

Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Issue 1 • 2014

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Venice Office
Regional Bureau for Science
and Culture in Europe

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

FLOODIS National workshop Marghera, Italy. 21 January 2014

Mid-term review Meeting of INCREEO project Brussels, Belgium. 23-24 January 2014

Steering Committee of the UNESCO Venice Office Venice, Italy. 27 January 2014

Kick-off meeting "Revitalization of Novobërdë/ Novo Brdo Fortress" Kosovo/1244. 29 January 2014

Workshop for Skadar lake designation within the frame of the Participation programme 2012-2013 Bar, Montenegro. 30-31 January 2014

FEBRUARY

Meeting of experts on the renovation of former Yugoslav block 17 in Auschwitz Zagreb, Croatia. 6-7 February 2014

IncREO User Validation workshop Tirana, Albania. 25 February 2014

Euro-Mediterranean Inter-institutional and stakeholder workshop Athens, Greece. 27-28 February 2014

MARCH

Kick-off Meeting EU project Ark-of-Inquiry Tartu, Estonia. 3-6 March 2014

Meeting of the board, International Centre on Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) Zadar, Croatia. 7 March 2014

Dinaric Arc Initiative – First Meeting of 2014 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 11 March 2014

Workshop of the SEE River project Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 11-13 March 2014

Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO of SEE Belgrade, Serbia. 18-20 March 2014

Preview - Petpals in Windland Rome, Italy. 24 March 2014

Capacity-building workshop - Management Plan for the World Heritage site Stari Ras and Sopocani Stari Ras, Serbia. 26-28 March 2014

Final Conference of the Project WBC.INCO-NET Vienna, Austria. 27-28 March 2014

The Gorica Bridge Speaks Berat, Albania. 29-30 March 2014

APRIL

General Assembly of the Regional Centre for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in SEE Sofia, Bulgaria. 1 April 2014

Meeting of the High level Committee on Management (HLCM) Venice, Italy. 3-4 April 2014

Enhancing intercultural dialogue among youth through the use of new ICTs Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 4 April 2014

Finalization of the Transnational Nomination of Stećci for inscription on the World Heritage List Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 8 April 2014

1st European Conference for the Implementation of the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity Florence, Italy. 8-11 April 2014

SUSTCULT Final Conference Ljubljana, Slovenia. 8 April 2014

General Assembly of the Private Committees Venice, Italy. 10 April 2014

FLOODIS National workshop Tirana, Albania. 10 April 2014

MAY

IncREO User Validation workshop Alpago, Italy. 12-13 May 2014

3rd Meeting of the Youth parliament of the Sava river basin Ljubljana, Slovenia. 30-31 May 2014

8th Annual Regional Meeting of SEE expert network on Intangible Cultural Heritage Limossa, Cyprus. 15-16 May 2014

JUNE

Global Space Applications Conference Paris, France. 2-4 June

Visualizing Venice: the City and the Lagoon Venice, Italy. 3-13 June 2014

Grand Prix AFEX 2014 and Exhibit 2014 Palmares Projects Venice, Italy. 4 June – 15 November 2014

Festival IT.A.CÀ Bologna, Italy. 6 June 2014

Travelling exhibit: Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 7 June-15 October 2014

RCM and ECA UNDG meetings Geneva, Switzerland. 16-17 June 2014

Scientific Council of the UNESCO Venice Office Venice, Italy. 20 June 2014

Art Night Venezia Venice, Italy. 21 June 2014

Meeting of experts on the new unified Ministerial Platform Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 27 June 2014

Annual Meeting of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe (SEE) Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 28 June 2014

Women's Day 2014: Equality for Women is Progress for All

Women researchers by country

Women remain under-represented in R&D in every region of the world. Just one in five countries has achieved gender parity, whereby 45% to 55% of researchers are women.

North America and Western Europe: 32%



© IUS - Women in Science:
Women researchers by
country

International Women's Day

8 March is an occasion to take stock of progress made towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. Although progress has been made, we are still a long way from achieving gender equality worldwide. There is no single country in the world where women have achieved full equality and full enjoyment of their rights. This alone should emphasize the need to keep a strong focus on gender equality and women's rights in the post-2015 development agenda. Women have a vital contribution to make to the achievement of peaceful and sustainable societies. We need to ensure that they participate fully and enjoy equal rights in all domains.

© IUS - Women
in Science: ▶

Dear reader,

I am pleased to invite you to discover the first issue in 2014 of our quarterly electronic newsletter, "Bridges".

As with every new year comes new energy, and 2014 was no different. Following the successful meeting of the Office's Steering Committee in January, the Office was involved in a number of high-level events in the region, from the presence of Director-General of UNESCO at the Balkan Bridges Speak event in Berat, Albania (p. 4) to the final conference and brokerage event, "Towards 2020: New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region", organized by the WBC-INCO. NET in Vienna, Austria (p.7), to the annual meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO of South-East Europe (p.13).

This positive energy continues: following negotiations with the Venice Expo Comitato formalized at the end of 2013, the Regional Bureau has geared up its efforts for UNESCO to participate to the Expo 2015 within the UN system at the primary location in Milan as well as in the Regional Bureau's host city of Venice (p. 3). Expo 2015 is a unique occasion to further promote UNESCO's mission and mandate in line with the Expo 2015 main theme of "Feed the Planet, Energy for Life" and with the special theme for Venice's participation to the Expo 2015, "Water, Energy for Life". We are looking forward to this opportunity for UNESCO to continue fostering "bridges" for scientific and cultural cooperation, dialogue and exchange on the world's stage.

Yolanda Valle-Neff

Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe



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UNESCO to participate in Expo 2015 in Milan and Venice, Italy



EXPO 2015 Theme Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life

Expo 2015 will be an extraordinary universal event displaying tradition, creativity and innovation in the business of food. It will bring together many themes that have already been handled by this event in the past, and set them out anew in light of new global possibilities whose common core is the idea that everyone on the planet should have access to food that is healthy, safe and sufficient.

EXPO 2015 Subthemes

The overarching theme of the exposition—food safety, security, and quality for sustainable development of the planet based on the worth of the individual—comprises a number of subthemes of universal interest. Expo Milano 2015 intends to address the universal and complex theme of nutrition from an environmental, historical, cultural, anthropological, medical, technical, scientific and economic point of view.



© 2014 - Expo 2015

Being located in Venice, Italy and thanks to a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the cities of Milan and Venice on the International Expo 2015, UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe is well-positioned to spearhead the Organization's efforts to use "Expo 2015" as a platform for raising awareness on important issues relating to sustainable development at the local, regional and global levels.

Expo 2015 is a non-commercial Universal Exposition (not a trade fair) being hosted by Italy, to which 144 other countries have already confirmed their participation.

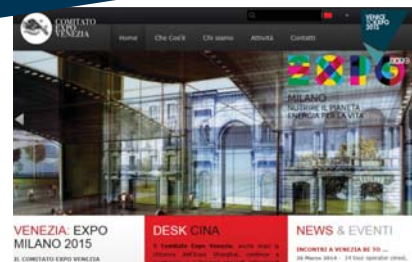
Throughout the six months of its duration (May-October 2015), Expo 2015 is expecting over 20 million physical and one billion virtual visitors to its location in Milan, Italy. UNESCO, as part of the United Nations (UN) system, will participate in Expo 2015 together with over 20 other UN specialized agencies and programmes, coordinated by an UN-EXPO 2015 team under the leadership of FAO.

The general theme of Expo 2015 is "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", which, along with its seven related sub-themes, provides a unique opportunity for the UN to showcase its achievements on relevant issues, with a special focus on food security and sustainable development. To this end, the UN has chosen to focus on its global initiative, the

"Zero Hunger Challenge", which, launched by the UN Secretary-General at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, aims to create a future where all people enjoy their fundamental Right to Food and where people's livelihoods and food systems are resilient and able to withstand a changing climate.

The cities of Milan and Venice have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to qualify the direct and indirect participation in the Venice area at the Expo 2015 international event in Milan. Venice, with more than 23 million visitors a year, will therefore become a fundamental gateway to and, at the same time, important co-location of Expo 2015.

UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, based in Venice, is



© Comitato Expo Venezia - Universal exposition Expo Milan 2015 Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life

taking advantage of this unique opportunity and has signed on 3 December 2013 a MoU with the Comitato Expo Venezia, the body responsible for coordinating Venice's participation to the Expo 2015, to further promote UNESCO's mission and mandate in line with the Expo 2015 main theme and with the selected special theme for Venice's participation to the Expo 2015, "Water, Energy for life".

Organized around these themes, the projects, events and activities UNESCO is planning will serve to introduce many of the Organization's flagship programmes to the general public.

Some of the initially proposed initiatives currently under development include: exhibitions on UNESCO designations (World Heritage sites; Biosphere Reserves; Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage) as best practices for sustainable development; the hosting of water-related international conferences; the promotion of "slow" and sustainable tourism along the historical waterways connecting Venice to its hinterland where many UNESCO designated sites are located; the organization of a treasure hunt to engage the many children and families visiting Venice along alternative itineraries throughout the city, in search for

the "blue gold" (water), which would include the presence of actors and animators around the city offering an enriching and educating experience focused on the value of water and the importance to ensure its sustainability.

Efforts are also underway to create new partnerships and seek out new sources of financing to broaden the Organization's networks and outreach capabilities for this series of activities, as well as for numerous other initiatives that UNESCO is trying to develop in Milan, Venice, as well as in other sites in Italy. Many of the activities and events will be hosted at the premises of the Regional Bureau in Venice, in the prestigious Palazzo Zorzi.

Those readers that are interested in joining with UNESCO to contribute to the development of these or other exciting opportunities in Venice in the context of Expo 2015 are encouraged to contact the office. >>full story

Best Sustainable Development Practices in Food Security Competition

This competition is part of the Expo "Feeding Knowledge" programme, launched by Expo Milano 2015 in 2012 with the objective of identifying priorities and key issues to reduce food insecurity. The Best Practices will be promoted through a technological platform, which will become part of the Expo 2015 legacy.

Expo Milano 2015 is launching a call aimed at the recognition and promotion of "Best Sustainable Development Practices on Food Security". This action contributes to the establishment of the Expo Milano 2015 legacy.

In the framework of "Feeding the Planet, energy for Life", the announcement is intended to collect, raise awareness, and share experiences that have produced ameliorative effects, compared to the previous conditions, in their specific



Watch the video: Expo 2015 - Call for best practices [2:34]

© Expo Milano 2015 - Feeding the Planet, energy for Life

area: environment, social and economic context, private sector, institutions, politics, science.

Initiatives recognized as Best Sustainable Development Practices on Food Security will have to be in line with one of the following five thematic priorities: 1. Sustainable management of natural resources; 2. Quantitative & qualitative enhancement of agricultural products; 3. Socio-economic dynamics and global markets; 4. Sustainable development of small rural communities; 5. Food consumption

patterns: diet, environment, society, economy and health.

The call is open to national and local government authorities, inter-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, research and academic bodies and public-private partnerships that can demonstrate effective and efficient approaches which have genuinely improved people's quality of life.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is 30 April 2014. >>full story



▲ ©UNESCO/S. Sesum - Irina Bokova

From 28 to 29 March, the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, undertook an official visit to Albania.

The visit presented an opportunity for the Director-General to discuss with the leadership of the Albanian government the current state of UNESCO's cooperation with the country and to further strengthen this in priority areas, including the protection of cultural and natural heritage and the promotion of regional cooperation.

In Albania, the Director-General took part in the "The Gorica Bridge Speaks" event that aimed at highlighting bridges as powerful symbols of unity and mutual understanding. The event was organised within the frame of the initiative "Culture: A Bridge to Development", launched by the Director-General in September 2011.

Balkan Bridges Speak. Third edition in Berat, Albania

Within the framework of its global initiative "Culture: A Bridge to Development", which aims at building on the power of culture as a dynamic force of co-operation and innovation for inclusive economic development, social cohesion, and peace, UNESCO supported the organization by the Balkanika Foundation, in cooperation with the Municipality of Berat and other partners from the region, of a new regional encounter on 29-30 March 2014 in Berat, Albania.

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Mirela Kumbaro, Minister of Culture of Albania and Fadil Nasufi, Mayor of Berat, attended "The Gorica Bridge Speaks", a new sub-regional "Balkan Bridges Speak" event, on Saturday 29 March 2014 in the historic centre of Berat, a site inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2005.

This regional encounter on the iconic Gorica bridge of Berat followed the ones organized in Edirne (Turkey) in 2012, and in Lovech (Bulgaria) in 2013.

It was the third of several events within the "Balkan Bridges Speak" project to be hosted across South East Europe to highlight bridges as powerful symbols of unity and mutual understanding.

The "Balkan Bridges Speak" project features round tables on some of the Organization's priority areas of work in the field of Culture, artistic performances, public readings, and provides an opportunity for artists, national and local authorities, experts, private partners and universities of the sub-region to share experiences. It aims at enhancing creativity, dialogue and cultural exchanges, to inspire innovative and creative approaches to the safeguarding of heritage and



©UNESCO/S. Sesum - Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on an Official Visit to Albania

culture sensitive development policies. The initiative is conceived to provide spaces for sub-regional and regional cultural cooperation, and sought to promote exchanges amongst culture professionals, city planners, municipalities, artists and the civil society on cultural policies, strategies and practices that foster intercultural dialogue and stimulate the cultural sector as a viable economic and social sector.

This event in Berat featured notably a round table on 'Building a network between cities'. Participants from the region shared views on issues such as: How to make culture and cultural industries a key factor for quality

urban development? Are creative cities gateways to international markets? How to build local capacities in business skills and sustain cultural dynamics? Can cities think of themselves in terms of "creative evolution"? The discussions contributed to the building of a stable partnership between the countries included in the project.

The round table was divided into two parts, the first related to 'Culture as politics: new forms of regional cultural cooperation' and the second to 'The Bilateral cooperation between the cities of the Balkan area – the basis for building a network of cities

participating in the project "Balkan Bridges Speak".

Balkan artists were invited to represent the Gorica Bridge during two days in open air.

The round table was accompanied by artistic events: a photograph exhibition entitled "What the Water Whispers"; an open air exhibition "Balkan artists draw the Gorica Bridge"; two concerts "The Gorica Bridge Speaks" with the participation of musicians and folklore dance groups from Albania and Bulgaria and a sound and light show, 3-D animation of the Gorica Bridge. >>full story

Gorica Bridge at Berat, Connecting People of South Eastern Europe

On Saturday 29 March 2014, the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, together with the Minister of Culture of Albania, Mirela Kumbaro, visited the World Heritage site of Berat and attended the third edition of the sub-regional event of the 'Balkan Bridges Speak' project organized within the framework of UNESCO's global initiative "Culture: A Bridge to Development."

During the meeting with the Minister of Culture, the Director-General emphasized the excellent cooperation in the field of culture between Albania and UNESCO. They discussed possible areas to enhance collaboration in the near future, by using culture as a tool for sustainable development, strengthening national capacities to safeguard and manage the rich cultural heritage of the country and to develop the vivid creativity of its artists.

At the occasion of the third event of the 'Balkan Bridges Speak' project organized by the Balkanika Foundation



▲ ©UNESCO/S. Sesum - Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, during her official visit to Albania and The Gorica Bridge Speaks event

and the Municipality of Berat with the support of UNESCO, the Director-General reiterated the crucial role played by bridges in linking people, establishing dialogue towards reconciliation, and connecting the future and the past, so as to make the most of our diversity as a force for creativity, for mutual understanding and enrichment.

The Director-General was especially pleased and moved at receiving from the Mayor of Berat, Fadil Nasufi, the distinction of honorary citizen of Berat, underlining that this is creating an additional commitment for her to promote inter-religious harmony of this World Heritage city. >>full story

Bridges



◀ ©Wusel007 - Western part of Lake Skadar

Towards the designation of Lake Shkodra/Skadar as Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

This participatory transboundary workshop - held from 30-31 January 2014 in Bar, Montenegro - was organized under the framework of the project “Towards the designation of Lake Shkodra/Skadar as Transboundary Biosphere Reserve” with the support of the UNESCO Participation programme 2012-2013 through the National Commission for UNESCO of Montenegro.

Partners of the project are NGO Green Home and INCA-Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania. The project is relying on the results and cooperation of the two NGOs: “Supporting the proposed Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of Lake Shkodra/Skadar area through a participatory approach” (IPA cross border programme, 2009), led by INCA.

The principal objective of the project is to have the Lake Shkodra/Skadar designated as the first transboundary biosphere reserve in the region through a participatory approach.

The specific goal of the project is to implement the entire nomination process of Lake Skadar as UNESCO's transboundary biosphere reserve

under the established procedure.

The basis for continuation of the designation process was laid down by a successful competition of training activities and materials produced within the capacity-building component, the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, the access to global knowledge on MAB Biosphere Reserves (BRs), building a strong transboundary cooperation structure and stakeholders' interest and commitment.

The project resulted in several studies on tourism and governance in Montenegro and Albania, discussions and a first map proposal, the draft nomination file and the establishment of a MAB Committee in Albania.

As both countries are now facing a challenging process to finalize and submit the nomination file, the activities were directed toward



production of a feasibility study to establish the Transboundary Man and Biosphere Reserve Shkodra/Skadar Lake”. The project intends to assess the potentials and possibility in terms of plans and legal frames through a participatory approach mainly by conducting interviews with relevant stakeholders on both sides of the border (Albania, Montenegro).

One of the main components and outputs of the project is a feasibility study for the designation of Skadar Lake as UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the workshop with relevant stakeholders that will not only inform on the initiative but also assess capacities, willingness, future plans, obstacles and preferences of each of the targeted stakeholders.

The workshop in Montenegro was organized by NGO Green Home in collaboration with the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

In terms of participatory approach and joint actions, the workshop was supported by the Albanian Ministry of Environment. [>>full story](#)

◀ ©Martin Brož - Lake Skadar

New start for the Dinaric Arc Initiative

The Dinaric Arc ecoregion is a unique world of nature and people, where South-Eastern Europe meets the Mediterranean. Ten years after its creation to secure the preservation of the wealth and integrity of this ecoregion, the Dinaric Arc Initiative is about to make a fresh start, renewing its vision and strategy, and to face a new raft of challenges. A meeting scheduled in Sarajevo on 11 March 2014 set the tone for the new start.

In South-Eastern Europe, the Dinaric Arc stretches along the eastern Adriatic coast from Trieste (Italy) to Tirana (Albania), covering Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania. Much of the region is still unspoilt. Vast stretches of forest that cover the Dinaric Alps, that run parallel to the coast, are home to large carnivores such as lynx, European brown bear and wolf.

International organizations - ranging from WWF to UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), UNDP, IUCN, the Council of Europe, FAO, Euronatur and SNV, active in the region with a varied portfolio of projects and initiatives to secure the long-term conservation and sustainable development of this part of Europe - were concerned with the future of the Dinaric Arc. These institutions joined forces and created the Dinaric Arc Initiative (DAI) in 2004. The initiative is a broad framework of collaboration which aims to add



◀ © Wild Wonders of Europe - Sergey Gorshkov / WWF

value to the ongoing programmes and activities of all its partners, and to put in place new specific actions aiming at, inter alia, the preservation of the wealth and integrity of the Dinaric Arc ecoregion through the conservation of its biological diversity and the sustainable management of its resources.

During the meeting of DAI member representatives in April 2013 in

Austria, it was decided to establish a DAI support unit, hosted by UNEP, to renew the DAI strategy and to enter into a number of new DAI activities. As a follow-up, a meeting took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 11 March 2014 allowing for an update of current and future activities, discussions on DAI vision and strategy and, a review of the overcoming commitment challenges for the initiative. [>>full story](#)

The 3rd Quality Management Board Meeting of the EU co-funded project Sustainable Integrated Management of International River Corridors in South East Europe (SEE River project) was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 11-13 March 2014. It included the 2nd Toolkit Evaluation Workshop.



▲ ©Wiki commons - Picture of Neretva valley taken from train

Each pilot river corridor demands a specific, tailor-made approach

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is affiliated to the project as an observer partner. The Project intends to reach a common agreement on river corridor management for the harmonization of both development and conservation interests. This will be achieved through a close cooperation of experts from a wide range of fields from different countries and the active involvement of stakeholders from local river areas and national or regional authorities.

The project is introducing a new approach to river and land management by focusing on the river corridor as the selected, local river area where most pressures occur. The project started in October 2012

and it will last until September 2014. Many steps have been taken within the SEE River project and actually all of them converge to and will directly or indirectly result in the SEE River Toolkit, the main result of the project. The toolkit is a generally applicable and innovative model and guidance on how to reach future sustainable use of river corridors by taking into account and harmonizing different stakeholder interests.

The project has entered the second half of its lifespan and its activities so far very intense and complex are very successful. Most of the planned tasks were carried out in the Drava river pilot areas and the 5 SEE pilot rivers - Soča, Bodrog, Neretva, Prut, and Vjosa. Guided by the goals and targeted end results on individual pilot areas and rivers, processes were launched with stakeholders based on desktop analyses and field work by project experts and therefore gained very valuable feedback for the next steps. [>>full story](#)

Water in the Sava River Basin H2Ooooh! Competition for school kids from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia

In the context of the third Youth Parliament to be held on 30-31 May 2014 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the International Sava River Basin Commission has launched a creative drawing competition entitled "Water in the Sava River Basin - Development and Protection".

This competition is organized in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), within the framework of its H2Ooooh! Initiative.

international institution that coordinates the efforts of all countries towards the protection and the development of the Sava River Basin.

The "Water in the Sava River Basin - Development and Protection" competition is addressed to school students from the ages of 4 to 8 and their teachers. Children are invited to draw a storyboard (a series of drawings representing the main scenes of the cartoon). Through their stories, kids should provide a creative contribution to raising awareness on the sustainable use of water and

The deadline for participation in the competition is 24 April 2014. The winning story with the funny and unpredictable pet pals as protagonists will be turned into an animated short film by Gruppo Alconi, with the support of the UNESCO Venice Office.

Whether or not a story board will be selected, taking part in this exciting competition will be a unique opportunity for kids from the region to raise awareness, and to learn something new about water and what one could do to safeguard such a precious element!



▲ © Gruppo Alconi - Petpals

The International Day of the Sava River is celebrated each year on 1 June. As part of the celebration of this day, the Youth Parliament aims to raise environmental awareness among young people and to recognize the exceptional ecological values and economic potential of the Sava River, as well as the importance of cross-border cooperation in the field of water.

the importance of the development and the protection of the Sava River Basin.

The competition is open to secondary schools from the four countries of the Sava River Basin, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia. Each school may cooperate with one or several story boards.

More information about the competition is available on the official website of the International Sava River Basin Commission: Water in the Sava River Basin - Development and Protection"- Competition for secondary schools.

[->full story](#)



The organizer of the Youth Parliament, as well as most of the other events of the day of the Sava River in all four countries, is the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), an



Ark of Inquiry Inquiry Awards for Youth over Europe

Science inquiry activities will be the basis of the newly launched EU-funded project "Ark of Inquiry", which is oriented towards raising science awareness, particularly that of youth aged 7 to 18, to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).

◀ ©BFS Wiki commons - Main building of the University of Tartu
▶ ©University of Tartu, Estonia

A framework and platform to identify activities for the promotion of science and scientific reasoning will be elaborated. Here, science inquiry activities will be collected and made available to train 1,100 science teachers and have 23,000 European students participate in these inquiry activities during a 4-year period running from March 2014 to February 2018.



The aim of the project is to develop the skills of the students in grades 1-12 in doing research and to train the teachers to instruct research studies. In order to reach those targets, an environment will be developed in which experience and skills of such studies will be assessed, a "passport" of research studies will be issued, and new activities will be recommended. Different tasks can be performed with the help of a teacher or independently, that is with the support of the family.

"The students will learn how to solve problems in a scientific way by means of different activities – they read scientific texts, phrase research questions or hypotheses, plan and carry out observations or experiments, analyze collected data

and phrase conclusions or make generalizations," explained Margus Pedaste, coordinator of the project.

Teachers, students and science centers will enact their roles in research work. After having gained enough experience, the student will have the possibility to assess his or her experience and skills. Accordingly, the student will receive a diploma, bronze, silver or golden medal. Additionally, possibilities are looked for so that the science centers and institutions of higher education would acknowledge the people who have received the medal of research studies, for example, by offering them benefits or admission on special terms and conditions.

Within a pedagogical approach, the EU project 'Ark of Inquiry' is focused on contributing to designing science for society, that is elaborating a culture of "doing" science through the use of a student-centered method of education anchored on asking questions. Students are encouraged to ask questions which do not necessarily have easy answers; teachers are encouraged to avoid giving direct answers so students will ask more questions.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is one of the 13 working partners in this project. The remaining partners represent

European research centers, universities and ministries from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands and Turkey.

Its main role will be to facilitate and share information about the project through its channels and networks, such as the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) and the National Commissions for UNESCO. The UNESCO Venice Office will collaborate with partners on the implementation of the overall project.

The kick off meeting of the EU-Project "Ark of Inquiry: Inquiry Awards for Youth over Europe" took place from 3-6 March 2014 in Tartu, Estonia. [->full story](#)



An official website is currently under construction at: www.arkofinquiry.eu



© Città della Scienza – Poster 'Naples for Città della Scienza'

Città della Scienza: One Year later, Let's Start Again

On the occasion of its first anniversary, following the devastating arson that destroyed the Città della Scienza in Naples on 4 March 2013, a Framework Programme Agreement was signed between the Italian Government, the Campania Region, the City of Naples and Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza to kick off its reconstruction.

Città della Scienza is an initiative for the promotion and popularization of science implemented through a multi-purpose facility located in Naples, consisting of an interactive science museum, a business incubator and a training center.

In 2013, the Science Unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), reinforced its cooperation with Città della Scienza, making it a strong supporter of its rebirth.

Throughout the planned celebrations of "Science and Culture for Naples" on 4 March, the Città della Scienza opened its doors to the public with science labs, talks, music and theatre. These celebrations were moments of reflection so to envision together and share the desire to rebuild the Science Centre.

The day was dedicated to the many citizens of Naples, Italy and the world, who have supported the Città della Scienza, making it the centre of the scientific community and the cultural identity of Naples. Numerous universities, associations, research institutes and artists participated in the Naples for Città della Scienza Day!

The new centre will be built where the previous one was located, in a new modern and sustainable building, within the urban planning programme of the City of Naples for the requalification of the coastline. The first threshold will be the opening of 'Corporea', by the end of 2015. This building will feature health issues and the human body, together with a dome for the planetarium and the projection of 3-D scientific films.

Thanks to the wave of solidarity and funds collected, Città della Scienza has already been able this year to resume very quickly some public programmes in the undamaged

buildings: exhibitions, lectures, shows, etc. Most significant projects have similarly been launched, such as the National initiative 'Logicamente' to raise Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills in Italian schools; the preparation of an exhibition on Responsible Research and Innovation about marine sciences for the European Commission; and, the Italy-USA cooperation project with the MIT Museum for the Exhibit FabLab.

The UNESCO Venice Office and the IDIS Foundation jointly organized on 9 November 2013 the World Science Day for Peace and Development at Città della Scienza in Naples. As part of the annual festival "Remote Future" which marked the re-launch of the science promotion activities of the center, the UNESCO Day had special significance after the arson that struck the center's exhibition facilities. >>full story



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Towards 2020: New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region

The WBC-INCO.NET project Final Conference/Brokerage Event took place on 27-28 March 2014 in Vienna, Austria. It brought together about 200 science policymakers, scientists and industry representatives from the Western Balkan (WB) region, South East Europe (SEE), Danube region but also other EU countries who are interested in cooperating with WB countries.

The Science unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), which is an associate member of the Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan Countries, participated in this WBC-INCO.NET project Final Conference/Brokerage Event. The core focus of the

conference was primarily on Horizon 2020 and thus the collaboration in science between Western Balkan Countries (WBC) and EU Member States under the new Programme. Information on other on-going/upcoming activities in WBC were exchanged in particular with a focus on innovation issues.

The event entailed parallel sessions where results and lessons learned in previous collaboration will be presented so as to also merge the knowledge gained within several other projects and strategic approaches focusing on the region. The overall goal of the conference, project exhibition, and the brokerage event is to provide an environment also to build new partnerships for cooperation in Horizon 2020. The Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET platform enhances integration of



© wbc-inco.net

the Western Balkan countries in the European Research Area. The project WBC-INCO.NET is supported by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2007-2013). >>full story



© The Pathway to Inquiry Based Science Teaching (PATHWAY)

In collaboration with the ASPnet schools of Croatia, Cyprus, Montenegro and Serbia and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), schools and teachers played a leading role in expanding students' experiences and their understanding of science.

With the purpose of promoting scientific culture and a better understanding the role of science and technology in schools and among young people in the South-East European (SEE) region and Europe, an online survey of ASPnet Schools was undertaken by the UNESCO Venice Office. Fifty-three schools

from 4 countries (Croatia, Cyprus, Montenegro and Serbia) participated in the survey.

The response rate of all the schools (mainly from secondary and primary/elementary schools) was very high. The country that showed a major interest was Croatia with the highest number of filled forms.

Half the schools chose one of the UNESCO ASPnet study topics for their school activities. The most popular topic among the schools was 'Cultural Diversity, Peace and Human Rights', although 'Education for Sustainable Development and Cultural Heritage' came immediately after.

Pathways to Science & Technology Education

Creating stronger connections between scientific research and teachers' communities was the main objective of the project, The Pathway to Inquiry Based Science Teaching (PATHWAY), which has received funding from the European Union.

The schools that responded to the survey also expressed interest in being part of the EU-Project PATHWAY and opening their schools to science and technology education.

Bringing the students into close contact with science centers raise their interest and motivation to learn about science and be involved in scientific investigations. Hence, one of the ideas of PATHWAY was to connect schools with science centers and with scientific research in general, but also to focus on teachers' professional development in this field. >>full story

Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through ERANET joint activities and beyond

The inter-institutional and stakeholder workshop organised by ERANETMED in Athens, Greece, on 27-28 February 2014. The event was hosted by the General Secretariat for Research & Technology (GSRT).

discussed themes and actions to be addressed by the ERANETMED in first joint call for proposals and orient its scope in relation to the main societal challenges in the region. The outcomes of the workshop contributed to the Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue and

to the need to develop new ways of “sustainable” cooperation, in which both European and MPC partners will equally participate and benefit from the output and the opportunities created by the project. The ERANETMED will consider a broad area for research, addressing



©Tango7174 - Athens, Greece. Panorama from Mount Lycabettus

Representatives of the European Commission (DG Research & Innovation), ERANETMED research funding agencies and stakeholders, including coordinators of EU-funded projects, participated in the event. UNESCO was represented by the Science Unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

The ERANETMED inter-institutional and stakeholder workshop: Paving the way for a Euro-Med Joint Call for proposals was held in Athens, Greece, on 27 and 28 February 2014. This event, organized under the auspices of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union, was hosted by the General Secretariat for Research & Technology (GSRT) of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Sport and Culture of Greece.

Over 30 institutions participated in the event - including universities, research centres, associations and other governmental institutions from the European Union (EU) and Mediterranean countries -

to a more stable and sustainable Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on research and innovation”.

The project ERANETMED (Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation Through ERANET Joint Activities And Beyond) aims at reinforcing the cooperation in science, research and innovation between the participating partners from the European Union, the associated countries and the Mediterranean Partner countries for the Mediterranean region.

The main aim of the project is to enhance Euro-Mediterranean co-ownership through innovation and competitive research in the societal challenges of the region. The project aims at reducing fragmentation of programming in the Mediterranean region by increasing coordination among national research programmes of European Member States, Associated Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries.

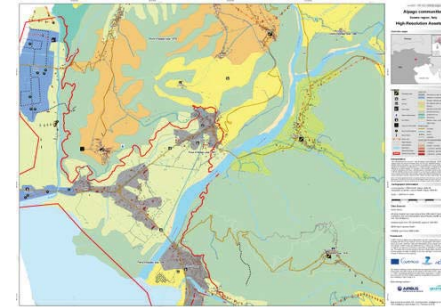
Following the Conference of Barcelona on 2012, the ERANETMED responds

not only the most important societal challenges of the region but also actions to enhance innovation through applied research, capacity building, mobility and clustering. Its action will result in concrete co-operation between research programmes, such as networking, definition of strategic scientific activities, research structuring for long-lasting and stable cooperation beyond ERANET.

The project is funded by the European Commission for 4 years (October 2013 – September 2017). The Kick Off meeting of the project took place on 4-5 November 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. [->full story](#)



©Ernmuhl - Amalfi viewed from the Tyrrhenian Sea



IncREO project: Review meeting with EC/REA

On 23 and 24 January 2014, the IncREO consortium gathered in Brussels at EC/REA to report about the technical progress and results. The review meeting was one of the most important milestones of the IncREO project, as its main objective was to highlight what had been achieved in the first half of the project and to attest these achievements by corresponding elaborated concepts, demonstrators, tools and related user feedback.

© IncREO - High-Resolution Assets
Map: Alpago, Veneto (Italy)

The review meeting effectively held at the Research Executive Agency (REA) in Brussels, Belgium, related to the technical progress and results of activities of the IncREO project from year 1. During this meeting that marked the mid-term review of the planned activities and objectives, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), reported on Work Package (WP) 206 – Community Networking and end-user facilitation.

The REA's overall assessment may be summed up as ‘making

good progress’. The evaluator specified that an excellent spirit of collaboration had been demonstrated among all partners and that the direct involvement of representatives of users was highly appreciated. In particular, the role assigned to UNESCO was chief in front of the need for solid feedbacks and the validation of products by end-users.

UNESCO brought to Brussels a delegation of end users from the region of Veneto: Loredana Barattin, Mayor of the Municipality

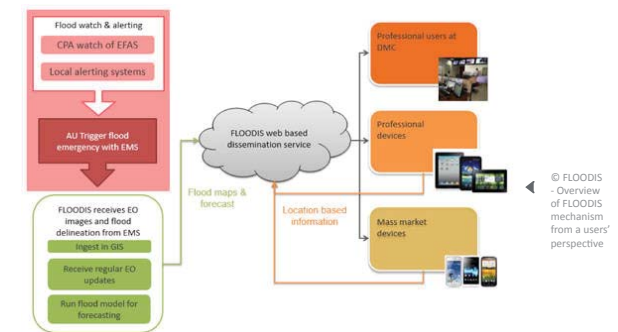
of Chies, in representation of the 5 municipalities forming the Alpago area (Chies, Farra, Pieve, Puos, and Tambre) and Roberto Taranta, Delegate of the Civil Protection Agency of the Veneto Region.

REA's assessment acknowledged the key efforts made by UNESCO to involve representatives of Albanian users. The report finally praised UNESCO for its work judged indispensable for the successful conclusion of the IncREO project, scheduled in December 2014. [->full story](#)

User Committee Workshop: End Users Requirements for FLOODIS

The FLOODIS workshop was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), on 21 January 2014 at the Disaster Management Centre of the Veneto Region in Marghera, Italy.

The User Committee Workshop on End Users Requirements for FLOODIS was attended by the Civil Protection Department of the Region of Veneto, with the participation of the Research Institute for Geo-hydrological Protection (IRPI) of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), the Regional Environmental Protection Agency (ARPAV) and the Alto Adriatic Water Authority (A.AWA). This event was a follow-up



© FLOODIS - Overview of FLOODIS mechanism from a users' perspective

to the setting up of User Committee for flooding alert system in Veneto and Albania during a first user consultation meeting organized in November 2013.

The main goal of the FLOODIS project is to develop a platform that will alert professional users and citizens of an impending disaster. In order to increase inclusiveness and inflow-outflow communication

between the project partners and the end users, the User Committee (UC) has been devised. Its contribution will be substantial with the specific goal to provide recommendations for the FLOODIS service use and ‘translate’ these into technical requirements for the EO-based flood information and GNSS (GEO gateway), mobile platform development (mobile APP). [->full story](#)



UNESCO supports recovery of the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina

© UNESCO/Sinisa Sesum - fire damage of valuable collections from the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina

As an immediate response to the damages caused to the materials and collections of the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo by a fire set on 7 February 2014, UNESCO launched an expert mission which took place from 19-21 February 2014, in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities (MiBAC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Immediately after the announcement of the fire that had affected the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and its Antenna Office in Sarajevo contacted the relevant Italian authorities in order to undertake urgently an assessment mission. Thanks to an immediate positive response for which UNESCO wishes to express its gratitude, the mission was carried out less than two weeks after the disaster.

The team was composed of two experts from the Central Institute for Restoration and Conservation of Library and Archival of Cultural Heritage (ICRCPAL) in Rome, altogether with the Head of the UNESCO Antenna in Sarajevo and the Director and Deputy-Director of the Archives. They visited the building and assessed the damage caused by the fire and by the water used for its extinction. A detailed technical report was elaborated, including the assessment of damage, indications for emergency restoration interventions, and recommendations on future measures to be taken as well as advice in order to improve risk preparedness and preventive conservation in the long term. The experts commended the action taken by the responsible staff of the Archives in trying to secure the collection.

Although some important collections from the period 1878-1918 are irretrievably lost, the mission members, in cooperation with the staff of the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, established a set of measures to avoid further decay and rescue the documentation damaged by water. Recommendations were also formulated regarding the premises and future conservation conditions and environment.

During the mission, the experts also underlined the importance of institutional cooperation and offered the possibility of training the employees of the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina within ICRCPAL.

As agreed, UNESCO will closely continue to support recovery actions, including possibly the organization of a follow-up expert mission in the near future, as well as further efforts to mobilize resources in order to implement the measures recommended by the experts. The mission has been organized and coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and its Antenna Office in Sarajevo, with the aim to safeguarding the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and recovering from the damage caused to important archival artifacts.

"This heritage is part of our collective knowledge and memory, which is important not just for the citizens

of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but equally important for the history of the South Eastern European countries and Europe itself, and that is why UNESCO will spare no effort to ensure its safeguarding". – stated Sinisa Sesum, Head of the Antenna Office in Sarajevo.

Indeed, documentary heritage kept in archives, libraries and museums constitute an important part of the memory of the world's peoples. In December 2011, when violence in Cairo had caused the destruction by fire of a large part of the collection of manuscripts at the Institute of Egypt, the Director-General of UNESCO had expressed her concern, stating that *"the loss of such irreplaceable sources of learning show once again the fragility of this collective memory and reminds us that we must do everything to ensure that it is kept intact"*. >>full story



© 2014 RFE/RL - Damage to the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina

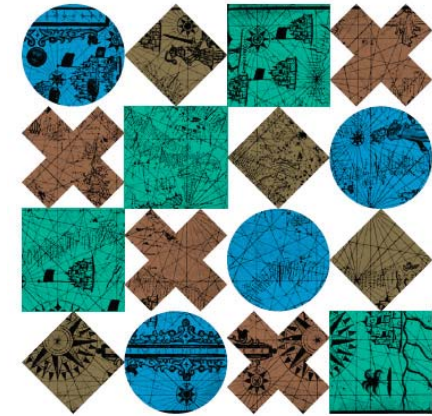
VeRoTour - Venetian routes: Enhancing a shared European multi-cultural sustainable tourism

The project, co-financed by the European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, aims to enhance and implement a transnational thematic cultural route following the extraordinary system of maritime routes, settlements, defensive fortifications and cultural heritage left by the Venetians under the rule of the Republic of Venetia since 1300 and throughout almost five centuries.

Based on a vast network of stakeholders and cooperation between the public-private partners of the consortium, the project aims at contributing to the diversification of transnational thematic tourism offers in Europe, by capitalizing on common cultural heritage at European level and by making sustainability an essential element to be more competitive.

In the "Study on the Impact of European Cultural Routes on Small and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMEs) innovation and competitiveness", the economic potential of Cultural Routes is put in evidence and Cultural Routes are clearly indicated as a way to enhance competitiveness and sustainability of European tourism. The role of Cultural Routes is furthermore highlighted by intergovernmental organizations. In the document "The impact of Culture on Tourism", the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) highlights the importance of European cultural routes that allow visitors to rediscover important aspects of heritage and the flows along the routes that help stimulate intercultural dialogue and exchange.

The project will reinforce public-private cooperation around the theme of the Venetian influence in Euro-Mediterranean countries and develop an integrated, joint transnational communication and visibility strategy while developing transnational tourism product that promote sustainable



© VeRoTour - Venetian routes: Enhancing a shared European multi-cultural sustainable tourism

tourist practices. A high number of SMEs will be directly involved in the project thanks to a strong participation in the project of chambers of commerce, Adriatic and Ionian, with the aim to increase SMEs professionalism and, thus, competitiveness in the context of the new economy.

The overall objectives of the project are to capitalize on common Venetian legacy in Europe to diversify European tourist offer; to promote sustainable cultural-tourism approach toward Euro-Mediterranean cultural and natural heritage linked to Venetian routes; to take advantage of the growing importance of the Silk Road tourism to enhance Venetian routes as the European terminus of the Silk Road; to contribute in the European Union policy of making Europe a more competitive tourist destination; create business opportunities in sustainable cultural tourism sector; and, to encourage local authorities and stakeholders to invest in Venetian routes-related products.

The specific objectives are to create a permanent network and fostering networking among public-private partners; to develop transnational tourist offers and packages linked

to Venetian legacy in the Euro-Mediterranean area as a means to stimulate business opportunities while promoting dialogue, democratic culture and sustainable tourism; to increase SMEs capacity and stimulate co-operation among Venetian routes countries and regions while working to ensure a unique travel experience along the Venetian route; and, to develop transnational communication and branding strategy to increase visibility and market uptake.

The Project is co-financed by the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme of the European Union and its call for proposals on "Support to transnational thematic tourism products". The project will have a duration of 18 months (1 May 2013 - 31 October 2014).

The project is led by the Veneto Region (Italy), together with 14 co-beneficiary partners. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey is one of the associated partners, and the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Council of Europe - Venice Office, and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) are supporting partners. >>full story



Holocaust education and intercultural understanding in South-East Europe

Within the framework of UNESCO's global initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development", the Ministry of Culture of Croatia hosted on 6-7 February 2014 in Zagreb, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), the fifth meeting of the international steering group responsible for coordinating the establishment of a joint exhibit space within the ex-Yugoslav pavilion (nr. 17) in the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, a site placed on the World Heritage List in 1979.

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

© UNESCO - Family Photo during February Meeting in Zagreb: Holocaust Education and Cultural Understanding in SEE



Four meetings on this subject already took place in Belgrade (June 2012), Sarajevo (December 2012), Skopje (April 2013) and Auschwitz-Birkenau (July 2013), under the auspices of UNESCO, within the framework of the global initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development" and the Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence.

This fifth meeting in Zagreb was organized to continue discussions on the renovation of the Pavilion nr. 17, located within the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, and on the setting up of a joint exhibition for 6 Ex-Yugoslav countries on the Holocaust. It served to present and discuss the new items selected by each delegation for each chapter, and review consolidated texts drafted by the Editorial Committee.

This meeting allowed for an update on the situation and the relevant follow-up actions. In addition, the

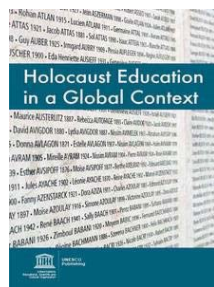
meeting should favour further exchange on matters pertaining to the designing of the exhibition.

The participating countries were: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. International institutions participating were: UNESCO, Holocaust Memorial Museum (USA), Mémorial de la Shoah (France), Topography of Terror (Germany). Are also invited representatives from the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau (Poland), as well as from Austria (National Fund for Victims of National Socialism), which is playing a central role in the project, in particular the renovation of the entire building.

The objectives of this meeting were in line with UNESCO's overall mission to promote Holocaust education, as well as the role of museums as tools for intercultural understanding,

research and dialogue.

The meeting was supported by the UNESCO Venice Office through UNESCO's Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. >>full story



UNESCO recognizes that teaching about the history of the Holocaust is fundamental to establishing respect for human rights, basic freedoms and the values of tolerance and mutual respect.

UNESCO participation in the General Assembly of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe



© Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe - Semah, Alevi-Bektashi ritual, Turkey

On 1 April 2014, the Sofia-based Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, operating under the auspices of UNESCO, held the second ordinary session of its General Assembly. The meeting took place in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Participants in the meeting were representatives of the Centre's board, UNESCO, and the South-East European countries that are Member States of the Centre, namely: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

This meeting mostly focused on the presentation and discussion of the following issues: Introduction of new Member States of the Centre (Cyprus, Slovenia); Presentation of the updated Executive Board and the new Executive Director; Discussion and adoption of the key documents of the Regional Centre in Sofia (Amendments to the Statutes; Annual report 2013; Financial report 2013; Work plan for 2014; and, Budget for 2014).

UNESCO was represented at the meeting by: Frank Proschan, Chief, Programme and Evaluation Unit, UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO in the General Assembly of the Sofia Regional Centre; and Matteo Rosati, Programme Officer, Culture Unit, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

The Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe was established in Sofia on the basis of an agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Bulgaria

signed on 25 October 2010. The main objectives of this Regional Centre are: a) to promote the UNESCO Convention on protection of intangible cultural heritage and contribute to its implementation in the sub-region of South East Europe; b) to increase the participation of communities, groups and individuals in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the countries of the region; and c) to enhance the capacity of the South-Eastern European Member States of UNESCO in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. >>full story



© Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe - Croatia



Management Plan of the World Heritage site of Stari Ras and Sopoćani

The capacity-building workshop for the finalization and implementation of the Management Plan for Stari Ras and Sopoćani, a site inscribed on the World Heritage List, took place on 25-26 March 2014 in Novi Pazar, Serbia.

© UNESCO/Yvon Fruneau - Stari Ras and Sopoćani

The event was organized by the Serbian Ministry of Culture and Information, in cooperation with the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

The main aim was to define the roadmap and guidelines for the finalization of the management plan and the establishment of tightest relations among all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure synergy of all partners and, thus, guarantee an adequate implementation of the Management Plan. The establishment of a broad and inclusive participatory approach is a key priority for the definition of a shared and high-quality planning document, as well as for its future implementation.

Participants were representatives of the Serbian Ministry Culture and Information, the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, the National Commission for UNESCO, as well as representatives of the Municipality of Novi Pazar, civil society and concerned religious communities. UNESCO was represented by Sinisa Sesum, Head of the Antenna Office in Sarajevo, UNESCO Venice Office.

The workshop, which was facilitated by Alessio Re and Katarina Živanović, was mostly focused on the presentation and discussion of a

number of issues:

Understanding the site and its context The knowledge and awareness of the meaning of the UNESCO World Heritage status, its rules, its governing procedures and its potentialities; the knowledge, the interpretation and the evaluation of the site and the site values based on the statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the advisory bodies' evaluation, the inscription criteria and other relevant documents; the knowledge and interpretation of the property context, its peculiarities and its resources; knowledge of the stakeholders, communities and actors; knowledge of the socio-economic framework; the knowledge and understanding of the present management of the site, including the existing regulatory framework; the institutional framework of responsibilities; the map of actors' tools; and, the present key issues of management.

Evaluating the site and its context A participatory SWOT analysis of the data emerged from working session II; the identification of key issues; the identification of key objectives; and, the identification of possible strategies and priorities for future scenarios of the site.

Drafting a management plan for the World Heritage site of Stari Ras and Sopoćani and its communities The definition of the logical/functional structure of the management; the definition of the plan; the governing/implementing body; and, the monitoring and revision system.

The site of Stari Ras and Sopoćani (Serbia) is inscribed on the World Heritage list since 1979. The buildings of Stari Ras are an impressive group of medieval monuments consisting of fortresses, churches and monasteries. >>full story

World Heritage Center: Stari Ras and Sopoćani



©UNESCO / Natasha Lazic - Stari Ras and Sopoćani

UNESCO and the European Union: working together to revitalize Novo Brdo Castle

The kick off meeting of the project entitled "Revitalization of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo fortress" took place on 29 January 2014. The event officially inaugurated its implementation phase. The European Union has partnered with UNESCO in this joint management project aimed at revitalizing the Novobërdë /Novo Brdo Castle through conservation and restoration efforts and managing and valorizing the municipality's cultural heritage asset through socio-economic development initiatives.



© Novo Brdo Fortress - J. Paquay

Dating back to the 4th century BC and as the economic and trade center 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 "Revitalization of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo fortress", financed by the European Union and implemented by UNESCO/UNMIK, has been developed in line with, and as part of, the European Union umbrella mission "Balanced Regional Development".

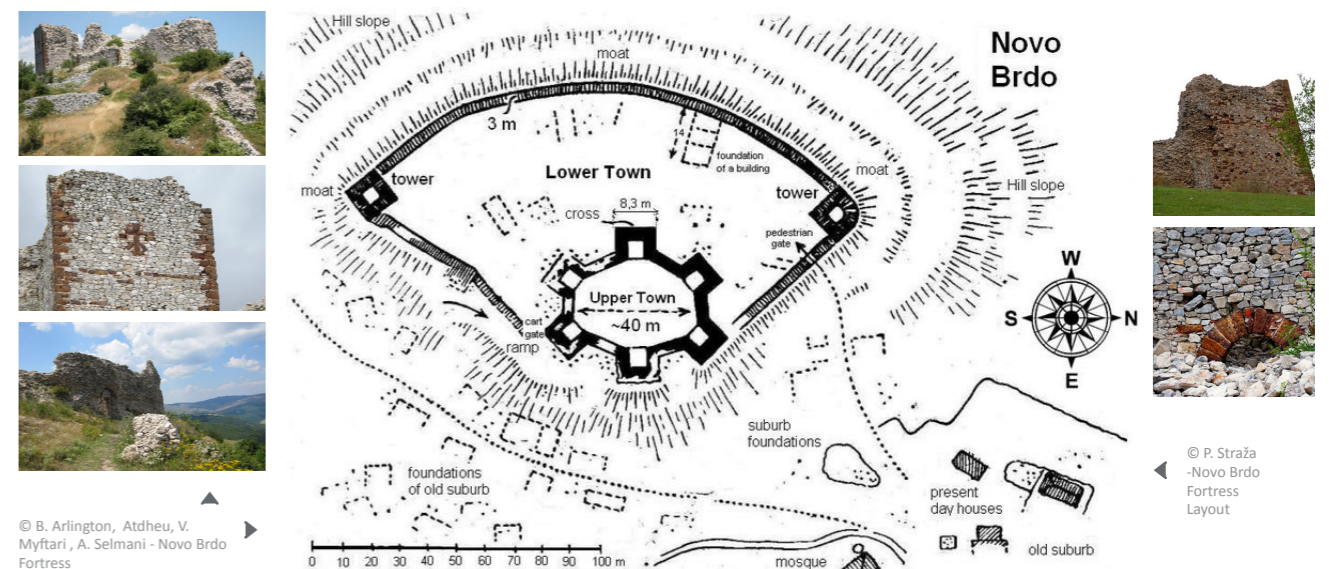
Expected results are: the preservation and revitalization of cultural heritage asset and archeological explorations yielding in key insights on medieval Balkans; local sustainable development through the strategic management of cultural heritage asset, yielding enhanced tourism capacities and socio-economic conditions; and, public (regional/global) and educational (local) awareness of the value of cultural heritage preservation.

Sinisa Sesum, Head of the Antenna Office in Sarajevo, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), highlighted that: "Cultural heritage may play a useful role in the re-establishment and

maintenance of peaceful relations between different communities. Indeed, the protection of cultural heritage is a domain where increased trust and understanding between communities may be constructed and where different parties may exchange signals of respect and responsibility that can help build a sense of mutual confidence. The protection of cultural heritage may help overcome the painful divisions caused by past events."

The project was launched at the Tourist Centre of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo, Kosovo (1). >>full story

note: (1) As defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 from 1999



© B. Arlington, Atdeu, V. Myftari, A. Selmani - Novo Brdo Fortress

© P. Straža - Novo Brdo Fortress Layout



Understanding and Appreciating Cultural Diversity. An Impetus for Cross-cultural Cooperation for and by Youth

◀ T. County - What makes us different

On 3 April 2014, the National Commission for UNESCO of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is organizing a public meeting to kick-start a cross-border project to enhance intercultural dialogue and cultural cooperation among youth in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania, through ICTs-based activities.

The project entitled "Understanding and Appreciating Cultural Diversity – an Impetus for Cross-cultural Cooperation for and by Youth" especially aims at empowering youth and youth leaders from the two countries to share ideas, knowledge and experiences about understanding and appreciating the diversity of cultural expressions.

In order to do so, the project will create digital contents; collect and share information about local intangible cultural heritage; contribute to fostering dialogue through exchange of cultural practices, ideas, materials; develop ICT and web-based platforms in order to share results and present voices of young people; and, establish a network of youth and educators from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania that are cherishing values gained in this project and disseminate them to broader community.

The main implementing agency will be the National Commission for

UNESCO of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in cooperation with 3 NGOs:

- The Interactive Education and Resource Network (IMOR), from Bitola, whose overall objective is to contribute to the opening up of opportunities for disadvantaged youth from Bulgaria, Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia within the frame of a collaboration process, aiming at empowering youth and facilitating cross-border cooperation by using ICTs.
- The Association Youth Alliance (YAK), from Krusevo, whose objectives are to promote new ways of expressing the views of young

people from South East Europe (SEE). Its members are young people aged from 15 to 35 years old, who work, study or express an interest in processes of EU integration of their country.

- The Association "Embassy for Peace", from Skopje (UNESCO Club Skopje).

The project is supported by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe Venice (Italy), which will be represented in the kick-off meeting by the Culture Unit. >>full story



▲ © MDG Fund.org - Young People from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reach across ethnic divides



Building a bridge between youth and the craft community

The 2014 edition of the project 'Il Mestiere dell'Artigiano – Benvenuto nella mia Bottega!' (The Artisan Craft - Welcome to my shop!) has been launched. The project aims to build a bridge between youth and the artisans and craft community.

◀ © Il Mestiere dell'Artigiano, Benvenuto nella mia Bottega! – Shoe-maker

Since its inception, over 3,500 students, from elementary, middle and high-school levels, have participated in the project. Their participation has given them the opportunity to intimately capture the professional "know-how" of artisans through personal encounters and workshops in a diverse range of professions, from carpeting and blacksmithing to building boats, shoe-making and hairdressing.

As an additional feature, the project enables students to visit significant Art Museums throughout Venice with the aim of cultivating the knowledge of younger generations concerning the conservation of the valuable works that the trades concerned have possessed and produced over time. These collaborations with the Venetian institutions have included the likes of the Museo d'Arte Sacra di Venezia, La Basilica di San Marco, Museo di Palazzo Mocenigo, and Abate Zanetti di Murano, among many others.

In 2013, following demand from the students themselves, the project expanded to the art of Venetian pastry with the aim of reinvigorating this valuable tradition and intention of cultivating future master craftsmen in this area. Furthermore, a stronger focus has been initiated in facilitating a link between high-level pre-university students and the artisans and craft sector. Through the possible future introduction of apprenticeship opportunities the project also hopes to build a bridge to employment for younger generations.

Now in its fifth consecutive year, the project continues to gain momentum and is attracting a surprisingly high level of new entries for the 2014 period.

The project's ambition that the students of today will become the artisans of tomorrow will hopefully be realized, carving the way for future custodians of traditional knowledge and preservers of invaluable forms of cultural heritage.



▲ © Il Mestiere dell'Artigiano, Benvenuto nella mia Bottega! – Shoe-maker



Save the date for the SUSTCULT Final Conference: 8 April 2014



Started in January 2011, SUSTCULT is a European Union 3-year-project co-funded by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme - Jointly for our common future. The project, which gathered European partners, was joined by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and was led by the City of Venice. It focused on integrated and innovative approaches and tools for improving cultural heritage site management throughout the South-East European region.

SUSTCULT partners shared a common challenge, that of strengthening cultural heritage management as an integral part of the sustainable development process of urban centres and surrounding areas and as a driver for boosting local economies. During the project lifetime, partners successfully experimented more participative approaches in decision-making in the process of management planning.

The UNESCO Venice Office is pleased to announce the SUSTCULT Final Conference, scheduled to take place on 8 April 2014 in Ljubljana,

Slovenia. The event will give further insights into the results of the project and look at future opportunities and good practices. The agenda will highlight the following topics: integrated approach to cultural heritage planning and management; sustainable promotion of heritage sites and marketing activities; management planning processes (achievements, opportunities, challenges); and funding opportunities within the EU programmes 2014-2020. At the end of each session, the speakers will share and discuss project results with participants. Ample time will also be reserved during the day for networking.

Many valuable heritage sites, including World Heritage sites, in the South-East European region are under pressure. Improving

the effectiveness of cultural sites management is a priority and a great cultural and political challenge throughout the region. The SUSTCULT approach is that cultural heritage has a social and ecological intrinsic significance which shall be safeguarded as a source of sustainable development (SD).

The SUSTCULT project's main objective is to improve the effectiveness of heritage sites management through the development of a common methodology capable of valorizing the complexity of the SEE cultural heritage. SUSTCULT involves 12 institutions from 7 countries (Albania, Hungary, Italy, Greece, Romania, Slovenia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) constituting a well-balanced partnership with a strong territorial relevance. [>>full story](#)



▲ © 2014 SUSTCULT – Cultural sites: Romania - Bacau ; Greece - Corfu ; Romania - Monastery of Hurezi ; Italy - Venice and its Lagoon

◀ © Città della Scienza – Poster 'Naples for Città della Scienza'

◀ © Sors bona - The fortress of Bač, Serbia

Regional meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO hosted by Serbia



On 18-19 March 2014, the Commission of the Republic of Serbia for UNESCO organized a meeting with representatives of National Commissions for UNESCO from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

In representation of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), both the Science Unit and Culture Unit participated in this meeting.

The meeting especially aimed at sharing experiences and discussing priorities on the enhancement of regional cooperation on topics

under the mandate of UNESCO, also with regard to the further advancement of the various regional cooperation platforms and transnational initiatives/projects. The event was accompanied by a rich cultural programme, including visits to the Orthodox Monastery of Bodjani, the Fortress of Bač and the Franciscan Monastery of Bač.

UNESCO is the only UN Agency to have a global network of national cooperating bodies known as National Commissions for UNESCO. National Commissions make part of the overall constitutional architecture of the Organization.

Set up by their respective governments in accordance with the Article VII of the UNESCO Constitution, the

National Commissions operate, on a permanent basis, for the purpose of associating their governmental and non-governmental bodies in education, sciences, culture and communication with the work of the Organization.

Presently, there are 199 National Commissions for UNESCO across the world. They constitute a truly global family with an authoritative network of stakeholders, partners and experts and offer a comparative advantage to the Organization within the United Nations system.

This network plays a significant role in the liaison with partners, the coordination of activities and the promotion of UNESCO's visibility at the country level. [>>full story](#)

Why is the identity of the National Commissions for UNESCO so complex? Why are National Commissions so unique?

National Commissions have an identity based on their dual nature and functions. They are set up by the government in the Member States and expected to mobilize and work together with non-governmental actors (academia, civil society, etc.). Being national bodies, they are to be mainly engaged in the pursuit of the objectives of UNESCO as an international organization.

National Commissions are directly responsible to their governments but called upon to ensure the permanent presence of UNESCO at the national level and contribute to its programme activities.

This situation explains the uniqueness of National Commissions within the UN system. National

Commissions should be equally successful on two fronts: first in their interaction with their governments and civil society at national level and second, in their relations with the UNESCO Secretariat, and its Field Offices. National Commissions must meet this double requirement simultaneously, to be recognized as efficient and credible entities.

National Commissions play a crucial role in contributing to shaping public perception of UNESCO, to increasing the Organization's profile in Member States, and to mobilizing educational scientific and artistic communities to the cause of "building peace in the minds of men".

National Commissions are the principal link between the national

priorities of their countries and the multilateral agenda of the Organization.

The network of National Commissions presents a great asset for any nation that endeavors to promote international understanding through intellectual cooperation. [>> National Commissions for UNESCO](#)



▲ © UNESCO - Family photo of National Commissions for UNESCO with Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

Culture and Development, a thematic focus of the second round of Post-2015 consultations



With the first round of consultations concluded, a second round of consultations focusing primarily on the means of implementation of the new agenda has recently been launched and includes Culture and Development as a special thematic focus.

© UNDG Post-2015 Report - A Million Voices: The World We Want

In January 2014 the second round of global consultations for the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda was launched. The Post-2015 Development Agenda aims to provide a framework within which global development efforts will be organized for the next 15 years following the conclusion of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The first phase, which was elaborated throughout 2013, focused on consulting people around the world using a variety of platforms, languages and technologies to allow them to voice what the new agenda should be and where the UN and the world still need to focus their efforts to create a sustainable planet and inclusive global society. This second phase, to be completed within 2014 and also following a participatory process, will focus on better defining the means of implementation of the new agenda; in short, "how to make the new agenda work."

The areas of consultation for the second phase include: Localizing the post-2015 development agenda; Helping to strengthen capacities and institutions; Participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability; Partnerships with civil society and other actors; Partnerships with the private sector; and, Culture and development

The inclusion of Culture and Development in this list closely follows the adoption of a Resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development A/RES/68/223 at the UN General Assembly on 12

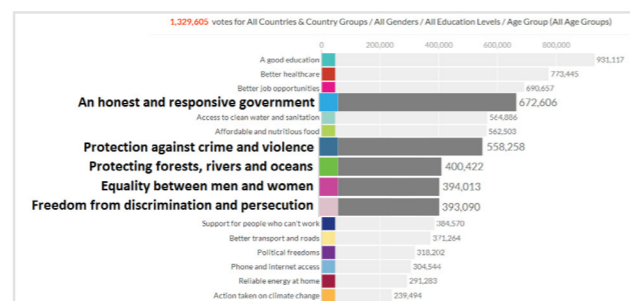
December 2013, which in addition to recognizing the key role culture plays in sustainable development, highlights the importance of giving due consideration to the inter-linkages between culture and development in the elaboration of the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Contributing to the dialogue on the topic, a special thematic debate on the issue is scheduled to take place at the UN General Assembly on 5 May 2014.

UNESCO is taking the lead in organizing this global round of consultations on culture and development in cooperation with UNFPA and UNDP. Together they are developing a concept note to define the scope and parameters of the exercise for eventual adaptation at country level, in which a couple of countries in the European region have already expressed an interest in participating.

The results from this second round of consultations will contribute to the related thematic sessions of

the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals throughout the year and will be fed into the OWG's report that will be delivered to the UN General Assembly in September 2014, the latter of which will form the basis of the UN Secretary-General's report which has been requested by Member States to be delivered before the end of 2014.

The more that culture and development is recognized in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations, it increases the prospect that it will be included in the final Declaration for a set of new Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015. UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is continuing its efforts to closely follow the consultation processes in the Member States within its geographical mandate and to raise awareness on the importance of UNESCO's areas of competence within the new Development Agenda. >>full story



PEOPLE'S VOICES – ISSUE BRIEF to the SDG OPEN WORKING GROUP...

... to convey the views of experts of all walks of life that contributed to the Global Post-2015 Conversation so far via national, regional, thematic consultations and the MY World survey

©MY World total votes as of 24 January 2014

UNESCO supports four UNDAF rollout processes in 2014

The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is the strategic programme framework that describes the collective response of the UN system to the national development priorities in a country or territory.

In addition an UNDAF-like cycle will also be rolled-out in Kosovo* .

The UNDAF roll-outs happen at a critical juncture as Member States are shaping the post-2015 global development agenda. It is therefore imperative that the UN system is positioned to deliver coherently a high-quality and high-value support to its national partners. To do this, efforts are being taken to ensure alignment with key UN Frameworks and Programmes, such as the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014, the Beijing+20 Review Process on the Status of Women and the recently developed Health 2020 Strategy. These Frameworks and Programmes illustrate the wealth of evidence, data and direction that will help UN Country Teams to inform UNDAFs, and the need to align strategic documents with these and other relevant frameworks. The roll-out process will also be guided by the key programming principles of the UNDAF – results-based management; human rights based approach; gender equality; environmental sustainability, and capacity development – as well as undertaken in the spirit of "Delivering as One", taking advantage of the lessons learnt with an increased focus on delivering results.



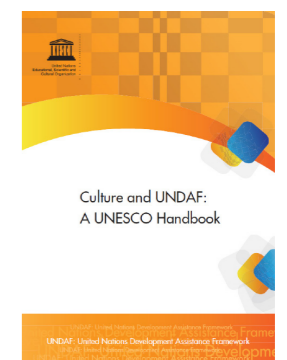
©UNDP Poverty reduction A family, grandchildren and grandparents

An UNDAF can take many forms, from a more traditional UNDAF framework, which provides a basic coordinated UN assistance to the country, to the new Delivering as One (DaO) approach, which brings the UN together as "One" in its interactions with the host Government, as well as other versions that are more of a partnership or cooperation framework. In 2014, preparation will begin for the roll out of 42 new UNDAF cycles around the world, with eleven countries as well as Kosovo (as defined under UN Security Council Resolution 1244) being in Europe and Central Asia. Three countries will roll-out a UNDAF cycle in South-East Europe: Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. In

In 2014, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is coordinating the Organization's inputs to the development of UN programs in Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Kosovo (as defined under UN Security Council Resolution 1244).

UNDAF rollout process in the region. UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe based in Venice, Italy, has been involved in rolling out UNDAFs in the region for over 10 years. In particular, this Bureau has contributed to the enactment of the UNDAF programmes in seven countries in its mandated region, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, and Ukraine, and of a UN Kosovo Team Common Development Plan (UNKT-CDP). Following the success and achievements of previous implemented programmes, in 2013 a UNDAF rollout process started in Bosnia and Herzegovina which the Regional Bureau actively contributed to, led by its Antenna Office in Sarajevo. This UNDAF, as well as the other 2014 rollouts, will build upon the results and lessons learned from previous implemented UNDAF cycles to outline the concluding actions of the UN assistance activities. >>full story

note: *as defined under UN Security Council Resolution 1244



© UNESCO - Culture and UNDAF, a UNESCO Handbook



▲ © Kate Allison – On a boat in a Cambodian waterway

Talks with Kathryn Allison. Exploring human rights in different contexts

Kate is on board with an internship since February to assist our Culture Unit in support of resource mobilization activities. She aspires to work in the field of human rights within the United Nations and hopes her internship within the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), will translate into a concrete ground for her passions to converge and her future profession to shape.

What is your background, and why did you want to intern at UNESCO?

Originally from Australia, I travelled to Venice, Italy, in September 2012 to undergo a European Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA) at the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC), a one year advanced programme aimed at preparing professionals to respond to the operational requirements of daily work in international organisations, field operations, governmental and non-governmental bodies, and academia.

I have since graduated and have undergone further postgraduate studies with a focus that has now taken form along several paths, namely human rights and governance at the University of Padua and cultural and heritage studies at Venice International University (VIU) on the Island of San Servolo. It is the unique recognition within my current academic focus of the cultural dynamics and their interconnectedness to the human rights paradigm that brought me to UNESCO's doors here in Venice.

My professional experience involves working for 3 years in Cambodia for an international NGO, 'Cord', in the field of capacity development. My role as programme support officer enabled me to work alongside both inspirational and deeply experienced

Khmer advisors in supporting our local partners in the areas of human rights, governance, gender and natural resource management. This experience gave me practical insight into the promotion and realization of human rights within a Southeast Asian context, and through this internship opportunity – I am now benefiting from a deepened understanding of the normative human rights environment.

What do you think you are gaining from your internship?

Today, my current position is in resource mobilization within the Culture Unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy). Through acknowledging both the arts and culture as essential elements to a holistic education, as well as the broader cultural sector as an enabler of sustainable human development, the work thus far has enabled me a more holistic insight into the cultural dynamics essential to the development of one's own mind and body, and of the broader development of one's community.

On a technical level, I have had the opportunity to strengthen my professional capacity working with institutional and European programmes for financial assistance and mechanisms of international cooperation to further develop my skills in resource mobilization. Above

all, this position has afforded me insight into the institutional workings of the United Nations Framework, as well as the opportunity to develop in a stimulating working environment alongside colleagues who have welcomed me with open and informative arms.

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

In looking to the future, I aspire to work within the United Nations as a human rights practitioner – a position that I believe holds relevance to all specialized agencies as human rights remains the steady undercurrent to the rather complex and dynamic flow of themes within the various mechanisms of the United Nations.

Ultimately, UNESCO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) are where I feel my passions converge and where I would like to develop. My intentions are that this goal, coupled with my desire to travel and to continue to expand my professional focus from Southeast Asia to Southeast Europe and beyond, will take me to new placements in the field where I can contribute to the quest of realizing human rights and thus affirm my aspirations. >>full story

Stefano Facchinetti. An intern's view from behind the scenes

Born on 1 August 1988 in Como, within the Lake District in Northern Italy, Stefano holds a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of Trieste, where he graduated cum laude in July 2013. As of 2 December 2013, Stefano has joined the Executive and Coordination Unit as a volunteer in the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

I pursued my university career focusing primarily on international and cross-cultural cooperation, and among different academic curricula, I specialized on "Politics & Diplomacy", gaining a solid expertise particularly on matters of global politics and international cooperation, conflict management and diplomatic practices. My educational path also includes a number of short courses at the King's

Interested in joining the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), as an intern or a volunteer?

Visit [STAGWEB](http://stageweb.unesco.org/) to find out more: <http://stageweb.unesco.org/>

Giulia Frigimelica. My journey from the Dolomites to the Lagoon of Venice

Giulia was an intern in the Science Unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), for 3 months. She comes from Belluno, a beautiful Alpine town near 'The Dolomites', a World Heritage property in Northeastern Italy and an area of exceptional beauty which she deeply loves.

As part of my journey from the Dolomites Mountains to the Venetian lagoon, I studied Science and Techniques in Cultural Tourism at the University of Udine. For this second internship, I wanted to try a new field, something I often studied but I never had a chance to experience. When I applied for an internship at UNESCO,

College London (UK), and Københavns Universitet (Denmark), a six-month Erasmus at the University of Lapland (Finland), and a previous internship within the Asia Program of the Institute for Security and Development Policy in Stockholm (Sweden). Apart from politics and international affairs, I am passionate with arts and culture, and I progressively developed an interest in cultural diplomacy and policies concerning the conservation of tangible and intangible heritage. Given these premises, volunteering for UNESCO represented the best way at the same time to employ my diplomatic skills and gain some practical experience on cultural promotion and heritage safeguarding.

Currently, I am volunteering for the Executive and Coordination Unit (ECU) of the UNESCO Venice Office, which I support in ensuring the smooth running of the Office and in assisting the Director in her role to coordinate the activities of the Culture and Science Units. Additional tasks also include supporting the Office participation in the UNDAFs and Delivering as One (DaO) initiatives



▲ © Stefano Facchinetti

in Europe and the Mediterranean region, providing administrative support in the framework of the Office involvement as a non-resident agency in joint UN initiatives, and assisting the ECU in the preparation of annual reports and planning documents at national and regional levels and helping with travel arrangements, correspondence, news reporting and information briefings. This truly is a great experience: being part of the ECU, you find yourself working every day in a fast-paced environment and dealing with lots of people from different professional and cultural backgrounds. >>full story

I felt very fortunate to receive this opportunity to intern for the office in Venice. During my internship, I had the possibility to combine my interests not only for sustainability and communication, but also for UNESCO designated sites. This experience will be very useful in drafting my dissertation and it will also help me analyze situations in an objective way.

The future? It's a big question! The internship at UNESCO has helped me understand what truly is a World Heritage site and a Biosphere Reserve established and recognized by the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. This is very important for me since I live and work in an area belonging to 'The Dolomites', a site inscribed on the World Heritage site in 2009. It is also a source of inspiration for my dissertation about the responsibility towards UNESCO designated sites and the "sustainability education" needed



▲ © Giulia Frigimelica – Burano

for tourists during their holidays and their everyday life, using 'The Dolomites' as a case study.

After finishing my studies, I would love to have an experience abroad to round out my education. I very much love being in close touch with nature and working with animals; my family has a farm and during the summer I am used to staying in a hut in the Alps, where I milk my cows and goats, and prepare cakes for tourists. >>full story

Backstory

Wow, What an Island! Meet the winner of the contest 'OVS Children Save the World'



The choice was most difficult as the storyboards received were so many and all quite talented. In the end, the first prize was awarded to the students of the Institute "N. Bobbio" Rivalta Bormida, 1st grade secondary school "G. Verdi", Cassine (Alessandria). The students will experience the thrill of seeing on the big screen their cartoon "Wow, What an Island!" inserted in the credits of the new movie "Pet Pals in Windland".

The short cartoon "Wow, What an Island!" tells the story of Cylinder who lives on the beautiful Wow Island, while his friend Nameless lives on a polluted island named Bleeh. On one island the children play happily in the countryside, on the other they are surrounded by lots of garbage. When Nameless visits Wow Island, Cylinder explains the secret of recycling paper, glass and plastic. Back on the Bleeh Island, Nameless also builds machines for recycling and by means of signboards instructs children on the new policy. The result? Another happy and clean island.

The second and third prizes were awarded to "The Pet Pals and the Toxic Cloud", created by the brothers Giuseppe and Giacomo B. from Treviso and "Go with the Wind" produced by the students of the Institute Motta San Giovanni (Reggio Calabria).

With "The Pet Pals and the Toxic Cloud", we visit a garbage dump, home of Camillo, a dragon whose poisonous flatulence makes children sick. The children call the Pet Pals for rescue. The Pet Pals ask the dragon to eat better and teach children how to divide the waste for efficient recycling. In such way, Camillo will eat only the wet part and kids will be able to go back and play outdoors.

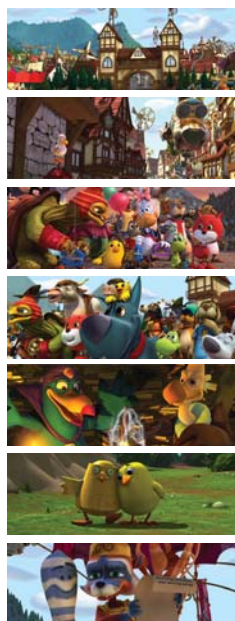
"Go with the Wind" explains how, thanks to the wind energy, we should not worry too much about the end of the "black gold". The title of this storyboard is also ironically alluding, with its play on words, at the title of the American epic historical romance film "Gone with the Wind". >>full story

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ovsalvanoilmondo.ovs.it/Pet
Pals in Windland

PET PALS IN WINDLAND

Preview in March 2014

The family animation film "Pet Pals in Windland", presented at the 70th Venice International Film Festival was the leitmotiv of the initiative "OVS Children Save the World".



It was an invitation for children to draw a storyboard for a short cartoon starring the Pet Pals on issues related to environmental sustainability. It was a unique opportunity for them as the 3 most interesting ideas were selected to become real shorts to be broadcasted all over the world, and the most significant short is shown in the "Pet Pals in Windland" film credits. The UNESCO Venice Office attended the preview of the film in Rome on 24 March.

website : [Pet Pals in Windland](http://PetPals.in/Windland)

Bridges

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