research Foundation Albania. IGEWE also assisted with the necessary data inputs for a simulated flood occurrence.

UNESCO was in charge of interfacing with the User Committee in Veneto, Italy, to organise field testing on the river Livenza, particularly in the nearby towns of Motta and Meduna di Livenza, one of the river’s most sensitive urban spots. The area has been under frequent and increasing flood risk from the above-mentioned historical floods until the last serious event recorded in February 2014. In order to carry out the test, FLOODIS worked on a virtual scenario reproducing a flood event in the area with real water level data as recorded by two different gauge stations (Meduna di Livenza and Motta di Livenza) during the flood in the autumn of 2010. Using these data, and deriving a hypothetical levee breach scenario, the maximum water level and flooded areas extension are computed by means of a 2Dhydrodynamicmodel. The in-field test of FLOODIS involved the mayors of the above towns with their volunteers, along with the director of the Civil Protection Department of the Regione Veneto (Italy).

The demonstration was followed by a FLOODIS workshop that saw the participation of those departments and agencies forming the User Committee in Veneto. They were called on to assess and validate (by means of a questionnaire) the related field testing and provide a consistent feedback for the completion of the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA), to be used as a basis for future development of the FLOODIS solution also in other areas. The validation workshop undertaken with the Civil Protection Department of the Region of Veneto and the User Committee provided first-hand users’ feedback on the fresh testing of FLOODIS.

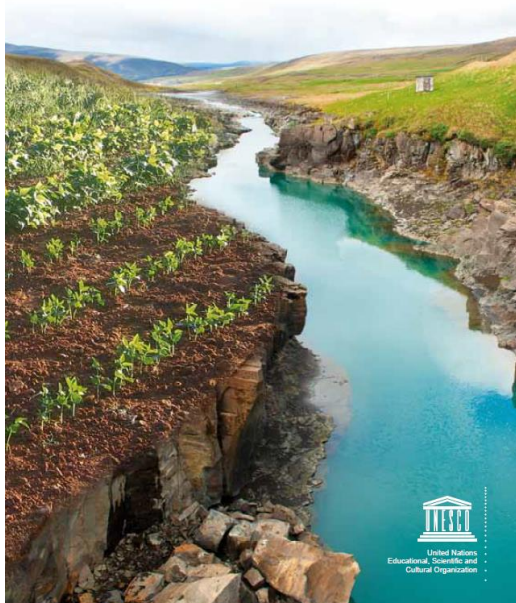
Photo credit: ©Screenshots of the FLOODIS app during the in-field tests of 11 September along the Livenza River, Veneto, Italy

A book on Science diplomacy and transboundary water management. The Orontes River case

The publication, an outcome of the project “New technologies (ICT) for an integrated and sustainable management of natural resources in Lebanon”, received the financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe collaborated with the institutions involved in the project and provided assistance to its publication.

As a UN specialized agency, UNESCO contributes to the building of peace through education, science, culture, communication and information. The project supported by the Italian Cooperation and the results outlined in this book are fully in line with such overarching framework. Transboundary water management and any effort towards implementing advanced technologies to this aim are suitable and concrete ways to enhance cooperation and hence contribute to peace building in one of the most critical parts of the world.

Science diplomacy
and transboundary water management
The Orontes River case



From the dawn of time, most human activities have relied on water as the vital resource, which is the prerequisite of any form of life and human activities. Nowadays, our social and economic development and our food security depend to a large extent on the availability of this resource in terms of quantity and quality. The Mediterranean Basin in general, and more specifically its south-eastern part, is encountering rapid changes leading to huge water stress and the tiniest percentage of available drinking water per inhabitant in the world. Changes leading to water scarcity include growing population, with rates annually exceeding 2,8%, and excessive water demand for irrigation. Climate change exacerbates water droughts and risks. In this context, the Near East countries are facing extremely serious problems of water shortages with tragic consequences interlinked with a series of complex geopolitical issues.

As indicated in the title, the book addresses a clear case of Science Diplomacy, acknowledged as one of the most powerful tools in preventing conflicts and promoting peace. Freshwater scarcity ranks, indeed, among the most urgent environmental challenges that require international cooperation in order to manage an equal and sustainable utilization of shared waters. UNESCO plays a central role in

gathering and disseminating information on freshwater at global level.

The International Hydrological Programme (IHP) is an intergovernmental programme with the mandate to promote science, innovation, policies and the development of capacities related to the management of the hydrological cycle, including its societal component. To this end, IHP mobilizes scientific and innovation networks; strengthens the interface between scientists and decision makers; and, develops institutional and human capacities. Currently, in its Eighth Phase, IHP focuses on “Water Security: Addressing challenges at the global, regional and local level”. To implement its strategy, IHP relies on an extensive network of over 1,500 experts from the UNESCO specialized staff based in Paris or in field offices, 169 IHP National Committees, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (Netherlands), the World Water Assessment Programme (Italy), 28 regional and international Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO and 35 UNESCO Water Chairs.

Photo credit: ©Science diplomacy and transboundary water management: the Orontes River case

H2Ooooh! video on show at the 50th anniversary of UNESCO's water programmes

The International Hydrological Programme celebrated half a century of water-related achievements with “50 Years, 50 Movies on Water”, film screenings from June until November 2015 at the Open UNESCO exhibition space. The screenings focused on a different water-related challenge and solutions, introduced by an IHP professional or partnering expert, and concluded with a discussion with participants.

The screenings were inaugurated on 25 June 2015, with a session focusing on water education. The movies included a video produced by UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, messages from representatives of the World Youth Parliament for Water who were supported by UNESCO during the 7th World Water Forum and prize-winners of the video contest “Give me one minute of water” organised by the UNESCO Etxea - UNESCO Basque Country Centre, Spain.

In all, 50 movies on freshwater and water-related challenges reflecting IHP programmes and actions were screened, articulated around the programme's 6 thematic areas: Water-related Disasters and Hydrological Changes; Groundwater in a Changing Environment; Addressing Water Scarcity and Quality; Water and Human Settlements of the Future; Ecohydrology, Engineering Harmony for a Sustainable World; Water Education, Key for Water Security. The short animation film “Bar of soap” produced by the UNESCO Regional for Science and Culture in Europe was screened to raise awareness on the importance of using soap for handwashing.

As part of the H2Ooooh! Initiative promoted by this Regional Bureau in collaboration with Gruppo Alcuni (Italy), children around the world were involved over the last years in the production of a series of cartoons illustrating and animating water-related problems and solutions identified and interpreted by schoolchildren. Subjects tackled included the use and exploitation of the resource, its pollution and safeguarding, the limited availability and recycling possibilities of water, the great water civilisations, etc. Possible solutions were transmitted to viewers of all ages - consequently generating a higher public awareness to change their water uses attitudes and behaviours.

The cartoons whose main characters are a group of animal friends known as the *Pet Pals* can be viewed at the Bureau's YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/UNESCOVeniceOffice>.

Since then, fresh stories and new cartoons have been added - coming from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Jordan and from the countries of the Sava river. Originally in Italian, the series was translated into English, Arabic and Spanish - an educational material allowing a worldwide dissemination. The *Pet Pals* were also the protagonists of the Children's EXPO 2015 in Milan and in Venice.

The “50 years, 50 films” events took place every other Thursday at the Open UNESCO exhibition space, near the Fontenoy main entrance of UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. Additional screenings were organised around the world in Field Offices and as part of international events.



Photo credit: ©Gruppo Alcuni - Pet Pals and The H2Ooooh! initiative



3

Enhancing Heritage and Creativity for Development

Throughout 2015, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe continued its cooperation with the Member States of South-East Europe to promote culture as a driving force for sustainable development, dialogue and regional collaboration.

The scope of the work was defined in order to combine the implementation of the UNESCO programme in the field of culture with the national and regional priorities of the countries of South-East Europe, as well as the United Nations and European Union country programmes.

The role of culture for sustainable development was considered as a cross-cutting priority, also in the framework of the international debate for defining the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development that was finally adopted by the UN in September 2015.

Besides the highlights presented hereafter, and the first chapter of this report devoted to interdisciplinary activities carried out jointly with the Science Unit of the Bureau, the Culture Unit concentrated on three main fields of action:

1. Improving the protection and management of cultural heritage;
2. Promoting the role of culture as driver and enabler for sustainable development;
3. Supporting regional cooperation and intercultural dialogue.

Depending on the specific needs and opportunities, activities took the form of capacity-building actions; technical assistance and advice; management of restoration, conservation, and reconstruction works; and awareness-raising actions at the level of the general public and of political decision makers.

Improving shared protection and management of the Lake Ohrid region

In 2015 the Regional Bureau in Venice continued contributing to the implementation of the project ‘Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region’, financed by the European Union and coordinated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

This three-year project aims to promote and safeguard the Ohrid Lake transboundary (Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) area by assessing its values and opportunities for sustainable development, and to improve capacities for the effective management of its natural and cultural



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



heritage. In particular, the project contributes to developing capacities of the Albanian authorities for the integrated management of natural and cultural heritage, with a view at preparing a nomination file for the extension to the Albanian side of the World Heritage property of the Lake Ohrid region (currently inscribed only for the part located in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

The project is funded with an initial grant of 1,7 million EUR from the European Commission, plus a 240,000 USD contribution by the Government of Albania, and it focuses on four jointly-identified main threats: unplanned urban development; waste water and solid waste disposal; natural habitat alteration; destruction and depletion of natural resources.

Among the main results achieved during 2015, the project allowed for the establishment of a Transboundary Platform to support the governments of the two concerned countries in their efforts to protect the Lake Ohrid area, as a basis for the creation of transboundary management structures.

The Transboundary Platform is especially intended to improve and facilitate bi-lateral cooperation between representatives from local and central administrations of both countries, the tourism sector, and those in charge of urban and rural development, culture, nature protection, resource management and the environment. It is composed of officials from the two countries' environment and culture ministries, and from the region's municipalities, as well as by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN) with the role of advisors.

In addition, a series of capacity building activities were carried out during 2015 to address the mentioned management challenges and to overcome the lack of cross-border coordination and cooperation, as well as to raise awareness and develop a shared vision between communities across the border.

Photo credit: © Protecting Lake Ohrid Region, our shared responsibilities

Needs-assessment survey on safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Albania

In January 2015, the final report of a needs-assessment survey on the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Albania was submitted to the national authorities. The survey was coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Albania, thanks to the annual contribution of Italy to the Bureau.

The report explores the legislative and policy documents in the sphere of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Albania, analyses the institutional and administrative framework for the implementation of the Convention, and assesses current inventorying procedures, educational and training programs in the country as well as awareness-raising initiatives.

It outlines the major challenges encountered in implementing the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at a national level, identifies the main needs for effective safeguarding and proposes recommendations for improvement.

The final recommendations include a tentative multi-year action plan with practical proposals for capacity building and for enhancing the safeguarding policies in the country.

The report will be a key reference to advance the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Albania for the years ahead.



Photo credit: © UNESCO - Albanian folk iso-polyphony

Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: synergies and coordination between the 2003 and 2005 UNESCO Conventions in South-East Europe

On 18-19 June 2015, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe hosted the Ninth Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage, at its premises in Venice. The event was jointly organised with the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria), and benefited from the annual contribution of Italy to this Regional Bureau.

The annual meetings of this experts' network, established in 2007, serve as a platform to reinforce cooperation, exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences among countries in the region on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, with special focus on advancing the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention.



In 2015, the meeting addressed three main topics: Implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage: update on progresses, experiences, and lessons learned in South-East Europe; Intangible cultural heritage and the diversity of cultural expressions: synergies between the 2003 and 2005 UNESCO Conventions; Intangible cultural heritage, food ways and sustainable development in the year of EXPO 2015 “Feeding the Planet – Energy for Life”.

The meeting was attended by experts representing the ministries of culture

and/or other relevant national authorities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Italy, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. International experts and UNESCO staff also participated.

As part of the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, participating Member States accepted the proposal by Croatia to host the annual meeting in 2016, on the topic of coordination between the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

Photo credit: © Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Turkey - Turkish coffee culture and tradition

Historic Urban Landscape conference in Mostar

On 2-3 July 2015 the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe organised the conference “Historic Urban Landscape - Mostar 2015”, in cooperation with the City of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event took place on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the inscription of the ‘Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar’ on the World Heritage List.



On 10 November 2011, UNESCO’s General Conference adopted the ‘Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape’ as an additional tool to enhance existing doctrines and conservation approaches, and integrate policies and practices of conservation of the built environment with the wider goals of an urban development that respects the inherited values and traditions of different cultural contexts. UNESCO adopts a holistic approach to managing historic urban landscapes that integrates the goals of urban heritage conservation and those of social and economic development. This method sees urban heritage as a social, cultural and economic asset for the development of cities.

The Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach moves beyond the preservation of the physical environment and focuses on the entire human environment with all of its tangible and intangible qualities. It seeks to increase the sustainability of planning and design interventions by taking into account the existing built environment, intangible heritage, cultural diversity, socio-economic and environmental factors along with local community values.

The main aim of the conference in Mostar was to introduce the HUL principles to professionals from across Bosnia and Herzegovina involved in the preservation of built cultural heritage and urban planning, and to put forward implementation methods for the application of the Recommendation, with a special focus on a participatory process involving decision makers, managers and the community. It consisted of 3 sessions: conservation of urban heritage: current trends in a global context; post-conflict reconstruction challenges; and historical fortified settlements/cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The conference was inscribed within the broader programme of activities organized to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Inscription of the Old Bridge of Mostar Area on the World Heritage List, that included a visit by the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova, to Bosnia and Herzegovina, that this Regional Bureau contributed to organize.

Photo credit: © UNESCO - Director-General, Irina Bokova, with the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr Mladen Ivanić and the Member of the Presidency H.E. Mr Bakir Izetbegovic

Developing capacities of World Heritage site managers in Romania on tourism and risk management

From 30 September to 3 October 2015, in Sighisoara, about 40 representatives of site managing authorities and other stakeholders from World Heritage properties in Romania benefited from a capacity-building workshop focused on Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Tourism.

The workshop was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Romania, the National Institute for Heritage, the Mures County, and the City of Sighisoara, thanks to the annual contribution of Italy to this Regional Bureau.

During the first part of the workshop, participants took part in a combination of lectures and group exercises delivered by UNESCO staff and other international resource persons on topics ranging from risk identification and assessment to disaster risk preparedness, response and recovery, using the



World Heritage site of Sighisoara as a case-study.

Cross-cutting considerations were also addressed, including the role of local communities and women and the potential of traditional knowledge for managing disaster risks.

The second part of the workshop focused on Sustainable Tourism Planning in a local context, also drawing on the example of Sighisoara as a case-study, allowing participants to gain an overview of the main issues concerned and of the online tools developed in the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme.

The workshop's conclusions highlighted priorities for future action, providing national and local authorities with a road-map for interventions in the short and mid-term.

Photo credit: © Ciornei Adriana – Celebrations in Sighisoara, Romania

UNESCO and the European Union join forces to revitalize Novo Brdo Castle

In 2015 the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, through its Antenna in Sarajevo, continued the implementation of the project “Revitalization of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo fortress” (Kosovo*), financed by the European Commission.

The project aims at revitalizing the Novo Brdo Castle through conservation and restoration efforts and at improving the management and promotion of local cultural heritage through socio-economic development initiatives.

Dating back to the 4th century BC and as the economic and trade centre of the medieval period, the antique settlement of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo is of significant historical and archaeological value. Novobërdë/Novo Brdo was one of the most important late medieval cities in the central Balkans. Yet, the municipality and its invaluable cultural heritage underwent significant deterioration during the last decades.

The project, implemented in cooperation with UNMIK and relevant authorities, was financed by the European Commission as part of the EU umbrella mission on “Balanced Regional Development”. Its main aims are to improve the preservation and revitalization of cultural heritage asset; to advance local sustainable development through the strategic management of cultural heritage, with special focus on enhanced tourism capacities and socio-economic conditions; and to raise public awareness of the value of local cultural heritage.

In particular UNESCO initiated large-scale revitalization works in 2015, combined with archaeological investigations on the site, during which important findings were discovered in the central citadel of the fortification complex. Activities also started to reinforce cooperation among local experts and stakeholders, with a view at improving relations between the different local communities.



(*As defined by UN Security Council Resolution 1244, dated 1999)

Photo credit: © UNESCO - Novo Brdo Castle

Strengthening Albania's capacity to combat and prevent the illicit traffic of cultural property

From 23 to 27 November 2015, a group of 10 officials from the ministries of Culture, Interior and Justice, as well as the Customs authorities of Albania, met in Rome to benefit from a training organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the “Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela del Patrimonio Culturale” (Italy).

The workshop's objective was to raise awareness and develop capacities of relevant authorities in Albania, as well as to reinforce cooperation among them, concerning the prevention and fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property. Special focus was set on the implementation of the relevant international standards, tools, and best practices, including the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) and on the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995).



Participants in the workshop received information and training on a variety of topics ranging from legal frameworks to data collection and analysis, police investigations, security of sites, role of customs, awareness raising, international police and judicial cooperation, etc.

The workshop's resource persons included senior representatives from international organizations - UNESCO, UNIDROIT, UNODC, the World Customs Organization – as well as from Italian ministries and specialized services.

Photo credit: © Fighting illicit traffic of cultural property in South-East Europe video -Head of Asklepios stolen from Butrint Archaeological Museum returned to Albania

Rehabilitation of flood-affected cultural institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the aftermath of the devastating floods of 2014, France donated 1 million Euro to support the reconstruction of 3 cultural institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina through a project managed by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, which was initiated in April 2015.



On 13-18 May 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 considerable in a country still recovering from the consequences of the war. 81 municipalities were reported to have suffered substantial damage, loss, social or environmental impacts of different degrees; and, hundreds of thousands of households, many of whom vulnerable groups, displaced and without proper shelter.

As part of the Government-led Post Disaster Needs Assessment exercise, 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 of Doboj, Maglaj and Bosanski Šamac were identified as exceptionally needful of intervention, bearing in mind that the continuous interruption of cultural and educational services have a severe impact on the population, especially in terms of human development.

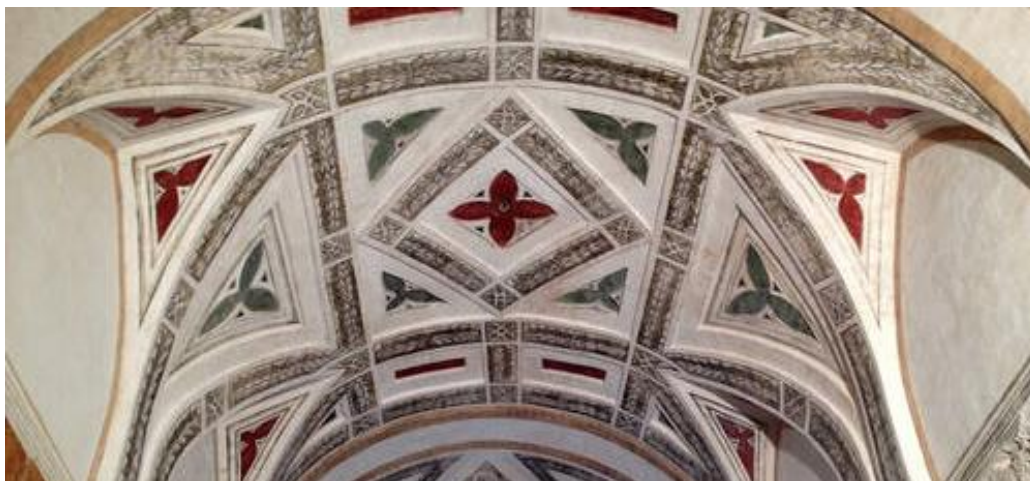
As a direct response to the needs assessment, the Government of France granted 1 million Euro to support a project for the revitalization of cultural institutions and services in these 3 municipalities. The project was launched in April 2015 and it is implemented by this Regional Bureau, through its Antenna in Sarajevo.

The 2-year project especially focuses on the rehabilitation of the people's library of Doboj 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 diversity. Their rehabilitation is a key contribution to the well-being and development of those local communities affected by the floods.

Photo credit: © Floods in Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNESCO - International Private Committees Programme for the Safeguarding of Venice

In 2015, several projects were continued or initiated, the major ones being summarized hereafter, as part of the Joint Programme between UNESCO and the Association of the International Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice, managed by this Regional Bureau in close liaison and collaboration with the national relevant authorities.

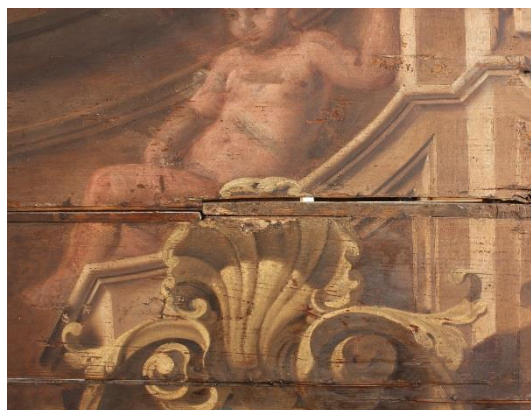


Restoration of the Cappella dell'Addolorata in the Church of San Zaccaria (donor committee: Stichting Nederlands Venetië Comité). Following scientific testing and the removal of some coatings on the walls, the cleaning led to the discovery of a mural from the late Gothic period, representing a sacred figure flanked by two cherubs. Further research will be necessary to determine the origins of the fresco, which according to the experts reveals the “fine calligraphy of an artist with great quality.”

Restoration of hall benches in Contarini Mocenigo Palace (donor committee: Venetian Heritage Foundation). The three monumental benches, which stand out for their size and for the quality of their decorations, depicting intricate architectural trompe l'oeil and mythological figures, were made around 1748 to mark the marriage between Eleanor Morosini and Giulio Contarini. Initially housed in the hallway of Palazzo Contarini, they were later moved into an open courtyard at the entrance of the building where they were exposed to the elements. They had, with time, lost all signs of their former lustre and the decorative patterns had faded beyond recognition. The project sought to restore the original appearance of the benches and to prevent future deterioration caused by natural elements.

Restoration of a group of Guardi's drawings

conserved at the Correr Museum (donor committee: Save Venice Inc.). The project aimed at restoring 27 drawings by Francesco and Giovanni Antonio Guardi conserved in the Correr Museum, which were in poor condition, oxidized and fixed to unsuitable supports, with tears and damp stains. They consisted in sketches of figures, decorative objects, and landscapes depicting timeless scenes of everyday life in Venice, as well as religious tableaux, from a Madonna with saints to masked noblemen and Venetian waterscapes.





Preliminary phase for the conservation of the Jewish Museum and Synagogues in the Venice Ghetto (donor committee: Venetian Heritage Foundation). The overall project aims at the conservation, restoration and valorisation of the Jewish Museum and its three historic synagogues. This museum is one of Italy's most important Jewish museums, along with the one in Rome. It stands out for its quality exhibits, long history and educational and cultural work that it pursues through exhibitions, seminars, and book presentations. The preparation of a preliminary project was undertaken, providing a comprehensive overview of the history of the museum and of its fragmented composition, and identifying three options that

could enable a more fluid and cohesive museum visit. Due to the need of fundraising for the actual restoration works, the financing committee has not yet communicated when the second phase of the project will be launched.

Restoration of a painting by Giambono conserved in the Church of San Trovaso (donor committee: Save Venice Inc.). The project is related to the restoration of the painting representing "San Crisogono" by Giambono, which was in poor condition. The painting on canvas is inserted in a gilt frame with flat mouldings, probably from the late nineteenth century, which also presents re-used parts of a more antique frame, probably belonging to the altar that used to include the painting.

Refurbishment and installation of the ground floor of the Gallerie dell'Accademia (donor committees: Venetian Heritage Foundation, Venice in Peril Fund and Venice International Foundation). The project already undertook two phases in the course of 2015. First, five rooms underwent a complete refurbishment and restoration, showcasing important artworks from Venice and the Veneto, with state-of-the-art digital installations. Large altarpieces by Pietro da Cortona and Luca Giordano are now on display alongside a selection of works by Venetian masters from the 17th-19th centuries. The new *wing* includes also a 'smart classroom', an educational facility featuring the latest technology and state-of-the-art lighting. A series of interactive screens and features takes visitors on a journey through the exhibition space on a number of different levels, informs the public about the museum's artworks, enhances overall participation and broadens access to the collection. A second phase concerned the Ala Palladiana, where a series of artworks were restored and displayed, many dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, such as plasters by Antonio Canova, paintings by Hayez, as well as the "cattedra Cicognara" also restored within the framework of the Programme.



Photo credit: © Arch. Francesco Trovò - Soprintendenza per i Beni Artistici e il Paesaggio di Venezia e Laguna; Roberto Bergamaschi – Contarini benches; Karmen Corak; Rinesi – sketch Guardi; Matteo Fina - Gallerie dell'Accademia

Introductory Courses on Conservation and Restoration of Underwater Archaeological Finds

Two twin courses on the restoration and conservation of archaeological finds from underwater environments were held in Zadar, Croatia, on 16-27 November and 30 November - 11 December 2015.

Organised by the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, thanks to the annual contribution of Italy to the Bureau, the two courses provided trainees with an introduction to conservation-restoration theory and techniques.

The training consisted of theoretical and practical components, combining class-room lectures with hands-on operational sessions at the ICUA conservation laboratory, related to various materials such as metal, ceramic and glass, and organic finds.

Four trainees from South-East Europe were selected for each course, with a priority given to professionals already employed in public institutions (either at local or at central level) responsible for the safeguarding and management of cultural heritage.

The workshops were intended as part of the long-lasting cooperation between ICUA (a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO) and this Regional Bureau to support the protection of underwater cultural heritage in South-East Europe and the implementation of the 2001 Convention



Photo credit: © UNESCO - Underwater Cultural Heritage

Photo exhibition to highlight the World Heritage sites in Albania

Within the scope of the project ‘Support for arts and cultural education in Albania’ financed by the United Nations Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F), this Regional Bureau contributed to the organization of the photo exhibition “World Heritage sites in Albania”, which was on display in different venues throughout the country from 26 October until mid-December 2015.

The exhibition was part of the combined efforts of the Albanian Ministries of Culture and of Education and Sports and the Albania Sustainable Development Organization (ASDO) with the goal to increase public awareness of the country’s rich cultural heritage, with a special focus on schools, including the organization of visits and the production of educational tools.

The activity involved locally based artists/photographers to promote the treasures of cultural heritage in Albania, in particular properties inscribed on the World Heritage List: Butrint (1992) and the Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (2005-2008).



The exhibition aimed at giving the Albanian youth an overview of the country’s rich and diverse cultural heritage. For the first time, World Heritage properties of Albania were presented to an audience of primary and secondary schools, in an effort to sensitise the younger generations about their cultural treasures.

A hundred professional photos were on display at the exhibition, which travelled across the country to Durres, Sarande, Gjirokastra, Butrint, Vlora, Berat, Korce, Elbasan, Shkodër and Lezhe.

Photo credit: © Photo exhibition “World Heritage sites in Albania”

Countries in South-East Europe in new drive to promote culture for development

In 2015 the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe significantly contributed to advance the culture and development agenda in South-East Europe, by supporting the implementation of the UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS) in Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, and Serbia.



CDIS is a pioneering advocacy and policy tool that uses a one-of-a-kind methodology to measure the role of culture in national development processes, highlighting how culture contributes to fostering economic growth and to helping individuals and communities to expand their life choices and adapt to change. Designed to support the implementation of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the 22 core indicators address 7 key policy dimensions: economy; education; governance; social participation; gender equality; communication; and heritage.

During 2015 this Regional Bureau started a process to support CDIS implementation in all countries of South-East Europe. In particular, this Bureau provided advice and technical assistance to the establishment of CDIS national country teams and to their operations, also contributing to organizing national awareness-raising events.

Activities started in early 2015 in Montenegro, followed by Croatia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Albania, with a view at possibly extending the CDIS implementation to other countries of the region during 2016. The final results of CDIS implementation in the mentioned Member States will also be presented and disseminated in 2016.

This process especially aims to provide evidence-based justification for the inclusion of culture in development strategies and plans; to gather new data for informed policies and monitoring systems for culture; to build capacities in data collection and analysis on culture and development; to promote awareness of culture's role in sustainable development through participative inter-institutional dialogue; to foster a comparable understanding across the region and at an international level.

The implementation of the CDIS methodology in 5 new countries of South-East Europe was made possible thanks to the contribution of the Government of Italy to the Bureau, and it took place in close cooperation with Ministries of culture, National Commissions for UNESCO, and other relevant authorities of the concerned Member States.

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

Supporting the elaboration of cultural policies in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina

During 2015, in agreements and cooperation with the governments of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe provided technical and financial support for the elaboration of the respective national strategies for culture.

The activity is a direct follow-up to the adoption in 2014 of the Ohrid Regional Strategy on Cultural Cooperation, through which the Member States of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe agreed on the necessity to improve legal, institutional and administrative frameworks for the promotion of culture and its inclusion within development policies and programmes at national, and local level.

In Albania, this Regional Bureau supported the establishment of a national team for developing the national cultural strategy, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, and provided advice and technical assistance to the team through an international expert selected among the UNESCO expert facility for the implementation of the 2005 Convention.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a modality for the elaboration of the strategic framework at country level was defined in consultation with relevant authorities, considering the specific institutional structure of the country, and preparatory actions to elaborate strategy were launched.

The preparation of national strategy documents intends to favour the flourishing of culture in all its forms of expressions and to better tap its potential as driver and enabler for sustainable development, also with a view at advancing the EU integration agenda of the concerned countries and to facilitate access to related funding opportunities in the field of culture.

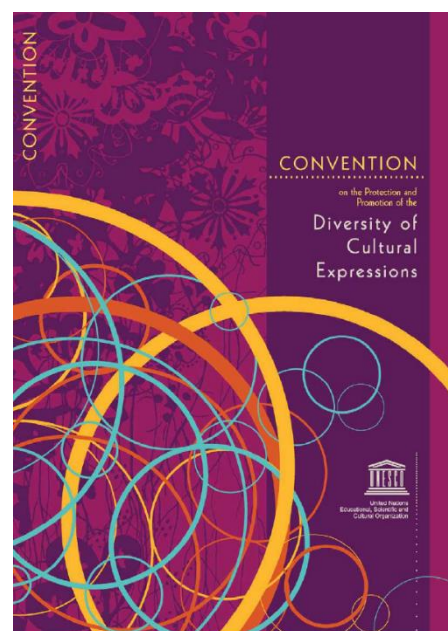


Photo credit: © Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions; 2005

Supporting regional cooperation within the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe (CoMoCoSEE)

During 2015 UNESCO, through the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe continued its long-standing support to the “Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe – Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development”, providing technical assistance to the CoMoCoSEE rotating presidency for the preparation of meetings and working documents and contributing to operational activities.

In particular, this Regional Bureau, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey as holder of the CoMoCoSEE rotating presidency, organized a meeting of the CoMoCoSEE Committee of Officials in Venice, on 10 December 2015, thanks to the annual contribution of Italy to the Regional Bureau in Venice.

The meeting served to pave the way for the organization of the CoMoCoSEE ministerial conference that took place in Istanbul on 24-25 February 2016. The conference resulted in the approval of a Joint Declaration setting forth shared priorities and action lines for regional cooperation on culture, with special focus on the management of cultural heritage for sustainable development, and the on fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in, from and through the region.

UNESCO’s assistance also extended to advising the CoMoCoSEE presidency on the preparation of the ministerial meeting’s programme and joint Declaration.

As a direct follow-up of the meeting of the Committee of Officials, this Regional Bureau initiated a project proposal to support the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in South-East Europe, with the support of the Ministries of culture of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to be submitted to the European Commission for possible funding.



***Council of Ministers of Culture
of South East Europe***

Photo credit: © UNESCO – Flags

Important steps towards setting up the ex-Yugoslav Holocaust exhibit space at Auschwitz-Birkenau

A meeting on the “Holocaust education and intercultural understanding in South-East Europe: Renewing the ‘Ex-Yugoslav’ Pavilion in Auschwitz-Birkenau” project was hosted by the National Museum of Contemporary History in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 27 May 2015. The event was organized by the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia, the Slovenian Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

This 6th session of the international steering group, established in 2012, contributed to advance the discussions on the renovation and refurbishment of the former Yugoslav pavilion (block No. 17) at the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, and on the establishment therein of a joint exhibition. This highly symbolic project is shared by the six successor States of former Yugoslavia: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia Serbia, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The meeting consisted of two sessions. The first allowed to review the draft synopsis prepared by the Editorial board for the exhibition on the first floor of the pavilion, in the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and made suggestions on possible additional material. The second provided an update on the pavilion’s renovation project, financial requirements, future exhibition design and project management.

The renovation of the pavilion and the production of a joint permanent exhibition is expected to contribute to producing innovative narratives, interpretations and museographical displays on the Holocaust, contributing to enhancing the role of this important World Heritage memorial as a civic and educational forum for learning and exchange. Participants agreed that the next meeting will be held in Montenegro, with the objective to reach a final agreement on financial and management issues.



Photo credit: © UNESCO - Ex-Yugoslav pavilion (nr. 17) in the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau

6th stop for ‘Imagining the Balkans’ to foster dialogue on shared memories in South-East Europe

In 2015 the regional exhibition ‘Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century’ travelled to Montenegro. The transfer, installation and opening of the exhibition were supported by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

The exhibition, coordinated by this Regional Bureau with the support of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), is a shared initiative of the museums of the region that aims to sustain dialogue and cooperation among museums of South-East Europe, and to encourage shared reflection on nation-building processes, the transformation of cultural and social practices, and the construction of a European identity and of shared memories.

The initiative brings together National history museums, curators and experts from South-East Europe and beyond to share perspectives and compare their collections. The exhibition reminds visitors and the wider public that this is “also a region that is reinventing itself every day, through exchanges, dialogue and interaction at all levels [...] a mosaic of rich history, boundless creativity and powerful diversity”, as Irina Bokova, the Director-General of UNESCO, observed in the foreword to the exhibition’s catalogue.

The official inauguration of the exhibition at the National Museum of Montenegro took place on 16 July 2015 in Cetinje. The exhibition remained open until 19 September 2015.

During 2015, this Bureau also conducted consultations on the continuation of the exhibition’s travel through the region, in order to identify a new venue for 2016.

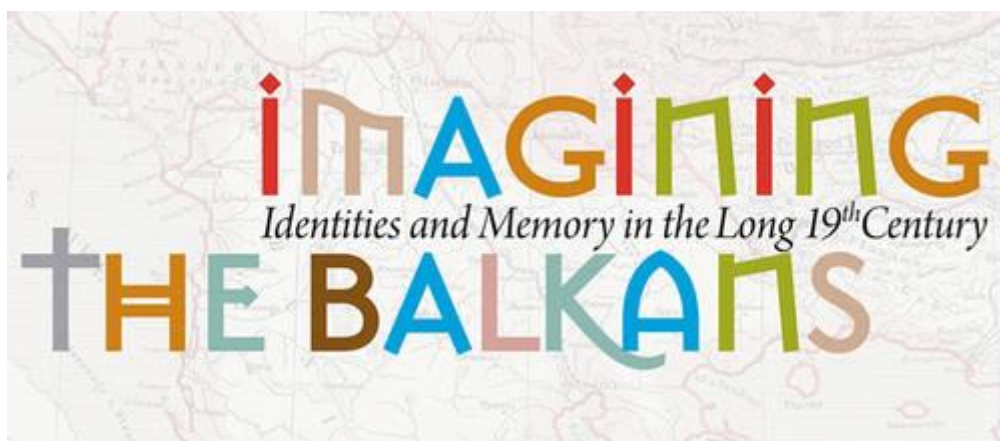


Photo credit: © Imagining the Balkans - Catalogue cover

Joint project “Dialogue for the Future” implemented under the auspices of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

During 2015, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, through its Antenna in Sarajevo, continued participating in the implementation of the project “Dialogue for the Future”, a joint initiative of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UN Secretary-General recognising the need to create space for dialogue and promotion of coexistence in the country.

The 18-month project is jointly implemented by UNESCO, UNICEF and UNDP in cooperation with the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it is funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office/Peacebuilding Fund for 2 million USD.

The implementation began in July 2014 with the aim to create space for dialogue that enable a countrywide peacebuilding process, the promotion of coexistence and intercultural understanding through education and culture with an emphasis on youth.



The project supported creation of spaces for dialogue to enable a countrywide peacebuilding process, which promotes coexistence, trust building and appreciation of diversity.

Through the activities implemented during 2015, UNESCO along with UNICEF and UNDP increased participation, awareness and influence of youth in policy dialogue on issues affecting Bosnia and Herzegovina’s development and reform agenda. It also contributed to ensure the role of education in supporting greater social cohesion, and to enable citizens and communities to achieve common peacebuilding approach through culture. Over than 1 million citizens directly benefited from the project activities in the course of 2015.

The project especially focused on changing negative perceptions and stereotypes by promoting civic activism that supports and promotes tolerance and openness in ethnically divided communities. These included nation-wide outreach activities and a comprehensive media campaign resulted in an increased interest of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina for participation in peacebuilding initiatives

Photo credit: © UN BA – UN Dialogue for the Future

Social responsibility for contemporary art museums. Tactile exhibition in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, supported the opening of the tactile exhibition “Space, Form, Touch”, hosted by the Museum of Contemporary Art of the Republic of Srpska in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 5 October to 15 December 2015.

The main goal of the exhibition was to include visitors with low-vision as well as others into the museum's activities by giving them the opportunity to experience art and take part in contemporary cultural events. Hence, the exhibition was conceived to adapt abstract works - paintings, sculptures and graphics - through tactile reproductions and audio material to enable visually impaired visitors to fully feel and apprehend art.

The opening of the exhibition was part of a broader programme of meetings organized on 5-8 November 2015 in cooperation with the ICOM-SEE (Regional Alliance of the International Council of Museums for South East Europe), the National Committee of ICOM Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Museum of Contemporary Art of the Republic of Srpska. Meetings included lectures on “Social inclusion and the contemporary museum” and a visit to the Kozara Memorial complex and museum.



Photo credit: © Nemanja Mićević, Museum of Contemporary Art of the Republic of Srpska - Family photo

2015 Events

January

Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century

Athens, Greece. 10 November 2014 – 19 April 2015

Ark-of-Inquiry/2nd Consortium Meeting

Nicosia, Cyprus. 27-29 January 2015

February

UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators Workshop

Podgorica, Montenegro. 23 February 2015

March

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

25-26 March 2015. Korça region, Albania

April

HydroEco'2015 International Conference in Austria

Vienna, Austria. 13-16 April 2015

Cartoon on the bay – Pulcinella Awards

Venice, Italy. 16-18 April 2015

First conference of dialogue platform “Dialogue – The road to the future”

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 22 April 2015

May

Exhibit: Behind Food Sustainability

Venice, Italy. 6 May – 31 October 2015

Treasure Hunt for blue gold

Venice, Italy. 4 May – 31 October 2015

Parco degli Alberi Parlanti : EXPO dei Ragazzi

Treviso, Italy. 1 May – 31 October 2015

Young Leonardo for EXPO

EXPO in Milan (Children’s Park and UN Spoon Installations), Italy. 1 May – 31 October 2015

Exploring the Venice Lagoon

Venice, Italy. 21 May – 31 October 2015

2015 International Conference: Waterscapes as a Cultural Heritage

Venice, Italy. 14-15 May 2015

EuroMAB 2015

Haapsalu, Estonia. 19-23 May 2015

Meeting of experts on the renovation of former Yugoslav pavilion in Auschwitz-Birkenau

Ljubljana, Slovenia. 27 May 2015

CIAK Junior International Film Festival – XXVI edition

Cortina D’Ampezzo, Italy. 29/30 May 2015

June

Transboundary Biosphere Reserves International Workshop

Paris, France. 3-5 June 2015

Stakeholders Workshop of Danube-INCO.NET: Enhancing synergies in research and innovation programmes in the region, Meeting of the Steering Platform for Western Balkan Countries

Budapest, Hungary. 8-9 June 2015

Launch of the Project “CHeap and Efficient APplication of reliable Ground Source Heat exchangers and Pumps” (Cheap-GSHPs)

Brussels, Belgium. 9-10 June 2015

Ark of Inquiry Meeting

Turku, Finland. 15-17 June 2015

Ninth Annual Meeting of the South East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage

Venice, Italy. 18-19 June 2015

Meeting of Biosphere Reserves “Behind Food Sustainability”

Milan, Italy – EXPO Biodiversity Park. 20 June 2015

July

**FLOODIS workshop 1
UC Demonstration Workshop of FLOODIS System in Shkodra**

Shkodra, Albania. 1-2 July 2015.

Workshop on Historic Urban Landscape

Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 2-3 July 2015

10th anniversary of the inscription of the Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar on the World Heritage List

Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 3-4 July 2015

Travelling exhibition: Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century

Cetinje, Montenegro. 16 July - 30 August 2015

August

Table Ronde Internationale “70 ans UNESCO – Promouvoir la Paix par l’Education, la Science et la Culture”

Bulgarian National Folklore Festival. Koprivchitsa and Sofia, Bulgaria. 7-8 August 2015

September

FLOODIS workshop

2 User Committee Demonstration Workshop of FLOODIS System in Veneto - Livenza River Motta di Livenza, Italy. 10-11 September 2015

Addressing our Emerging Water Futures: The Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Security Nexus

CNR - Area della Ricerca, Milan. 18 September 2015 and EU Pavilion venue at EXPO Milano 2015. 19 September 2015

Regional meeting “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”

21- 22 September 2015 Venice, Italy
23-24 September 2015 Po Delta Biosphere Reserve (Albarella Island)

National Workshop “Protecting World Heritage: Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Tourism Planning” in Romania

Sighisoara, Romania. 30 September - 3 October 2015

October

FLOODIS Project Final workshop
UNESCO, Paris, France. 2 October 2015

Second transboundary meeting for Ohrid Lake region

Ohrid, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 2 October 2015

Ark of Inquiry: Introductory Session of teachers and schools from the Veneto for the pilot phase of the project

Venice, Italy. 14 October 2015

Conference Wetlands in Agricultural Landscapes: Present State and Perspectives in Europe

Czech Republic. 11-16 October 2015

“Academy on Territorial Management for Sustainable Development” Workshop on the Management of UNESCO designated sites for Sustainable Development: World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves Pilot edition.

Turin, Italy. 13-16 October 2015

UNDAF Montenegro - Strategic Prioritization Retreat
Budva, Montenegro. 19-20 October 2015

Sustainability on display at the Festival della Scienza
Genoa, Italy. 23 October - 1 November 2015

Travelling photo exhibition “UNESCO World Heritage sites in Albania”
Durrës; Sarandë; Gjirokastra-Butrin; Vlora; Berat; Korce; Elbasan; Shkoder; Lezhe. 26 October- 9 December 2015

Training workshop on the communication and branding tool kit for Biosphere Reserves
Cahul, Republic of Moldova. 28-30 October 2015

“Lights of the World” Conference
Bucharest, Romania. 30 October-1 November 2015

November

World Science Forum:
- “Knowledge brokering for a better use of scientific information in policy making”
- “Ark of Inquiry” presentation - European Conference for Science Journalists 2015
Budapest, Hungary. 4-7 November 2015

Workshop on Flood Risk Management Measures & Links to EU Water Framework Directive
Zagreb, Croatia. 11–12 November 2015

ICCROM XXIXth General Assembly and 85th and 86th sessions of the Council
Rome, Italy. 16-21 November 2015

6th Regional Museums meeting and tactile exhibition in the Museum of Contemporary Art "Space, form, touch"

Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 5 November - 15 December 2015

Info days on Creative Europe Programme (2014-2020)
Bosnia and Herzegovina. 11 November 2015

Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Management in World Heritage sites
City of Valletta, Malta. 14-19 November 2015

Workshop on illicit trafficking of Cultural Property
Rome, Italy. 23-27 November 2015

Ark of Inquiry: Focus group of the teachers and schools of the Veneto region for the pilot phase of the Ark of Inquiry project
Venice, Italy. 24 November 2015

December

Meeting of experts to prepare the annual Conference of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe (CoMoCoSEE)
San Servolo, Venice, Italy. 10 December 2015

Winter School on Sustainable Energy Governance in World Heritage Sites
Venice, Italy. 13-19 December 2015

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) meeting
Rome, Italy. 14-15 December 2015

Joint meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for Europe and Central Asia and of the Regional UN Development Group for Europe and Central Asia (ECA UNDG)
Istanbul, Turkey. 16-17 December 2015

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