

Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau
for Science and Culture in Europe

Issue 4 • 2013

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Venice Office
Regional Bureau for Science
and Culture in Europe

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

First Regional Science Promotion Conference in South East Europe
Belgrade, Serbia. 2-3 October 2013

Upgrading Life in Historical Towns: Sustainable Energy
Dubrovnik, Croatia. 3-4 October 2013

UNESCO South East European Science Journalism School
Belgrade, Serbia. 3-5 October 2013

The Contribution of audio-visual productions to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage
Belgrade, Serbia. 5 October 2013

Kick Off Meeting of the EU Project FLOODIS
Turin, Italy. 14-15 October 2013

Workshop on Transboundary Biosphere Reserves
Ontario, Canada. 17 October 2013.

Training seminar on Education for Sustainable Development
Ontario, Canada. 19-20 October 2013

Capacity building training in Tirana – Centre on Conservation and restoration of cultural heritage (TIKA)
Tirana, Albania. 21 October - 2 November 2013

Joint Ministerial Conference of Ministers of Environment and Ministers of Education
Monaco. 21 October 2013

First international Forum on Renewable Energy REENFOR-2013 Renewable Energy: Towards Raising Energy and Economic Efficiencies
Moscow, Russian Federation. 22-23 October 2013

Regional seminar on the practical implementation of the 2005 UNESCO Convention
Lviv, Ukraine. 23-25 October 2013

Western Balkan Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation. Steering Committee and Ministerial Meeting
Zagreb, Croatia. 24-25 October 2013

International knowledge brokerage workshop on 'Beyond-GDP' indicators
Venice, Italy. 28-29 October 2013

NOVEMBER

International Conference on Natural Product Utilization
Bansko, Bulgaria. 3-6 November 2013

City of Science celebrates UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development
Naples, Italy. 9 November 2013

UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development celebration in Montenegro
Podgorica, Montenegro. 10 November 2013

10th Meeting of The Eastern Partnership - Platform 4: "Contacts between people"
Brussels, Belgium. 14 November 2013

MAB & MAP IN SEE Brainstorming
Venice, Italy. 14-15 November 2013

The Intangible Cultural Heritage and Tourist Activities: the Case of Venice
Venice, Italy. 22- 23 November 2013

International School and Workshop in Nonlinear Mathematical Physics and Natural Hazards
Sofia, Bulgaria. 28 November – 2 December 2013

FLOODIS International workshop
Venice, Italy. 25-26 November 2013

IncREO Workshop
Venice, Italy. 26-27 November 2013

Travelling exhibit: Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century
Bucharest, Romania. 28 November 2013 - 27 April 2014

Course of Armenian duduk (7th edition)
Venice, Italy. 29 November-1 December 2013

Comitato Expo Venezia: Venezia Verso Expo2015 : Acqua e terra
Venice, Italy. 30 November 2013

DECEMBER

Workshop on the Regional Strategy for Science Technology & Innovation Statistics in the Western Balkans
Paris, Italy. 5 December 2013

TBRs Sub-regional workshop
Berezinskiy Biosphere Reserve, Belarus. 6-8 December 2013

Steering Platform on Science for Western Balkans
Zagreb, Croatia. 11-12 December 2013

Sub-regional MAB workshop on "Transboundary Cooperation : From Vision to Action"
Pogradec, Albania. 12-13 December 2013



© WSDPD 2013 Poster

The World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated each year on 10 November.

The World Science Day for Peace and Development offers an opportunity to demonstrate how science is relevant to our daily lives and to engage the scientific community, policy makers and the public.

The 2013 theme 'Science for Water Cooperation: Sharing Data, Knowledge and Innovations' highlights the key role played by Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in addressing global water challenges.

© Poster - UN World Water Day 2013

Dear reader,

I am pleased to invite you to discover the final issue in 2013 of our quarterly electronic newsletter, "Bridges".

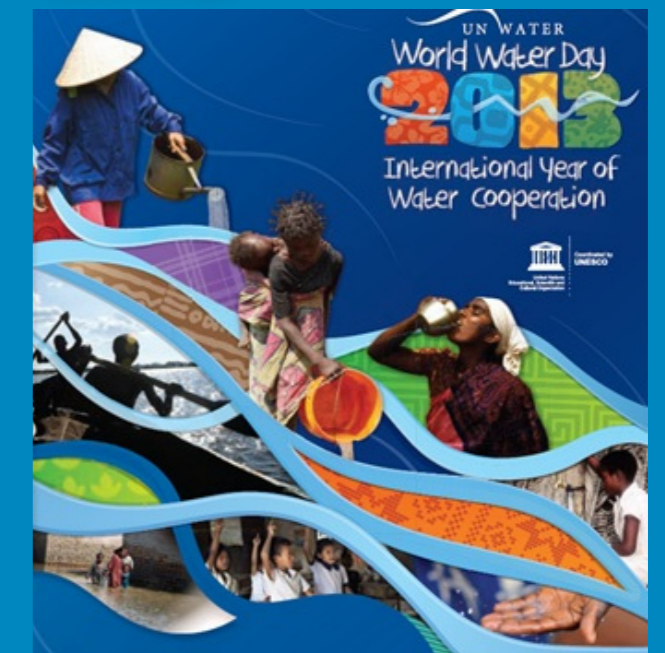
In 2013 this Office has focused on fostering cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels, especially with cultural activities in this last quarter such as the regional training workshop on Ottoman heritage in Tirana (p.9), support to the travelling regional exhibit "Imagining the Balkans" (p.11) and support for the new regional ministerial platform on culture and development in SEE (p.10).

With 2013 being designated by the UN as the International Year of Water Cooperation, UNESCO has oriented many of its Science activities to support this important initiative. And this Office was no exception: from the successful implementation of our ongoing sub-regional initiatives in the Sava (p.3) and Danube (p.8) river basins, to our activities with transboundary MAB Biosphere Reserves (p.7), cooperation for water-related risk-preparedness (p.5), and the successful implementation of the UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development, which had as its focus this year "Science for Water Cooperation" (p.4), the theme of water cooperation has been thoroughly mainstreamed throughout our Office's activities in the final quarter of 2013.

This Office looks forward to expanding our contributions to other sub-regions, such as in the Culture field through stepping up the participation in the EU-funded Eastern Partnership for the countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (p.11) in the coming years.

Yolanda Valle-Neff

Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe



>> all events

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© Sava NewsFlash - Cover of the Bulletin n°12

INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER COMMISSION

The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) has been established with the purpose of the implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), namely the provision of cooperation of the Parties to the FASRB, for realization of a number of goals.

Sava NewsFlash is the official bulletin of ISRBC, published twice per annum as a bilingual edition – in English and the chosen official language of the ISRBC for each edition.

It is aimed to present the overview of the most interesting topics related to, or relevant for the implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, to provide useful information and enable better communication of stakeholders and the wider public with the ISRBC, and thus promote the values and potentials of the Sava river basin.

In addition to some of the mentioned activities, the Sava NewsFlash includes a broad range of other relevant topics, thanks to the increasingly growing interest of people from the region to contribute to diversity of the bulletin, by submitting articles on various FASRB-related issues.

Sava NewsFlash is available in the website of the ISRBC at: www.savacommission.org

UNESCO - a successful knowledge broker in the region

Interview conducted by the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) with Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), for the Sava NewsFlash Bulletin n°12.

South-Eastern Europe is really an interesting part of the world, having a lot of natural and cultural resources that can be leveraged for its sustainable development. We expect that SEE will recover soon and continue to grow as it has in the past.

ISRBC offers UNESCO an incredibly meaningful ground for making progress and also a unique opportunity to better and directly address the needs of policy-makers in the region. This cooperation for us is a flagship activity.

UNESCO funded specific projects to protect biodiversity of the Sava river basin. What do they do and how do they work in a time of economic crisis, we asked Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Culture and Science in Europe, headquartered in Venice, Italy.

How did the present economic crisis affect the UN goals to achieve sustainable development by broadening the availability of a high-quality education?

The economic crisis indeed poses significant risks to depriving millions

of children, particularly those in the world's poorest countries, of a high-quality education. In the global effort to achieve Education for All by 2015, the financing of education is a key issue for governments and donors. Reliable and comparable statistics on the sources and uses of funding are still needed to improve education planning, management and resource mobilization. UNESCO is addressing these challenges through timely research, evidence-based policy advice, and knowledge sharing.

In South-Eastern Europe, your organization is making efforts to incorporate science and culture into the development strategies of the member countries. How is the response of the countries?

UNESCO is the only UN Agency to have a global network of national cooperating bodies known as National Commissions which are set up by their respective governments and play a significant role in liaising with partners, coordinating activities and promoting UNESCO's visibility at the country level. Due to the close working relationship we have with the National Commissions in this region, and in particular, in SEE countries, UNESCO is able to take advantage of



© UNESCO - Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy)



© International Sava River Basin Commission

this special relationship to ensure that our efforts to incorporate science and culture into the development strategies of our Member States are in line with the vision of the Governments and vice-versa, which significantly increases the likelihood of these strategies being adopted and pursued. We are pleased to have had very positive responses so far to our efforts from our Member States in SEE.

You are also cooperating with the countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region. What way do you cooperate with them?

As the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, our Office interacts with all of the countries in the European region, with a special focus on those of South-East Europe. Therefore we regularly invite representatives from Member States in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus subregions to participate in various events and activities at a regional level, ranging from our work with transboundary Biosphere Reserves and river basins to organizing regional meetings on culture and history. We also seek to incorporate the various UNESCO Chairs, Institutes and Regional Centers in these subregions as

partners in our activities whenever we can.

Your communication strategy does not target the wide public primarily, it is rather oriented toward narrower, specific groups. Which are these groups, actually?

True, the written outputs or reports of the meetings and trainings that UNESCO supports are often geared towards experts and policy-makers with the aim of advancing and sharing industry-specific information, as we see the role of UNESCO as that of a knowledge broker for the region in the areas of Science and Culture. However, our Office website (www.unesco.org/venice) is indeed geared towards the general public with the goal of keeping everyone, from Government leaders to everyday citizens, informed about what we are up to. Our website was viewed nearly 150,000 times in 2012, not including the over 165,000 views of videos on our Office YouTube page, such as the H2Ooooh! cartoons which, developed by children, for children, share ideas for wise water use. We also take advantage of special events, like the Venice Biennale, to open our Office premises to the public and showcase some of the many interesting activities we

are working on in the region. On average, we host over 20 events per year.

Connecting the science (i.e. knowledge owners) and policy (i.e. decision makers) is challenging in many countries. How can this challenge be dealt with?

As just mentioned, making this connection between science (or culture) and policy is a big part of UNESCO's work as a knowledge broker in the region. One of the ways we address this challenge is to bring these people who come from very different circles – one usually academic, the other political – together in the same forum to discuss.

We have done this many times with great success, be it as an Advisory Board member of PSI Connect, an EC FP7 funded project that aimed to bridge the science-policy gap in the field of water management and climate change through which we organized (in cooperation with ISRBC) an important capacity-building in 2011, or through the annual regional meetings of government experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage that serve as a regional platforms for sharing knowledge and good practices. >>>full story



Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, in her message on the occasion of the 2013 World Science Day for Peace and Development:

"Together we will continue to strengthen the link between science and policy, in order to make the most of scientific cooperation as a force for peace and development. Water resources pay no heed to borders - our cooperation must be guided by the spirit of solidarity. Together, we can harness the full power of water to strengthen human dignity and build a better future for all. This is UNESCO's message today."



©UNESCO - WSDPD Poster in Italian

Multimedia: [DG video on the occasion of the World Science Day for Peace and Development 2013](#) [3:07]

World Science Day for Peace and Development 2013 Celebration at the Città della Scienza in Naples, Italy

This year's celebration of the World Science Day for Peace and Development (WSDPD) took into account the role of science for peace, addressing the winds of war which continue to sweep countries in vast areas of the globe, in particular in the Mediterranean and Middle East, dramatically marking the fate of entire nations and communities which are facing exodus.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and the IDIS Foundation jointly organized on 9 November the WSDPD 2013 at the Città della Scienza in Naples. As part of the annual festival "Futuro

Remoto" (Remote Future) which marked the re-launch of the science promotion activities of the center, the event had special significance after the arson that struck the center's exhibition facilities on 4 March 2013.

The concept of responsible science based on the ethical behavior of the single scientist as a necessary but not sufficient condition for a concrete improvement of the situation was discussed among the invited experts M. Martellini (Center on International Security-ICIS, Insubria University), M. Nasreddine (ME and North Africa Strategic Studies Center) and Père J.M. Laurent Mazas (Holy See Council of Culture, Corte dei Gentili) during the

©Città della Scienza - Discussion during the Celebration of the World Science Day 2013



first session introduced and chaired by the Science unit of the UNESCO Venice Office. The fundamental role and responsibility of the governments and their political decisions were recalled, as well as the central value of individuals, with their rights and dignity.

A number of projects on science education and communication



©Città della Scienza - Celebration of the World Science Day 2013

implemented in the Mediterranean and Middle East were presented by B. Battrawi (A.M.Quattan Foundation), L. Amodio (Città della Scienza) and R. Conte (Ngo

COASIC). A poster session on projects of cooperation in the field of science was arranged at the WSDPD 2013 venue. >>full story

World Science Day for Peace and Development. A first-ever celebration in Montenegro involving elementary school children

The important role of science in society and the subtheme of this year's edition 'Science for Water Cooperation: Sharing Data, Knowledge and Innovations' in Montenegro, were discussed during a round table organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Science of Montenegro and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

Opening the event on 11 November 2013, the Minister of Science of Montenegro, Sanja Vlahović, touched on the importance of this initiative in the context of merging science and society, which is one of the key missions of science departments.

In the first Panel 'Water as a strategic resource for the development of Montenegro', specific questions were answered by Ministries on scientific research, water protection and consumption, and the economic aspects of water for Montenegro.

A second Panel 'Science for Water Cooperation: Sharing Data, Knowledge and Innovations' composed of distinguished Montenegrin experts made interesting presentations on hydro energy, biology, ecology and tourism.

Parallel to the round table, "Overseas Discovery", an exhibition for children organized by the National Parks of Montenegro and hosted at the Delta City, was underway. It was an interactive exhibition where children could enjoy and learn more about the seas and oceans. Representatives from



© UN in Montenegro - Activities and distribution of the H2Ooooh! 'Drops of Water' to Montenegrin kids at the WSDPD 2013 stand

the National Parks of Montenegro provided children with information about fresh water in Montenegro and the rivers and lakes located within the national parks. The UNESCO

Venice Office showed cartoons from the series "H2Ooooh!", created by schoolchildren around the world concerning the importance of water and water-related issues. >>full story

BETTER FLOOD WARNING IN YOUR HANDS

INTEGRATING GMES EMERGENCY SERVICES WITH SATELLITE NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION FOR ESTABLISHING A FLOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM

[READ MORE](#) ↓

Flood risk-preparedness: Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication

FLOODIS EU FP7 Project kicked off on 15 October 2013 at the Istituto Superiore Mario Boella (ISMB) in Turin, Italy. Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing a flood information service (FLOODIS) is a collaborative project funded under FP7-SPACE-2013-1 within the framework of the SP1-Cooperation. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is responsible for the implementation and supervision of the second work package on user requirements.

FLOODIS will provide an accurate location-based application for portable devices. The proposed solution closes a critical gap for disaster management teams, civil protection, field/emergency response units to better address and mitigate crisis situations arising before, during, and after heavy flooding.

The project will provide an open source, location-based smartphone application for the general public to enable the capacity for individuals to take pre-cautionary actions, therefore vastly reducing the likelihood of human and economic loss. The project also considers rescuers

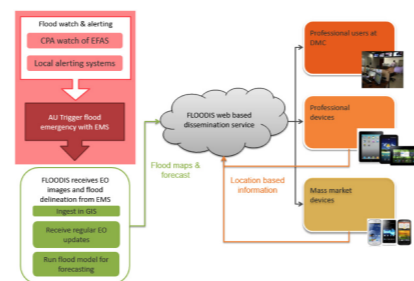
relying on professional terminals and legacy communication channels. FLOODIS will combine Earth Observation and GNSS (GPS, Galileo, EGNOS/EDAS) technologies to deliver alerts and interactive maps on flooding risk/events to users in the geographical area at risk.

UNESCO has assigned the Science unit of its Regional Bureau in Venice with the responsibility of the Project's Work Package 2 (WP2) on 'user requirements'. The objective of the package is to increase inclusiveness and inflow-outflow communication on capacity and knowledge sharing between consortium partners and end users in order to allow their full inclusiveness at the test stage of the pre-operational phase until the service demonstration phase (WP7). The end users should analyse service requirements and provide recommendations and KPIs for the FLOODIS Service Platform. A smaller number of key users will also be involved through a specific User Committee (UC) to be created in this work package and chaired by UNESCO.

UNESCO will implement and supervise the tasks of this work package, with the aim to increase communication on capacity and knowledge sharing

between consortium partners and end users at the test stage of the pre-operational phase of FLOODIS Service Platform. This will allow their full inclusiveness and operation follow up recommendations towards a successful testing and possibly its extensibility in the South East European area.

As part of the WP2 process, UNESCO will in particular set up an informal coordination and intersectoral platform in Albania and in Italy (Veneto). This shall provide project partners, through the organisation of 3 dedicated multi-stakeholders workshops to be held in Albania and in the region of Veneto, with a synergic interplay with end-user project testers in Veneto and in particular, with the Albanian stakeholders which includes the National Agency for Civil Protection of the Ministry of Interior. [>>full story](#)

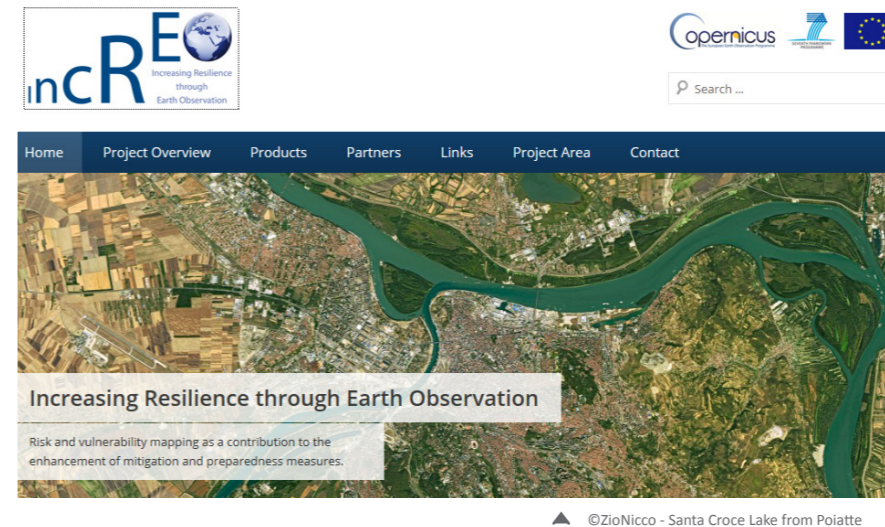


© Floodis.eu - Overview of FLOODIS mechanism from a users' perspective

▲ ©FLOODIS project website - Better Flood warning in your hands

EO-based solutions will improve preparedness and mitigation planning for areas highly vulnerable to natural disasters

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), organized on 26-27 November 2013 the technical workshop of the EU IncREO project, with the purpose to promote the involvement of local administrations within the identified demonstration case area of Alpage in Veneto Region, Italy, with a view to enhance the collection of data and to validate Earth Observation (EO) imagery-based products for risk and vulnerability analysis and mapping.



▲ ©ZioNicco - Santa Croce Lake from Poiatte

The identified hot spots for risk and the demonstrative test of the Alpage mountain area were presented by representatives from the municipal authorities of the local communities of Chies, Farra, Pieve, Puos, and Tambre. Their needs and requirements will help advance the product specification of the IncREO project, which is supported

by a number of project partners, with the support of the project partners of the specific Working Package: Astrium Services - Infoterra, National Research Council - Research Institute for Geo-Hydrological Protection (CNR-IRPI), GEOMER, University of Twente, and in close cooperation with Veneto's Civil Protection Agency.

These EO-based solutions should contribute to improving preparedness and mitigation planning for areas that are highly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as it applies to Alpage. Here, there are multiple risks such as seismic, floods, deep and shallow landslides.

The project activities aim to produce asset layers, vulnerability layers/maps and multi-risk maps capable of supporting emergency responders and municipal administrators in their emergency planning to avert or reduce the impact of recorded hazards in that territory.

IncREO is funded by the European Commission under the programme Copernicus, which aims to enhance the EU's capacity in Global Monitoring for Environment and Security. The UNESCO Venice Office is a partner of the project which is coordinated by Astrium Services. [>>full story](#)



▲ © Floodis logo

User Committee for flooding alert system in Veneto and Albania set up

FLOODIS aims at developing an early alert system for flooding in demonstration territories namely the Bacchiglione River in Veneto, a torrential type of river with a record of serious floods, which crosses the populated cities of Vicenza and Padua, as well as the Lake of Shkodra in Albania which also records critical and lately more frequent floods with substantial and large scale damages.

The first technical workshop of the European project FLOODIS was held from 25-26 November in Venice and organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), with the aim to identify the user requirements from the chosen areas.

This FLOODIS workshop put around the table representatives of civil Emergency Directorate of Albania with the Civil protection department of the region of Veneto, along with the representatives of the National

Research Council - Research Institute for Geo-Hydrological Protection (CNR-IRPI), the Alto Adriatic Water Authority (AAWA), the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO, and the CIMA Foundation in Albania.

This was done with the multiple goal of setting up the User Committee of the project, sharing a better understanding of the hazards related to chosen testing areas and a better specification of the user requirements through the conception of a dedicated questionnaire.

The end users have the specific goal to analyze service requirements and provide recommendations for the FLOODIS Service Platform to be established. [>>full story](#)

Western Balkan Regional Research and Development Strategy for Innovation Steering Committee and Ministerial Meeting



▲ ©World Bank - Western Balkans Regional R&D For Innovation

With job creation stagnant and economic growth stalled, the Western Balkans region faces an intensifying need to create knowledge-based economies that can generate higher value-added jobs and stronger growth. The high-level event, held on 24- 25 October 2013 at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb, Croatia, brought key stakeholders to endorse the Western Balkans Regional Research and Development (R&D) Strategy for Innovation.

Regional cooperation at the policy level will create positive peer pressure and serve as credible commitment for implementing reforms at the national level and promote integration of the region into the European Research Area (ERA). Integration in international scientific and innovation networks and technologically advanced production chains is fundamental for the quality and impact of R&D and innovation for all the countries in the region.

The Joint Statement of the Ministerial Conference, held in Sarajevo 2009, expressed the interest of the region in developing a joint strategy on research and innovation. In September 2011, the World Bank and the European Commission signed an agreement to support the development of the Strategy. The resulting technical assistance is financed through a multi-beneficiary Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

For the last two years, a Steering Committee composed of the beneficiary entities (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo*, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), the World Bank, the European

Commission and the Regional Cooperation Council oversaw the project implementation. The Advisory Body composed of stakeholders of the national innovation institutes, universities and private business, while ad hoc experts guided and contributed to the development of the Strategy. The Strategy, accompanied by an action plan detailing initiatives to be implemented at the regional level, identifies priorities and is expected to serve as a framework for a collective effort to recommend policy for institutional reforms, which will promote the Western Balkans' most urgent priority to increase contribution of research and innovation to the overall economic development of the region.

The main objective of this high-level meeting was the ministerial endorsement of the Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation. Participants included ministers responsible for science from the beneficiary countries, as well as representatives of the European Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council and the World Bank. The Science unit of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), member of the WBC-INCO.NET Steering Platform and supportive of the process, represented UNESCO in the event.

>>full story

*as defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/1999



▲ ©World Bank - Members of the Steering Committee

Beyond GDP indicators can help tackle policy challenges and trade-offs



▲ © aenimation / BRAINPOoL : Indicator Factors - salience for policy makers

The event was organized as part of the EU-funded project BRAINPOoL (Bringing Alternative Indicators into POLicy) which aims to help increase the influence of Beyond GDP indicators in policy, by improving knowledge transfer between those creating and promoting such indicators and their potential users.

The pan-European 2,5-year-long research and knowledge brokerage project BRAINPOoL, funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7), will assess the impact of Beyond GDP indicator initiatives, and then work with both indicator producers and potential users to

help bring Beyond GDP indicators into the policy world.

The central assumption of the project is that indicators, if effectively embedded in the policy-making process, are an effective transmission mechanism to connect research and policy. The project will lead to several written outputs, but integral to it will be an ongoing series of meetings and workshops and engagement with potential Beyond GDP indicator users to achieve direct impact.

The BRAINPOoL project is divided into 8 'work packages' (WPs), that include research and interviews, workshops and knowledge-

Women and Science 2013. Italy and the International Context

Published by Observa - Science in Society. 2013. Edited by Giuseppe Pellegrini and Barbara Saracino



▲ ©Observa - Women in Science 2013. Italy and the International Context

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is pleased to further disseminate on its website this publication on women and science.

«Yes, women are a necessity for science», the UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, stated during a recent panel discussion on 'Women in science – a necessity?' held at the United Nations' Palais des Nations in Geneva.

According to UNESCO's 2010 Global Education Digest, consistent gender disparities prevail at most stages of education in science and technology and in most regions of the world. This is especially true when women seek to cross the gap between education and professional life. Few women scientists are in top managerial positions, few women are patenting their discoveries, and very few women (5 to 10 percent) are indeed in the scientific boards of high-tech companies.

«We must release the full powers

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), hosted the International knowledge brokerage workshop on 'Beyond-GDP' indicators from 28-29 October 2013 at its premises in Palazzo Zorzi.

brokerage seminars and various action research case studies to explore ways to improve the uptake of Beyond GDP indicators. UNESCO will implement and supervise the tasks of this work package, with the aim to increase communication on capacity and knowledge sharing between consortium partners and end users at the test stage of the pre-operational phase of FLOODIS Service Platform in order to allow their full inclusiveness and operation follow up recommendations aimed at a successful testing and possibly consider its extensibility in SEE area. >>full story

of innovation, to craft new solutions that are inclusive, just and sustainable should be released», declared Director-General Bokova, but it will not happen if fifty percent of our brain power, fifty percent of our creative genius is excluded. In order to release the full potential of innovation and creativity, gender equality in the sciences is essential to sustainable development.

Gender equality is an overarching objective of UNESCO and relevant programmes are implemented to promote women in scientific research. The UNESCO "Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education" targets the weak links of girls' secondary education and women's literacy, being education, training, science and technology linked together and closely related to the labor market. >>full story



▲ © Raso - Lake Prespa

Transboundary Cooperation. From Vision to Action

The sub-regional MAB workshop on “Transboundary Cooperation. From Vision to Action”, took place in Pogradec, Albania, from 12-13 December 2013. The event was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), within the framework of The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

Transboundary cooperation offers UNESCO a new dimension for the development of its designated sites - both the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and the Natural World Heritage (WH) sites - and it provides a tool for the co-management of shared ecosystems, of which Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBRs) are key catalysts.

Processes of establishing TBRs need to be facilitated as they are at a crucial moment when stakeholders require support and communities and authorities need clarification of their expected engagement, responsibilities and benefits in order to move forward towards the designation processes and consequent implementation of key and interrelated functions of TBRs, such as: environmental conservation, research on human-environment interactions, sustainable development (SD), cultural identity and learning for a sustainable future in regional and global contexts.

This workshop aimed to strengthen capacities of the concerned MAB National Committees (NCs) and those who shall ensure a proper in-situ management of the future TBR, as well as catalyse participatory processes to implement the key functions of the site while considering also a possible contribution to the implementation of the future strategy for the MAB Programme and its WNBR in the coming years.

The objectives were to convene a meeting of key actors and experts, as specified above, enabling them to share information, experience, lessons learnt and best practices in biosphere reserves management and transboundary processes to address current emerging challenges; to strengthen transboundary cooperation with a particular emphasis on bordering territories where transboundary



▲ © Bomac - Fisherman's cabin at Lake Prespa

water and associated ecosystems can be affected by unsustainable development due to different management approaches; and, to achieve a common understanding of institutional, legal and regulatory contexts in the implementation of the key functions of the TBR and catalyse the drafting of a joint strategy and related action plan.

The workshop programme was spread over two days. The first day was restricted to MAB NCs representatives of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The second day was open to MAB NCs representatives as well as national and local stakeholders with a particular focus on the proposed TBRs - the Ohrid-Prespa Lakes Watershed, the Skadar/Shkodra Lake and the Osogovo Mountains. >>full story

Cooperation across borders for Transboundary Biosphere Reserves

“Transboundary cooperation as a stepping stone to establish and properly manage Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBRs) and a bridge to sustainable development processes and greening economies – a follow-up to the EuroMAB 2013” took place in Berezinskiy Biosphere Reserve, Belarus, from 6 to 8 December 2013.



▲ © Berezinskiy Biosphere Reserve – Forest zoo

This workshop was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and conducted by the Non-profit Partnership “Biosphere Reserves of Eurasia” (Russian Federation) in cooperation with Berezinskiy Biosphere Reserve (Belarus). It was a follow up to the TBR workshop held on 17 October 2013 in Frontenac Arch Biosphere, Canada, within the 2013 EuroMAB Network Meeting - which aimed to enhance the capacity of EuroMAB countries to establish and manage their biosphere reserves, particularly transboundary ones, and to look at the transboundary potential

within the EuroMAB network through innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development. The workshop gathered key actors and experts involved in Biosphere Reserves (BRs) activities from the subregion. The aim was firstly to enable them to share information, experience, lessons learnt and best practices in biosphere reserves management and transboundary processes as discussed during EuroMAB 2013 and, in particular, during its TBR workshop and analyze their outcomes to be applied accordingly; and, secondly, to strengthen

transboundary cooperation with a particular emphasis on bordering territories where transboundary water and associated ecosystems can be affected by unsustainable development due to different management approaches. The workshop finally contributed to a formulation of a joint sub-regional strategy to be a part of the EuroMAB strategic approach in the upcoming years within the overall The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) strategy. >>full story

Strategies of Renewable Energy in the Biosphere Reserves network



The Science unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), contributed to the first session on sustainable energy governance, and presented the experience of training initiatives organized by UNESCO in Croatia over 2012-2013. Particular attention was given to the new concepts and principles in order to

mainstream sustainable energy in UNESCO designated sites. The topic was debated during the international fall workshop on “Upgrading Life in Historic Towns - Sustainable Energy” that was held in Dubrovnik from 3-4 October 2013, in partnership with the University of Dubrovnik, in cooperation with the UNESCO RENFORUS initiative (Renewable

The seminar was jointly organized by the MAB National Committee of Spain, the Albertis foundation and the Parks Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment of Spain on 14-15 November 2013.

▲ © UNESCO/Gobierno de Aragón, Ordesa-Vinamala

Energy Futures for UNESCO Sites), for an effective mainstreaming of sustainable energy in UNESCO designated sites. The seminar offered a stage for discussion and exchanges on the role of Biosphere Reserves in Spain in strengthening concepts and practices of sustainable energy in these sites. >>full story

DANUBE 2014. Bridging the sciences - crossing borders

Save the dates and place. The XXVI Conference of the Danubian Countries on Hydrological Forecasting and Hydrological Bases of Water Management will take place on 22-24 September 2014 in Deggendorf, Germany. Cooperation of the Danube countries in the area of hydrology started in 1961, hosting the first conference on hydrological forecast in Budapest.

the main topic "Water security: Responses to local, regional, and global challenges". To deal with these complex, rapid environmental and demographic changes (e.g. population growth and vulnerability to hydrological disasters, global and climate changes, uncontrolled urban expansion, and land use changes), holistic, multidisciplinary and environmentally sound approaches to water resources management

link different fields of science; and to promote cooperation of the Danube countries. Both methodological approaches as well as case studies from countries of the Danube are welcome. The Danube 2014 conference will include the following topics: Basis of hydrology; Hydrological data management; Hydrological modelling and forecasting; Disaster events; Administrative structures



▲ ©danubeconference.org - Platform

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is pleased to announce the 26th edition of the Danube Conference, as part of a series of biennial conferences being alternately held by countries of the Danube. The event is jointly organised by the German IHP/HWRP National Committee, the Bavarian Environment Agency, and the Deggendorf Institute of Technology, in cooperation with the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO, the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

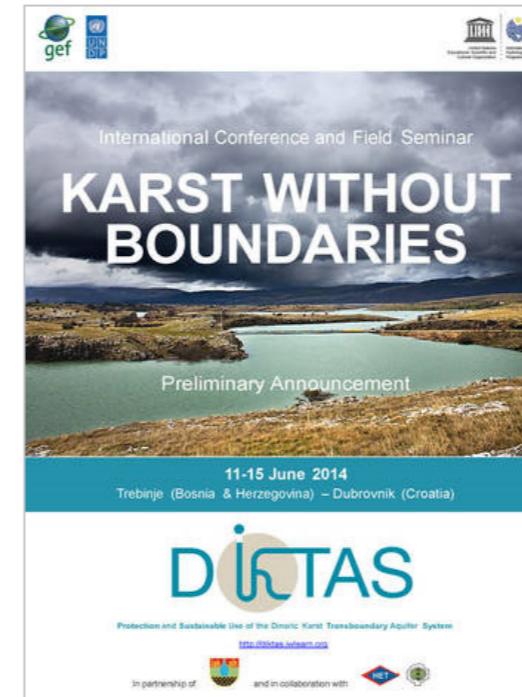
Since 1975, cooperation has been conducted within the framework of IHP. The eight-year phase of IHP-VIII (2014-2021) will start with

and protection policy are necessary. Water security in IHP-VIII is defined as the capacity of a population to safeguard access to adequate quantities of water of acceptable quality for sustaining human and ecosystem health on a watershed basis, and to ensure efficient protection of life and property against water related hazards - floods and droughts.

The aims of the XXVI Danube Conference are: to foster exchange of hydrological basic information; to improve and adopt new models and techniques for hydrological forecasting and parameters at several time and space scales; to deal with disasters in an appropriate manner; to better articulate the role of hydrological and biotic processes in aquatic systems; to

for water management; River Basin and Water Management; and, Ecohydrology. Participants wishing to attend the conference are requested to send the 'Preliminary Registration Form' by 28 February 2014.

Participants intending to present a paper or poster should submit a 1 page abstract by electronic mail by 28 February 2014. Pre-registration is a prerequisite for acceptance. Authors will be notified of acceptance by 30 March 2014. Extended abstracts should be submitted by 30 June 2014. The papers will be pre-published in the conference proceedings. In addition to oral presentations, poster sessions are planned. Poster papers will be published in the proceedings. >>full story



Karst Without Boundaries An International Conference and Field Seminar

Share your knowledge and experience by participating in 'Karst Without Boundaries'. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), announces this International Conference and Field Seminar that will be held from 11 to 15 June 2014 in Trebinje (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Dubrovnik (Croatia). The event is organized in the framework of the on-going GEF Dinaric Karst Aquifer System DIKTAS project.

Websites:

- <http://www.karstwithoutboundaries2014.org/>
- <http://diktas.iwlearn.org/>

The project is set up to improve understanding of transboundary groundwater resources of the Dinaric Karst region and to facilitate their equitable and sustainable utilization, including the protection of unique karst groundwater dependent ecosystems.

The purpose of the conference is to enhance cooperation between international karst scientists, engineers and DIKTAS stakeholders, and to provide opportunity for exchange of experiences and ideas relevant for karst aquifers throughout the world.

The conference will highlight DIKTAS achievements at national and regional level and invite representatives of national authorities, academics, engineers, consultants and others to actively engage in the project activities and contribute to achieving its goals. Additionally, the conference

aims to raise awareness on the vulnerability of karst aquifers and to discuss groundwater protection and related socio-economic and environmental implications. The conference will include the following topics: Aquifer characterization and monitoring; Aquifer management and legal framework; Water resources engineering; Groundwater sustainable use, protection and remediation; and Awareness, education and outreach.

Researchers from all disciplines related to karst water science and management, water resources engineering, groundwater protection and remediation as well as education and outreach are welcome. Whether a karst specialist or simply interested in the subject, one can contribute to the dialogue of how karst aquifers can be better understood, protected and sustainably managed. Stakeholders and policy makers from

governmental authorities, national and international institutions, NGOs and research institutes interested in understanding karst groundwater systems and the steps that need to be taken to protect and manage them are also welcome.

The conference is sponsored by DIKTAS partners, with special support of UNESCO, the IAH Karst Commission and the IGRAC center. The regional co-organizers are the Hydropower System Trebinjska (HET), Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the University of Belgrade, Serbia. >>full story

▲ ©Karst Without Boundaries



▲ ©Karst Without Boundaries - Diktas People





UNESCO and TIKA join efforts towards the restoration of Ottoman cultural heritage in South-East Europe

© Edlira Çausi - Techniques of restoration and conservation of wall paintings

The training workshop held in Tirana and Berat, Albania, from 21 October to 2 November 2013 was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), thanks to the technical and financial contribution of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), in cooperation with the Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments in Tirana.



© Edlira Çausi

The Albanian Minister of Culture, Mirela Kumbaro, officially launched the training workshop on 21 October in the presence of the Albanian Deputy Minister of Culture, Zef Cuni; the coordinator of TIKA Office in Tirana, Birol Cetin; the UNESCO representative and head of the Antenna in Sarajevo, Sinisa Sesum; and the Director of the Restoration and Conservation Department, Edlira Çausi. The workshop was inaugurated at the premises of the Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments in Tirana operating under the auspices of the Institute of Cultural Monuments (IMK) in Albania. In her opening speech, Milena Kumbaro expressed gratitude to UNESCO and TIKA for their joint efforts oriented at the safeguarding of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Albania. The two-week training workshop was aimed at developing capacities of young professionals from South-Eastern Europe (SEE) in restoration and conservation of wall paintings of the Ottoman period.

The theoretical part of the workshop was conducted at the Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments in Tirana and the practical course at the complex of the King's Mosque, a 15th century monument built under Sultan Bayezid II (or Sultân Bayezid-î Vefî) in the Historic Centre of Berat, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The training programme consisted of both theoretical and practical (hands-on) activities aimed to introduce relevant conservation and restoration techniques, in compliance with internationally recognized conservation principles and standards. Lectures and site work addressed the principles of conservation and restoration of wall paintings - including insights into historical techniques of execution, deterioration, conservation treatments and methods, as well as maintenance requirements.

Sinisa Sesum, UNESCO Venice Office, stated that: *"This workshop is a perfect example of trilateral cooperation among the authorities of Albania, UNESCO and TIKA, in support of the enhancement of capacities of young experts from SEE for the restoration of the Ottoman heritage in South-Eastern Europe, and with a view to promoting the Tirana Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments as a centre of excellence for all experts from SEE"*.

The workshop was attended by 7 young restorers and conservators from Albania, Bulgaria and Kosovo*, under the tutorship of 2 experts in Ottoman wall paintings, nominated by TIKA and the coordinator of Tirana Centre. [>>full story](#)

*as defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/1999

How regional audiovisual productions would contribute to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in South East Europe

Experts from South-East Europe met in Belgrade, Serbia, on 5 October 2013, within the framework of the 22nd edition of the International Festival of Ethnological Film, to discuss how documentary films and other audiovisual productions may contribute to the safeguarding and viability of intangible cultural heritage.



Етнографски музеј у Београду, 4 - 8. октобар 2013.

The meeting was organized by the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade, in cooperation with the Sofia Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Bulgaria) and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy). The meeting included a round table on the realization of a possible regional audiovisual production on intangible cultural heritage in

South-East Europe – challenges and opportunities. Participating experts were representatives of heritage safeguarding agencies, anthropologists, film makers and other individual practitioners.

The Belgrade International Festival of Ethnological Film focuses on creative ethnographic documentaries with strong ethnological sensibility. Its concept

is to encourage and inspire wide audience, anthropologists and filmmakers to contribute to impact and use of the ethnographic film. This year's edition of the Festival of Ethnological Film screened from 4-8 October 2013 documentary films on the subjects of ethnology and anthropology and included a variety of events, meetings with filmmakers and social gatherings. [>>full story](#)



Italy joins in the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

©Mex3 - Vetreria Murano Arte glassmaker

Ten years have passed since the adoption of the Convention. From its adoption in October 2003 until the submission of the first periodic reports in 2011 and 2012, the Convention has achieved many milestones at the international and national levels. Its tenth anniversary offered a wide range of actors the opportunity to make an initial assessment and to explore the key challenges, constraints and possibilities related to its implementation.

As part of its anniversary, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was at the heart of the Conference on "The Intangible Cultural Heritage and Tourist Activities: the Case of Venice", held on 22-23 November 2013 in Venice, Italy, at the Venice Cruise Port (Terminal 103).

The event was organized by Venezia Terminal Passeggeri S.p.A., under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian

National Commission for UNESCO, the Region and Province of Veneto, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) - among other partners.

Leading worldwide experts, representatives of UNESCO, ministries, local and national institutions, non-governmental organizations and academics specialized in the field participated in the conference. [>>full story](#)

Stepping up efforts to implement the UNESCO 2005 Convention in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus



▲ ©Jan Mehlich - Old town in Lviv

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), represented UNESCO at the Regional seminar on the practical implementation of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, held on 23-25 October 2013 in Lviv, Ukraine.

The seminar was the first event organized within the framework of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) with a specific focus on the UNESCO 2005 Convention. The Convention is a legally-binding international agreement that intends to ensure that artists, cultural professionals, practitioners and citizens worldwide can create, produce, disseminate and enjoy a broad range of cultural goods, services and activities.

The seminar aimed to raise awareness of the challenges regarding policy development to promote the diversity of cultural expressions within the countries of the EaP. In particular, the seminar encouraged discussion on how EaP countries address different aspects of policies to promote the

diversity of cultural expressions, including diversity of local cultural content, diversity through greater exchanges of cultural content regionally or at an international level, etc.

A great number of policies are concerned in this context - not only policies in direct support of the cultural and creative sectors, but also policies that help create an enabling environment in which these sectors can operate and grow, and policies which ensure a broad access to diverse cultural goods and services such as intellectual property rights, information society/digitization, taxation, social affairs, local and regional development, international relations and cooperation, international trade.

A key objective of this seminar was to help EaP countries to develop strong cultural policies in light of the principles of the UNESCO Convention by promoting regional cooperation and exchange of national practices and experience regarding the implementation of the Convention,

including from EU Member States.

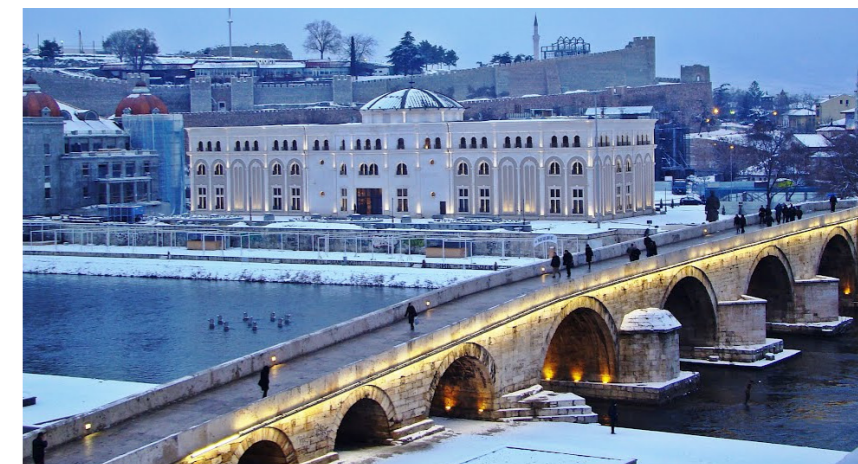
The benefits of the Convention were also addressed to the Civil Society representatives and reckoned essential for a further productive dialogue among national authorities, NGO's and other stakeholders.

The Eastern Partnership is an initiative of the European Union launched in 2009, governing their relationship with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine, intended to provide a venue for discussions of trade, economic strategy, travel agreements, and other issues between the EU and its eastern neighbours.

Within the EaP, a specific cooperation platform, Platform 4 'Contacts between People', is the main forum for discussion in fields including education and training, culture, youth, research, media and information society. It is coordinated by the Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC).

[>>full story](#)

UNESCO Venice Office supports regional ministerial platform on culture and development in South-East Europe



▲ © Stone bridge Skopje - Ahmet Bekir

On 13 December 2013, a special meeting of experts representing ministries of culture from Member States of South-East Europe (SEE) took place in Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This event was organised by the Ministry of Culture and the National Commission for UNESCO, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), within the overall framework of UNESCO's global initiative "Culture: A Bridge to Development".

The event served to discuss and pave the way for the effective implementation of the decision

taken during the Annual Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-Eastern Europe (CoMoCoSEE) held in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, on 9 April 2013, concerning the establishment of a new, unified regional cooperation platform on culture at ministerial level, under the title "Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe – Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development".

Participants in this special meeting were senior officials in representation of the ministries of culture of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia,

Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey. Representatives of the ministries of culture of Austria and Italy, as well as of UNESCO, also attended the meeting as observers.

The meeting started the preparatory work for the organization of a first conference within this new ministerial platform, to be hosted by The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in spring 2014, and in particular for the preparation of an Action Plan for the enhancement of regional cooperation in the field of culture to be proposed for approval by the conference. [>>full story](#)

Maestro Gevorg Dabaghyan brings the unique sounds of Armenian duduk to Venice

In 2005, the duduk was proclaimed a masterpiece, representing the Armenian musical tradition in the UNESCO "Programme of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity", and inscribed in 2008 on the new "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity".

The Studies and Documentation Centre of Armenian Culture of Venice, in cooperation with the Intercultural Institute of Comparative Music Studies of Giorgio Cini Foundation and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), organized the 7th edition of the Course on Armenian duduk from 29 November - 1 December 2013 at the Research and Documentation Centre Armenian Culture in Venice.

Gevorg Dabaghyan was invited to teach this new edition of the Course of Armenian duduk. Maestro Dabaghyan is a major living expert in this very ancient instrument and the main duduk teacher at the Yerevan State Conservatory. He has founded several ensembles, including Shoghaken, a group dedicated to preserving the very rich Armenian folk music heritage. Liturgical music also features prominently in Dabaghyan's vast repertoire.



▲ ©Fondazione Cini - Gevorg Dabaghyan

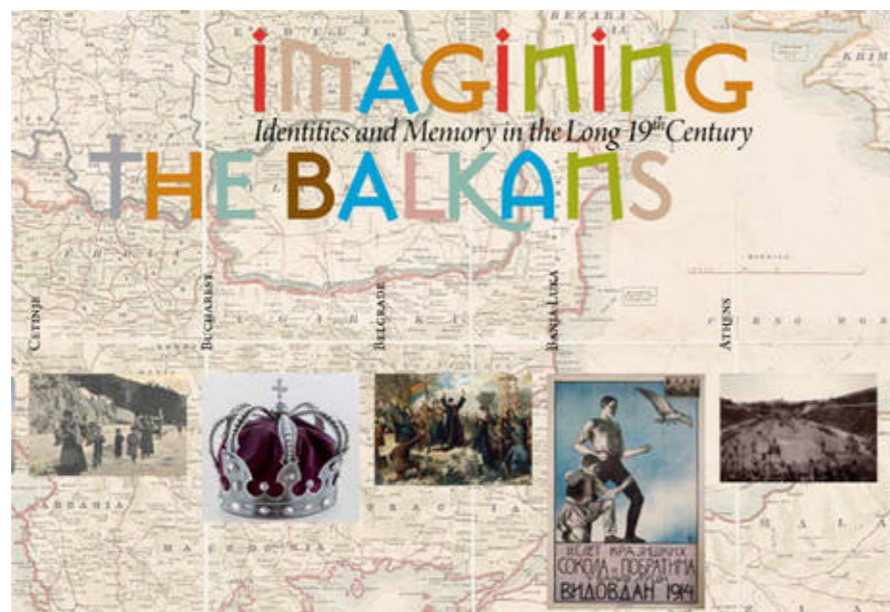
The duduk, or "dziranapogh" in Armenian, is a double-reed woodwind instrument made of apricot wood, conventionally called the "Armenian oboe". The Armenian duduk is distinctive in construction and performance technique and, characterized by a warm and soft timbre. It accompanies popular Armenian traditional songs and dances of the various regions and is played at events, such as weddings and funerals. [>>full story](#)

The National History Museum of Romania is the third host of the travelling exhibit 'Imagining the Balkans'

'Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century', coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), with the support and participation of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), was inaugurated at the National History Museum of Romania (MNIR), Bucharest on 28 November 2013 in the presence of Daniel-Constantin Barbu, Minister of Culture of Romania; Ernest Oberländer-Târnoveanu, MNIR General Director; and, Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

The exhibit 'Imagining the Balkans' was opened in Ljubljana at the National Museum of Slovenia, on 8 April 2013, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe. Part of UNESCO's global initiative 'Culture: a Bridge to Development', the exhibit seeks to enhance cooperation and dialogue among national history museums and focuses on the constitution and evolution of modern nations in South-East Europe during the "long 19th century".

National history museums from South East Europe and beyond - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,



▲ ©Imagining the Balkans - Catalogue cover

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - came together to put in perspective and compare their collections and their national histories. The historical advisor of the exhibit is Maria Todorova, professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, United States of America.

After Ljubljana, the exhibition started its planned journey to the Historical Museum of Serbia in Belgrade - where it was exhibited until last 6 November. The National History Museum of Romania is now hosting the exhibit 'Imagining the Balkans' in Bucharest; the installation is curated by Mr. Cornel Ilie.

During the inauguration ceremony, Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, paid tribute to all the museums, curators and experts closely involved in this project during the last 4 years, as well as to ICOM and the International

Committee for Exhibitions and Exchange (ICOM/ICEE). *"This exhibit is important because it shows in an unprecedented way that history museums in the region are again becoming reflective places of dialogue and understanding. For the very first time, national museums in the region have decided, with the active support of UNESCO, to approach the history of their countries in a multi-perspective manner, in a way that is attentive to cultural diversity and the complexities of national narratives"*, Yolanda Valle-Neff said in her address. She restated UNESCO's full support to this regional initiative and expressed the hope that this traveling exhibit will benefit and inspire the whole region.

The exhibit "Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century" will be on display at the National History Museum of Romania in Bucharest until 27 April 2014 and travel to other countries from South-East Europe in 2014-2015. >>full story

Venue of exhibit:

National History Museum of Romania
Calea Victoriei, nr.12, sect. 3
030026 Bucharest

website: <http://www.mnir.ro>

opening hours: 9am.-5pm.



▲ © Thematic Path - Travelling, communicating



Eastern Partnership approves quadriennial programme of work on culture and research



On 14 November 2013, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), participated in the 10th meeting of the Platform 4 of the Eastern Partnership, held in Brussels, Belgium, with the aim to discuss the programme of work 2014-2017 for this cooperation initiative in the fields of culture, education, research, youth, media and information society.

◀ © EU Neighbourhood Info Centre - Contest for best project of cross-border cooperation

This meeting of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Platform 4 mostly focused on the revision of the proposed tentative programme, especially strengthening joint activities for the promotion of culture as a driver and enabler for sustainable development.

Additional proposals made by participating Member States included the organization of regional seminars on the improvement of cultural policies and the promotion of cultural and creative industries, with special reference to supporting the implementation of the UNESCO

2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Based on the discussions of the meeting, a revised and final version of the Platform 4 Work Programme for the years 2014-2017 was released by the European Commission, constituting the basic planning tool for future cooperation activities.

The Eastern Partnership is an initiative of the European Union (EU) governing relationship and neighbouring policy with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia,

Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, intended to provide a venue for discussions of trade, economic strategy, travel agreements and other issues.

The partnership established four policy platforms – among which Platform 4 'Contacts between People', a forum for discussion in fields including education, training, research, youth, culture, media and information society. It is coordinated by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC). >>full story

National Focal Points from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe meet in the framework of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting

In the framework of the implementation of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America, the World Heritage National Focal Points for Periodic Reporting from the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe countries met in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 29 to 31 October 2013.

The Culture unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), participated in this workshop - which included a practical training session on the use of the Periodic Reporting questionnaires, illustrating the online tools to the World Heritage Focal Points in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. For countries

with cultural and natural World Heritage properties, the participation of both the Focal Point for cultural World Heritage as well as the Focal Point for natural World Heritage was recommended.

National Focal Points will be expected, after this meeting, to organize national workshops and act as trainers in further seminars with national authorities and site managers, in order to facilitate the completion of the Periodic Reporting online questionnaires. The national Focal Points for Periodic Reporting should be in charge of the overall coordination of the reporting, including the collaboration with site managers and other relevant national and local authorities, throughout the whole process of the Periodic

Reporting exercise. The workshop provided an opportunity for the next consultation round on the initiative to elaborate a capacity-building strategy for the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe based on the "Blueprint for the Capacity-Building Strategy for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe". >>full story



▲ © Our Place, Amos Chapple - Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower

Inclusive and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from Europe and Central Asia on the Post-2015 Development Agenda



©post2015 - Regional Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), participated in the Regional Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda “Inclusive and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from Europe and Central Asia on the Post-2015 Development Agenda”, that took place on 6-8 November 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. The high-level event was hosted by the Ministry of Development of Turkey and organized in partnership with the United Nations Development Group and the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

The post-2015 framework will shape development efforts for many years. The diverse region of Europe and Central Asia encapsulates many of the global challenges. It is therefore crucial that this region makes a thoughtful contribution to the process of formulating the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Taking forward the decisions of the UN General Assembly’s Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) held in New York on 25 September 2013, the Regional Consultation provided a timely opportunity to identify regional priorities for the post-2015 UN development agenda and discuss how these priorities can become part of a coherent global framework.

The event also aimed to review regional experiences and lessons learned from the MDGs, spearhead ways to deepen regional cooperation, and review proposals for measurement of sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Regional Consultation, as multi-stakeholder event, brought together over 300 representatives from governments, international organizations, civil society, the

private sector, academia and media.

The meeting featured a series of thematic panel discussions and concluded with an open forum that identified regional priorities for the post-2015 agenda and formulated the regional contributions to the global debate.

UNESCO contributed to the organization of the panel on “Quality Education and Decent jobs”, which was jointly coordinated with ILO and UNICEF.

Panelists in this discussion included representatives from the Albanian and Turkish Governments, trade unions, early childhood education experts and youth and civil society representatives. During this panel the importance of a quality education, adapting curricula to the real needs of the job market and teaching life skills to youth

were discussed. Investing in lifelong learning was also encouraged, with a particular emphasis on providing continuing education for teachers.

The Regional Consultation was preceded by a civil society consultation in which over 120 representatives participated and voiced together their concerns for the future of this region and which were shared at the beginning of the Regional Consultation to help kick things off.

The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Development of Turkey (host), in cooperation with the UN Development Group for Europe and Central Asia and the Regional Coordination Mechanism, led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). >>full story



▲ ©#Istanbul post2015



Ukraine wins the My World Outreach Award for Europe and North America

Reaching out to 13,000 participants became possible through fruitful cooperation with the Ukrainian government and national partners.

Accepting the award on behalf of Ukraine, Ms. Ella Libanova, Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, member of the official delegation of Ukraine, Team Leader of the Preparation of the National Post 2015 Development Agenda Report said: “I myself was privileged to be part of the post-2015 process and team and I can assure you that this award is a well-deserved result of efforts, energy and drive put in by an inspired and motivated team that believes and strives for a better future of the country, its people and next generations. This award also goes to all Ukrainian people that expressed and shared their views on the world they want, contributing into shaping of the global development agenda”.

Among 16 suggested priorities the majority of Ukrainian voters have chosen the main six – better healthcare (61%), an honest and responsive government (59%), a good education (55%), protection against crime and violence (52%), access to clean water and sanitation (42%). Mainly, people aged 16 – 45 participated in the survey, both men (50,1%) and women (49,9%).

On 10 September the UN Secretary General and United Nations Development Group Chair launched the report from an unprecedented global consultation on priorities for the Post-2015 development agenda that engaged more than a million people in all 193 UN Member States ‘A Million Voices: The World We Want’.

The consultations and surveys revealed that people expect governments and the international community to create conditions for inclusive social and economic development, in peace and security, and within planetary boundaries.

The call for better education, improved health care services, honest and responsive governments, and jobs has dominated the discussions around the world.

The United Nations Country Team in Ukraine was awarded for the widest outreach in the regions of Europe and North America in the framework of the global survey “My World”, initiated by the United Nations in order to ensure that all people of the world participate in the development agenda after 2015.



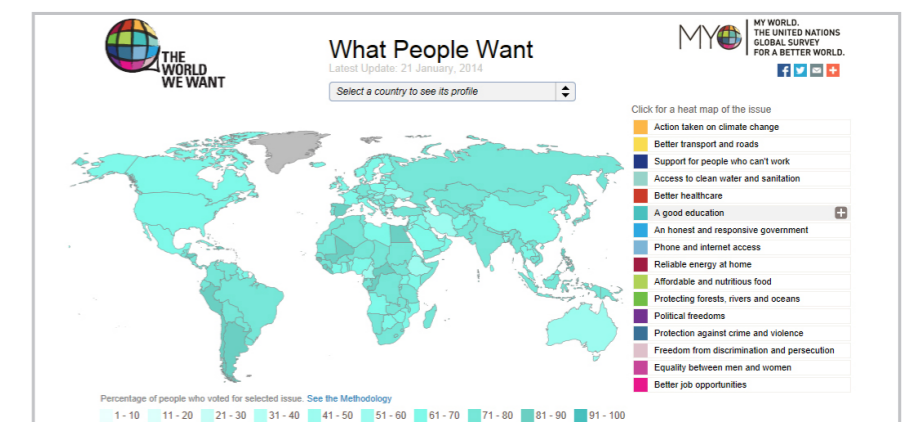
People want world leaders to focus on:

- Completing unfinished business of MDGs by providing everyone in the world – universally – with access to water, food, better health care, and quality education;
- The management of natural resources, job creation, and security and freedom from violence;
- Addressing inequalities in terms of obstacles to access public services, participate in political processes or job opportunities. >>full story

An Interactive Map has been also launched allowing to explore a map of MY World online platform with top 16 priorities, data by country, etc .

<http://map.worldwewant2015.org/>

◆ @worldwewant2015.org/





From South-East Asia to South-East Europe : a UNESCO itinerary

Véronique Dauge, Head of the Culture Unit at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), joined her new team in October 2013. Trained as an art historian and archaeologist, with a specialization in Oriental studies, she worked in various cultural institutions among which the Institut français d'architecture, the Centre Georges Pompidou and the National institute for oriental languages and civilisations, prior to joining UNESCO nearly 25 years ago.

Following your appointment in 2004 as Chief of the Arab States Unit at the World Heritage Centre, how was it to return to Headquarters?

Following many years in the field, being back at Headquarters proved very useful, as it allows having the overview of UNESCO's programmes and feel part of the global picture. I strongly believe that all staff should have this experience of working both in the field and at Headquarters so as to fully apprehend their mission. As for me, working at the World Heritage Centre in a Unit that encompasses the entire Arab Region was extremely instructive. Despite many common characters, if only the language, which is a considerable asset, all these countries are unique

and cooperating with them was a great experience. It also allowed me to better understand the World Heritage Convention at large, its mechanisms and the reflection that goes with it. The task was quite overwhelming, with a small team, enthusiastic and dedicated - carrying out activities in the field of capacity building, monitoring, conservation, establishing a regional network of experts and managers, developing a regional programme. Many new sites in the Arab States were inscribed on the World Heritage List during this period, in particular sites from the countries of the Arabian Peninsula for the first time, such as in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. However,

these last few years were clouded by the escalation of violence and conflicts in the region. You have certainly read the appeals and statements of the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, expressing her concern and dismay, not only for the loss of human lives, notably in Syria, but also for the destruction of the invaluable cultural heritage, testimony of hundreds and hundreds of years of civilisation and creativity. The loss is irreversible and although it can make us despair of our efforts, it must reinforce our will to pursue the endeavour inscribed in UNESCO's mandate. >>full story

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Laura Schilz, our former intern from Germany

Interview with Laura Schilz, a student in Economics

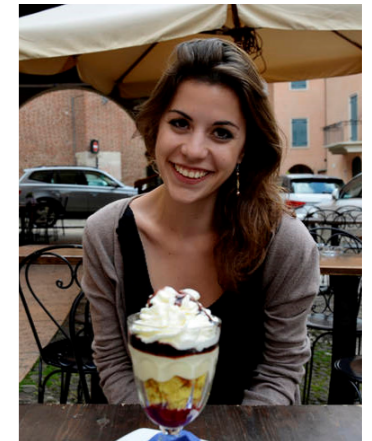
Laura applied for a 3-month internship at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe based in Venice (Italy) following her participation in the Venice International University's Globalization Programme which brings together talented, motivated students from member universities to Venice. Laura completed her internship within our Science Unit in October.

I am studying Economics at the Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) of Munich in Germany and for my exchange semester abroad I decided to participate in the Globalization Programme at the Venice International University (VIU) with a focus on Environmental Management and

Sustainable Development. We had the opportunity to apply for internship in a company or an organization in the field of sustainable development within VIU's internship programme.

I learnt a lot about the areas of work and the different programmes of UNESCO. At times when UNESCO is mentioned in conversations, people say 'Oh really, that is the organization of the World Heritage sites, right?'. Yet, there are so many other fascinating programmes and aspects of the organization that are not as notorious, like the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme which I was involved in.

During my internship I met outstanding people among my colleagues and I am very grateful to them for having had the opportunity to work with them and for their openness and kindness. Apart from the required working languages (English and French), I was also able to use and improve my knowledge of Italian. I learnt a great deal about the structure of UNESCO



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as an international organization and as a specialized agency of the United Nations, particularly as a result of being involved in a project on Expo 2015 in Milan: "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", attending a variety of conferences, events, and an ordinary session of the Scientific Council of the Office. >>full story

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

Kruna Krstic, our former intern from Serbia

Interview with Kruna Krstic, a student in Local Development

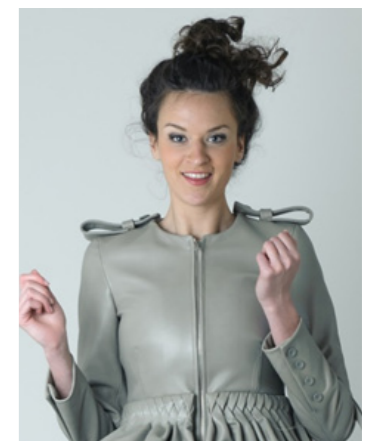
Kruna Krstic, our former intern, finalized and presented very successfully her thesis on Using the Ecological Footprint calculation at school to achieve Education for Sustainable Development on 4 December 2013 to complete her Master's degree in Local Development at the University of Padua. The thesis was based on the work she had developed during her internship with the Science unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

During my studies, I developed an interest in the work of international organizations, in particular their

role in the field of environment and sustainable development. Being from Belgrade (Serbia), I found that the important role of the UNESCO Venice Office in South East Europe suited my purpose of applying for an internship at an international organization while at the same time dealing with those territories I was particularly interested in.

The internship was indeed a remarkable experience for many reasons, from the excellent collaboration with my supervisor to the quality team work within the unit and the inspiration drawn for the topic of my Master's thesis. In particular, we worked on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

UNESCO is the lead institution for the implementation of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. The UNESCO Venice Office is contributing to ESD with

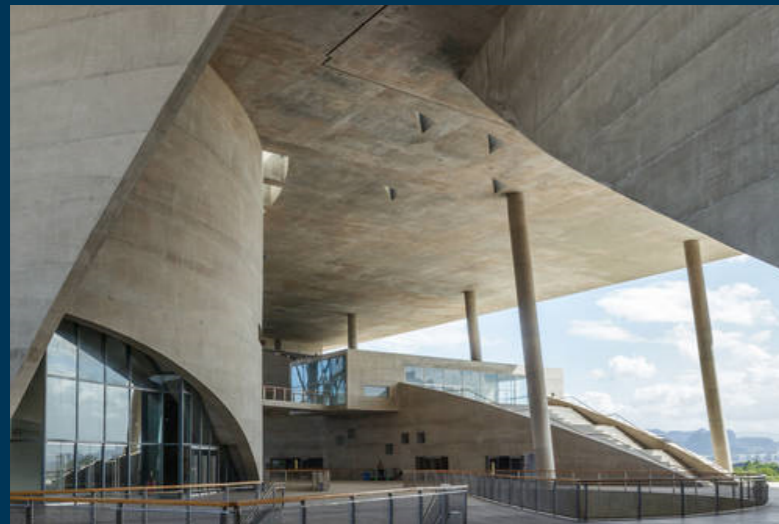


©Kruna Krstic

the specific project EF@School, the Ecological Footprint at School. In some countries, local authorities are using the Ecological Footprint analysis to inform their policies and practices with the aim of reducing the environmental impact of their activities in their territory. >>full story

Backstory

AFEX Grand Prix 2014 for French architecture overseas awarded to the City of Arts by Christian de Portzamparc in Rio de Janeiro



Since 2010, the UNESCO Venice Office is associated with the selection of the AFEX - French Architects Overseas - Grand Prix, aiming at promoting the work of French architects abroad. This year, the AFEX Grand Prix was awarded to the City of Arts by Christian de Portzamparc in Brazil and a special Jury Prize assigned to Paul Andreu for his work in China.

The Jury for this edition of the prize met on 17 December 2013 at the City of Architecture and Heritage in Paris to identify the winner among 10 high quality projects, among which they selected the City of Arts by Christian de Portzamparc in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), served on the jury of the AFEX Grand Prix 2014.

In addition, a Special Prize of the Jury was awarded to Paul Andreu for his entire work in China, as a way to reward, beyond the Jinan Grand Theatre, works as important as the Beijing Opera or the Shanghai Oriental Art Centre, realised before the creation of the AFEX Grand Prix.

The Grand Prix and the Special Prize will be awarded to the winners at the premises of the UNESCO Venice Office on 4 June 2014, on the occasion of the opening night of the 14th International Exhibition – Architecture Biennale 2014. Throughout the duration of the Biennale, Palazzo Zorzi will also host an exhibition of the projects included in the ‘Palmarès’.

>>full story

© Christian de Portzamparc - Cidade das Artes

CITY OF ARTS

2012-2013 Winning Project

Cidade das Artes is located between sea and mountain, in the center of a fourteen kilometers plain that saw the recent development of the new major district of Rio de Janeiro: Barra da Tijuca.



Cidade das Artes can be seen as a large house, a great veranda above the city, homage to an archetype of Brazilian architecture.

Between the two horizontal surfaces of the roof and the terrace are set the large curved concrete walls that contain the halls in a play of full and empty spaces.

website : Grand prix AFEX 2014 - Christian de Portzamparc

Bridges

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