

Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau
for Science and Culture in Europe

Issue 4 • 2014

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Venice Office
Regional Bureau for Science
and Culture in Europe



▲ © Antonio Viscido, Third UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries (Florence)

Culture and Cultural Industries: Third UNESCO World Forum

Valued at over \$620 billion, the global trade in cultural goods and services has doubled over the past decade, demonstrating that culture is a powerful force for both economic and social development. Cultural goods and services are not just ordinary merchandises that generate jobs, income, innovation and growth, they also contribute to social inclusion and justice.

Inaugurated in Florence (Italy), UNESCO's Third World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries (FOCUS), examined how culture can contribute to a sustainable future by stimulating employment, growth and innovation. The Forum, which closed on 4 October, marked a decisive step in formulating the United Nations' programme for sustainable development after 2015.

More than 300 public and private sector representatives from the world of culture took part in the event at the Palazzo Vecchio, which was co-organized by UNESCO, the Government of Italy, the Region of Tuscany, and the Municipality of Florence.

"Culture is the petrol of countries that are rich in history and talent. In a global economy of knowledge, investing in culture represents a forward looking decision," declared

the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, at the opening of the Forum. *"I believe countries must invest in culture with the same determination they bring to investing in energy resources, in new technologies. [...] In a difficult economic environment, we must look for activities that reinforce social cohesion, and culture offers solutions in this regard,"* she added.

The Italian Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities, Dario Franceschini, the President of the Tuscany Region, Enrico Rossi, the Mayor of Florence, Dario Nardella, alongside ministers and senior representatives of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Indonesia, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar and Serbia, shared their perspectives with a view to adopting, at the end of their work, a "Florence Declaration." The Declaration proposes effective ways to include culture in the post-2015

development agenda, which will be debated at the General Assembly of the United Nations next year.

A roundtable debate, held as a side event of the Forum on 3 October, focused on several recent cultural heritage preservation projects led by UNESCO in Afghanistan, Myanmar,

Jordan and Mali with Italian Government funding. Ministers and senior representatives of those countries, alongside the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the experts who worked with UNESCO on implementing these projects, took part in the debate. The Forum also hosted a photographic exhibition

on 50 years of cooperation between UNESCO and Italy for the safeguarding of Afghanistan's cultural heritage.

The two previous UNESCO World Forums on Culture and Cultural Industries took place in Monza (Italy) in 2009 and 2011. [>>full story](#)



▲ ©Emiliano Cribari, Third UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries - Culture, Creativity and Sustainable Development - Florence; opening and roundtable

Florence Declaration: "Culture is vital in the global development agenda"

"Cultural vitality is synonymous with innovation and diversity. Culture creates jobs, generates revenues and stimulates creativity. It is a multifaceted vector of values and identity. Moreover, culture is a lever that promotes social inclusion and dialogue," the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, declared today at the close of UNESCO's Third World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries.

At the end of the Forum, its participants adopted the Florence Declaration that advocates the integration of culture in the post-2015 development agenda, which the United Nations is scheduled to adopt in the autumn of 2015.

The declaration reflects the findings of national consultations on culture and development conducted jointly in five countries—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Mali, Morocco and Serbia—by UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serdoje Novic, stressed the benefits that preserving heritage and investing in the arts bring to sustainable urban development. The Minister of Culture of Serbia, Ivan Tasovac, recalled the dynamism of cinema and the arts as a whole in contributing to development and innovation.

The Florence Declaration notably calls on governments, civil society

and the private sector to enhance: human and institutional capacities; legal and policy environments; new partnership models and innovative investment strategies; benchmarks and impact indicators to monitor and evaluate the contribution of culture to sustainable development. [>>full story](#)

Irina Bokova promoted creative industries and scientific cooperation in a visit to Italy [>>full story](#)



▲ Antonio Viscido, Third UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries (Florence)

▲ © UNESCO/Matthieu Guevel, Antonio Viscido, Third UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries (Florence)

Final Report on Post-2015 National Consultations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Culture and Development

The document released by the UN Country Team details the process and the findings of consultations on Culture and Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, carried out during the May-October 2014 period. The goal of this second round of consultations within the global thematic discussions on the Post-2015 Global Development Agendas was to enable different actors involved or actively interested in the field to present their vision of culture and understand how this vision can be integrated with the Agenda and implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina was not one of the 88 countries that had broad Post-2015 National Consultations in 2013. However, as part of the preparation of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2015-2019 for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) conducted an online survey with key national partners, UN staff, donors and citizens on development priorities for the country for the next five years - a 'mini' Post-2015 consultation with feedback received from 6,542 individuals.

Given that the full National Consultations were not conducted in the country, UNCT in Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the opportunity to hold these consultations on the theme of Culture for Development.

Building on the framework of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Culture and Development, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNDP co-led the initiative for national and global consultations on culture and development, with technical and logistical support from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UN RC Office). Key stakeholders were invited to take part, including institutional counterparts, NGOs and civil society organisations, UN

agencies and members of the general public.

An opening conference and workshops in July 2014 (6 one-day thematic workshops and round tables with up to 20 participants in each) were followed by an online citizens' survey conducted from July to August 2014 and focus groups for young people in October. The consultations took place between June and October 2014, and centred on 6 sub-themes: Culture and Poverty Reduction; Culture and Education; Culture, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; Culture, Environment and Climate Change; Culture, Sustainable Cities and Urbanization; and Culture, Inclusion and Reconciliation.

The final report titled "Post-2015 National Consultations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Culture and Development" highlights how citizens and professionals in the culture domain recognise that culture can act as an important catalyst for comprehensive societal change on many levels, from sustainable economic development, income generation and jobs creation, to environmental protection and preparedness for climate change; gender equality and women's



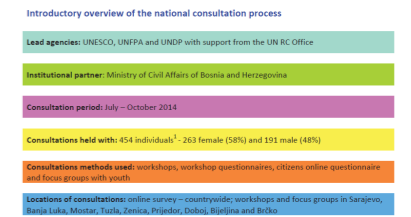
© Post-2015 National Consultations in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Introductory overview of the national consultation process



Post-2015 National Consultations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Culture and Development - Final Report Cover

"I believe that culture in this country should be instilled at pre-school institutions. It is thus necessary to start from scratch and make a step forward. Only 13% of children attend pre-school institutions. We have to instil more in children. Education and culture have to go hand in hand."

"What attracts people from around the world is the heart of Balkans and its cultural diversity. That is what we need to preserve in the attempt of defining our belonging," said the UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yuri Afanasiev. "This is also an opportunity for citizens and cultural activists to participate in the global discussion." >>full story



© Post-2015 National Consultations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Culture and Development - Overview

empowerment; improved urban and rural living; and, peace, security and social inclusion.

This cultural influence is linked to the transformational role of formal and informal education, media and communications, as well as to higher youth participation rates and the effective implementation of legislative frameworks in related sectors, which requires that appropriate enforcement mechanisms be put in place. The

report, therefore, stresses the key importance of providing further support for capacity development among public servants, teachers, local leaders, media professionals and citizen, in order for the transformation to gain momentum.

Commenting on the initiative, the Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Sredoje Nović, stressed the need to include the general public in culture preservation activities, with a focus on education.

Analysis of responses from the online citizens survey

A total 59.4% women and 40.6% men participated in the survey. The gender distribution varied between BiH (M 37%/W 63%) and RS (M 45.5%/W 54.5%). Most respondents belonged to the age groups 35-44 (30.1%) and 25-34 (29.7%), thus accounting for nearly 60% of the entire sample.

Youth responsiveness, the 15-24 age group, was low (8.7%) and was not in line with expectations, since the survey was conducted online and promoted through electronic media and social networks.

According to participants' responses, 63% were from BiH, 30.8% from RS, 0.7% from Brčko District and 5.2% lived abroad.

The share of respondents by gender and geographic distribution was as follows: women (67.1% BiH/28.2% RS/1.2% DB/3.5% abroad) and men (57.7% BiH/34.5% RS/0%



© Post-2015 National Consultations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Culture and Development - Annex 3

DB/7.8% abroad). 60.5% of respondents lived in urban areas (BiH 58.6%/RS 67%/DB 0%/abroad 53.3%), 32.9% in semi-urban (BiH 35.9%/RS 27.3%/0% DB/33.3% abroad) and 6.6% in rural areas (BiH 5.5%/RS 5.7%/100% DB/13.2% abroad). No major differences in responses by gender and urban/rural criteria were identified.

A total 81.4% of respondents were employed (76.4% in full-time employment, 5.2% in half-time employment). Due to the dissemination method, the survey sample was not representative of the entire BiH population, but it might be representative for the highly-educated and employed population in BiH.

No large differences in employment by gender and urban/rural criteria were identified. In the 15-24 age group, 24% of respondents were employed full time, 4% part-time, while 56% are students. Employed respondents by age group: 25-34 years (70.6%), 35-44 years (74%), 45-54 years (91.8%) and 55-64 years (91.4%).

>>Download the Publication

Key consultations



© Post-2015 National Consultations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Culture and Development - Final Report - Key consultations including sub-themes

Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, a watershed of unique value



▲ Pelister National Park – Philippe Pyaert handing over the certificate document of Ohrid-Prespa TBR

A UNESCO representative handed over the certificate of Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve to the head of the Ohrid Watershed Management Committee and the joint Secretariat, during an official ceremony in Korca, Albania. The inauguration took place on 13 October 2014, in the presence of Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's government officials, representatives to the United Nations and diplomatic corps.

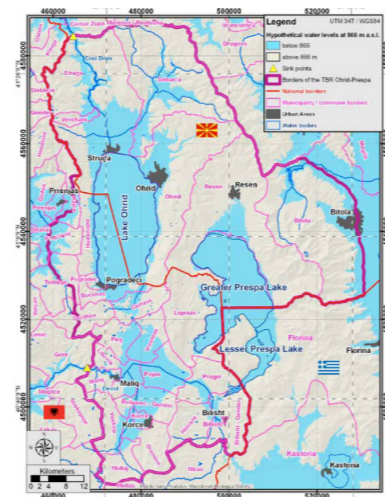
The inauguration of the Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve is the result of a long-lasting process started in 1996 and 10 years of endeavour on the part of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), towards the integration of the Ohrid and Prespa Lakes into a larger territorial framework, the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR). The whole process was boosted through capacity-building and training activities, the facilitation of meetings with stakeholders, and the support for the establishment of the MAB National Committees in both countries. Last June, the Ohrid-Prespa TBR was added to the World Network of

Biosphere, following its designation as a site by the International Coordinating Council of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, at its 26th session in Jönköping (Sweden) and in the East Vättern Landscape biosphere reserve. With this new inscription, Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The landscape of the new TBR is a balanced combination of water bodies, and surrounding mountains bordered by flat areas on its external boundaries. With an area of 446,244 hectares and a population of about 455,000, it includes part of Lake Ohrid and its surroundings in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which are inscribed on the World Heritage List, as well as part of Lake Ohrid in Albania. It accommodates the inhabitants of 23 villages/municipalities in Albania and 6 municipalities in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The entire area of the TBR is rich in biodiversity with rare and endangered species. Due to the historical genesis of the two lakes, numerous endemic species which are unique are present only in these aquatic and surrounding terrestrial

ecosystems. National Parks were created in the 1950s with the aim to preserve these values. The Galicica and Pelister National Parks and the Prespa National Park are good examples of the conservation function of a Biosphere Reserve, with about 14,000 ha., core zone of the reserve, been kept free from human use. The precious core areas of the Ohrid-Prespa TBR are surrounded by a 140,429.27 ha. buffer zone in which the use of natural resources will enhance the conservation goals of the core zone. In the so-called transition zone



▲ © Ohrid-Prespa TBR map

surrounding the buffer zones, the use of natural resources will be subject to sustainability. Developing the sustainable use of natural resources to benefit the local population is the central challenging goal of the entire TBR. As the target region has been populated by humans for over 7,000 years, the traditional knowledge on the sustainable use of existing resources will have to be rediscovered and combined with modern tools and measures to improve the livelihood of the inhabitants.

The official inauguration event of the Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve was supported by: Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Prespa: Support to Prespa National Park in Albania, and A development project of Albania, co-financed by Germany through KfW Development Bank".

UNESCO will intensify its support for the launching period following the inauguration of the Ohrid-Prespa TBR. The reserve will be governed by the Ohrid Watershed Management

Committee (OWMC), an institution created by a bilateral agreement of the two littoral countries, signed in 2004 and ratified by their Parliaments.

The OWMC will be organised by a Joint Secretariat with offices in Pogradec and Ohrid. The Joint Secretariat will be the entity responsible for the collaboration within the boundaries of this young TBR. >>full story

Waterscapes and Historic Canals as Cultural Heritage

The international conference on Waterscapes and historic canals as a Cultural Heritage - scheduled in Venice, Italy, from 14-15 May 2015 - is organized by Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Civiltà dell'Acqua International Centre, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti.

The control and management of water flows is among the most significant human activities aimed at transforming the natural environment. Canals and rivers are linear paths of high cultural value where it is possible to identify specific and unique cultural landscapes. The relationship between human settlements and European historic waterways is widely documented not only from archival sources (including historic maps and charts) related to water courses and catchment areas, but also through an equally rich cultural and artistic heritage; a heritage that celebrates the cultural use of water, charging it with symbolic values that enhance the practicalities of controlling and managing the flow.

The 2015 International Conference: Waterscapes and Historic Canals as a Cultural Heritage is an integral part of the set of activities UNESCO is developing for EXPO 2015, in particular to contribute to the "Venice to Expo 2015" initiative promoted and coordinated by the Venice Expo Committee. A first workshop "Memory, Identity, and Slow Tourism along

European Waterways" held in Venice and Battaglia Terme (Padua, Italy) in October 2012 was organized by UNESCO Venice Office, Civiltà dell'Acqua International Centre, and the River Navigation Museum of Battaglia Terme, in order to discuss a preliminary series of issues concerning European Historic Canals and their related heritage, as an opportunity to promote a "responsible" tourism.

This conference will in particular highlight the crucial importance of waterscapes and historic canals as visible infrastructural networks



▲ waterscapesculturalheritage.org

constituting a significant part of European history. Even today, many European historic waterways maintain structures of great importance in the field of industrial archaeology, such as bridges, lock systems, hydraulic factories, warehouses and river ports. In addition, it is important to consider the high aesthetic value of river and aquatic landscapes, or waterscapes. Another issue promoted will be the enhancement of historic waterways and their related territories as resources to develop a sustainable tourism, responding

fluvial waterfronts' management. UNESCO is taking part in Expo 2015 as part of a joint team of United Nations (UN) specialised agencies and programmes coordinated by FAO. With a record estimated 20 million physical and one billion virtual visitors, Expo 2015 represents a unique opportunity for the UN to showcase its achievements in areas relating to the general theme 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life' and to present the Post-2015 Development Agenda. >>full story



© UNESCO/Gruppo Alcuni - Sara River video

Reporting on youth awareness raised towards protection measures in the Sava River Basin

The Earth is not ours, we have merely borrowed it from our children! In May, this year, the Sava River experienced with floods beyond living memory, sadly led to the loss of human lives and other severe consequences. UNESCO and the Sava Commission are assisting in the recovery process and investing efforts toward sustainable management of the Sava River Basin and raising youth awareness on its importance.

Record floods that affected areas in 3 countries of the Sava River Basin - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia - confirmed that similar disasters know no borders and that, along with the efforts invested by individual countries, the planning of protection measures for the entire river basin is of undeniable benefit.

The devastating floods in the region have had a significant impact on the work of the Sava Commission to achieve one of the key goals of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, namely cooperation in undertaking prevention measures or in limiting danger and mitigating the harmful consequences of disasters - including those caused by floods.

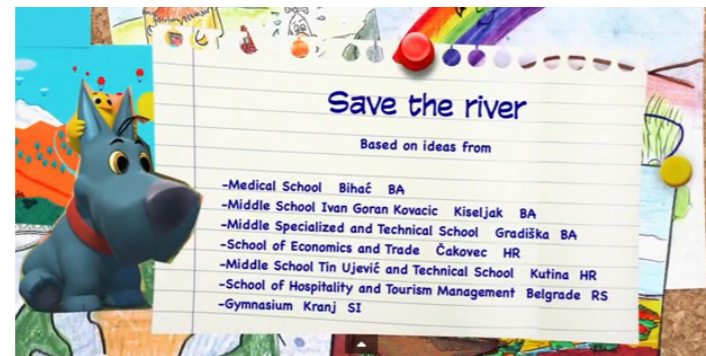
As part of the joint efforts coordinated over the years to promote the sustainable use of water and the development and protection of the Sava River Basin, the Sava Commission launched a competition in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), within the framework of its "H2Ooooh!" initiative, with the purpose of raising youth awareness.

Titled "Water in the Sava River Basin - Development and Protection", the competition was aimed at secondary school students from the Sava River Basin.

60 students and professors from 8 schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia were selected to participate in the 3rd Youth Parliament held from 19-20 September 2014 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Participants considered the possibilities of water use and exploitation, water and aquatic ecosystem protection in the Sava river basin as well as the importance of transboundary cooperation. Special attention was paid to flood protection. Winners of the competition presented their cartoon scenarios.

UNESCO screened the new H2Ooooh! video for the Sava river produced following the above creative competition, titled "Water in the Sava River Basin - Development and Protection", at the Meeting



© UNESCO/Gruppo Alcuni - Save the river video

of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB). This event, regularly held at ministerial level, will take place on 2 December 2014 in Zagreb, Croatia.

The fifth Meeting brought together high representatives of all Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia, as well as representatives of different organizations, institutions and governments. The Meeting was an opportunity for delegations of the Parties and representatives of international partners and supporters, to express their views

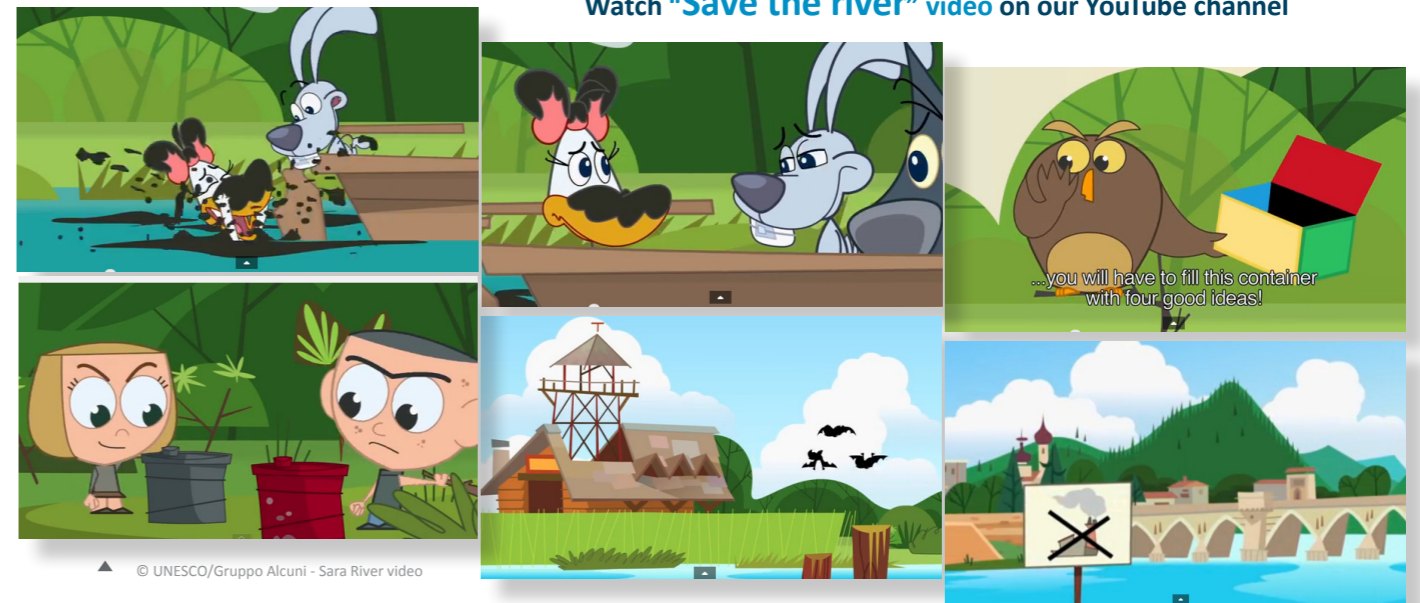
of the FASRB implementation and cooperation with the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC). UNESCO reported on the recent developments of cooperation with the International Sava River Basin Commission on Sediment Management issues as well as on non-structural flood mitigation measures.

The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) was established for purpose of the implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), namely the cooperation of the Parties to the FASRB, for realization of the

following goals: establishment of an international regime; establishment of sustainable water management; and undertaking of measures to prevent or limit hazards, such as floods, ice, droughts and accidents involving substances hazardous to water, and to reduce or eliminate related adverse consequences.

The Conference provided a contribution to the implementation of the Eighth Phase of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP-VIII, 2014-2021). [->full story](#)

Watch "Save the river" video on our YouTube channel



Fifth meeting of Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin

The meeting of Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin was of great significance for cross-border cooperation in the field of water management, for directing specific activities performed by the countries and, for finding joint solutions for sustainable development in the Sava River basin.

The results of the work of the International Sava River Basin Commission were presented at the meeting, along with the joint results of the countries in the Sava River basin, achieved through the

implementation of the Framework Agreement. Similarly the results of the Youth Parliament were presented. This is a traditional event aimed at raising environmental awareness among young people, in recognition of the economical potential of the Sava River, as well as the significance of cross-border cooperation in the field of water management. It was also conducted in consideration of the floods that have affected the region. The 6th Meeting of Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin will be held in 2016 in Serbia.



© Sava River Commission - Floods



International conference
**Analysis and Management of
 Changing Risks for Natural Hazards**
 18 -19 November 2014 | Padua, Italy.

▲ ITC Enschede/conference poster

Analysing and managing Changing Risks for Natural Hazards

The International Conference on the Analysis and Management of Changing Risk for Natural Hazards was held from 18-19 November 2014 in Padua, Italy, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and funded by Copernicus and the European Community's 7th Framework Programme. It provided a forum for exchange of ideas related to effective risk management strategies

The conference was attended by 170 participants, from 34 countries. There were 46 oral presentations and 62 posters.

High Hydro-meteorological hazards such as landslides and snow avalanches, debris flows, flash floods and river flooding have a severe impact on society and the economy, especially in mountain areas. The increase in disastrous events observed over the last decade, associated with an often low perception of most natural risks by the communities involved, along with the lack of efficient, socially accepted and environmentally sound remedial measures, are amongst the drivers behind the increasing effects of hydro-meteorological risks. It is also evident that the effects of land use changes have to be taken into account not only within risk analysis, but also in planning strategies.

Considering such challenges, it is important to continue to develop an advanced understanding of how environmental, climate and socio-economic changes will affect the temporal and spatial patterns

of hydro-meteorological hazards and associated risks, and how these changes can be assessed, modelled, and incorporated into sustainable risk management strategies (focusing on spatial planning, emergency preparedness, risk communication and early warning systems).

The conference provided an opportunity to discuss multi-hazard risks and multi-disciplinary research results on changing hydro-meteorological risks and their effects on planning strategies. The conference focus is placed both on technical sessions presenting state of the art research in the understanding of the natural processes and in the development of innovative methodologies for quantitative hazard and risk forecasts, and on the practical integration of natural, engineering, economical and human sciences within multi-scale methodologies for risk management and prevention planning.

The conference represents the culmination of the EC's co-funded

projects CHANGES (Changing Hydro-meteorological risks as Analyzed by a New Generation of European Scientists), and IncREO (Increasing Resilience through Earth Observation) and it will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas related to effective risk management strategies.

Conference sessions included: Forecasting future changes in hydro-meteorological triggers; Methods for generating assets maps using Remote Sensing techniques; Modelling changes in societal parameters to characterize exposure and vulnerability of societies; Methods for modelling changes in natural risks, and



▲ ITC Enschede/conference poster



▲ ITC Enschede/conference participants, oral presentations, posters sessions.

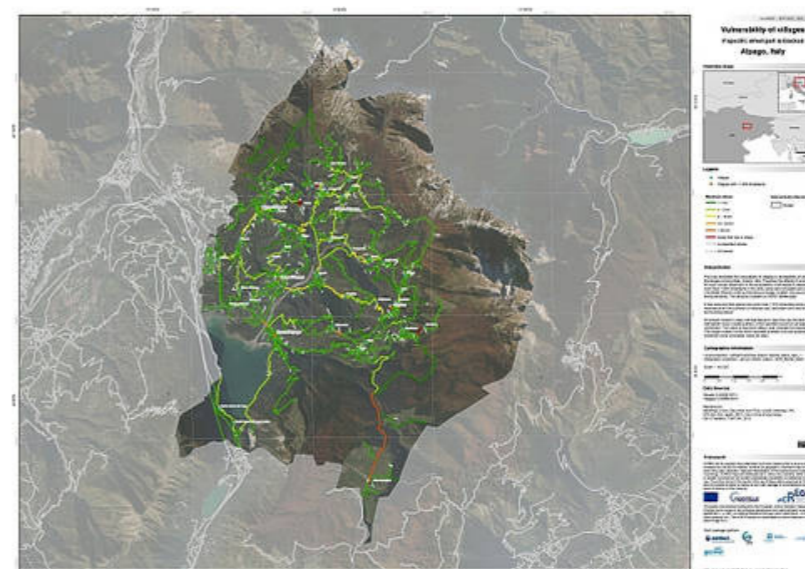
estimate risk scenarios; Methods to adapt risk management strategies to future changes, including risk perception and insurance; Risk communication and risk governance aspects of changing risk; Earth Observation data, geo-information and visualization tools for risk assessment; Lessons learned and transferability of multi-hazard risk

assessment methods to developing countries; and, Ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk management.

Supporters of the organization of the conference were: European Geophysical Union; European Centre on Geomorphological Hazards; European and Mediterranean

Major Hazards Agreement, council of Europe; United Nations Environmental Programme; Disasters, Environment, risk Reduction (Eco-DRR); UNESCO Venice Office; International Association for Natural Hazard Risk Management; International Association of Geomorphologists. >>>full story

Final User Validation Workshop and extended testing review of IncREO's derived products for the Alpago area



▲ Geomer - Multi-hazard/risk, Vulnerability map of Alpago, Veneto, Italy

IncREO was launched in early 2013 in support of emergency management and risk-preparedness aiming to provide actors responsible for disaster management, civil protection and spatial planning with satellite data-based solutions and to contribute, particularly, to an improved preparedness and mitigation planning for territories highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as the Alpago area concerning landslides, earthquakes and floods.

The workshop involved project partners and end-users to provide final feedbacks on IncREO products developed for the Alpago area such as: accessibility maps, assets maps, vulnerability maps, etc. All stakeholders, namely the Civil Protection Department of the Veneto Region as main end-

users, the municipal authorities and technical offices of the towns of Chies, Farra, Pieve, Puos, and Tambre, represented by the newly-established Mountain Union of Alpago (MUA) which performs integrated functions concerning civil emergency management service for the entire Alpago area, were invited to this third, final round of consultation with project partners.

Through a joint work on a shared questionnaire, possible final adjustments to the presented products were identified and undertaken to better serve users' needs and the overall goals of the project.

This validation meeting was the last milestone of the Earth Observation (EO)-based product development for Alpago in view of a successful uptake

This event is part of the EU project IncREO's work programme and it is organised by UNESCO Venice Office, in cooperation with the Italian National Research Council - Research Institute for Geo-Hydrological Protection (CNR-IRPI), Geoville Group and Geomer along with the participation and support of the Civil Protection Department of the Veneto Region, the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies of Albania and Airbus DS as project's lead partner.

by the end-users of the final outputs of the dedicated work packages 205-206 on multi-layered and multi-hazard/risk maps.

In order to have a more in-depth validation and to enhance the end-users capacity in running the products, a well-tailored testing review based on an open source programme, capable of running the produced maps, with no limitations in terms of purposes and distribution, was part of our tasks as highlighted by end users in a previous assessment.

The user-friendly Open Source Geographic Information System (GIS) licensed under the GNU General Public License was identified as a suitable tool for that purpose. >>>full story



▲ ©2014 European Riverprize Finalist Danube River, Transnational Protected Areas, valuable sites

Connecting River Restoration Thinking to Innovative River Management

The Final event of the SEE River Project was integrated with the 6th edition of the European River Restoration Conference held from 27-29 October 2014 in Vienna, Austria. An optional one day field excursion to several inspiring locations nearby was organised on 30 October. The 2nd European Riverprize was awarded in Vienna's City Hall on 28 October.

This year's conference, ERRC2014, dealt with some key challenges for the future: How we can innovate Integrated River Basin Management using Green Infrastructure, Natural Water Retention and Contemporary River Corridor Management. The Green Infrastructure (GI), a strategically planned network of (semi) natural areas designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem

services is now being supported as a cross-sectoral approach by the European Union (EU). Another cross-sectoral approach was the Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) aimed at reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, namely flooding and drought. Ecosystems and their service provision should be maintained and restored by agricultural buffers and environmental flows.

Conference sessions focused on an innovative new approach called Contemporary River Corridor Management (CRCM). This approach is encapsulated in the SEE River Toolkit for river and land-use planning by focusing on the river corridor as the core part of the catchment area where most pressures on rivers are likely to occur.

The approach includes a cross-sectoral engagement and stakeholder dialogue and cooperation at local, regional, national and international levels. Ecological river restoration is one of the cross-cutting themes and solutions for supporting GI, NWRM and CRCM. Best practice approaches of river restoration have already been developed for most sectors. NWRM and CRCM need above all awareness-raising, outreach, ownership and capacity-building. Networking events like the ERRC2014 – See River Project final event, can play an important role in this.

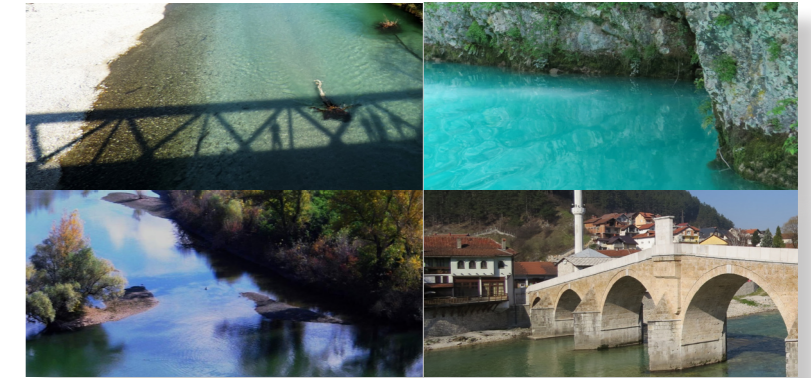
Within this framework, the ERRC2014 conference discussed better integrated river basin management and the realisation of new river restoration initiatives and approaches on a number of river restoration themes; urban resilience, sustainable land use and hydropower, hydromorphological continuity, fish migration and ecological and economic benefits.

The conference was organised by ECRR and the SEE River project. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is affiliated to the project as an observer partner. The ECRR is a European network consisting of national centres and individual members bound by their mission to enhance and promote river restoration best practice throughout greater Europe. >>full story



▲ © Project - SEE River - One of the 6Corridors of the SEE rivers: Bodrog

The SEE River project is led by the Institute for Water of Slovenia and involves 25 more partners from 12 countries. The project aims at developing innovative approaches to contemporary river corridor management by engaging stakeholders along 6 international rivers in the South East Europe. It is co-funded by the EU in the framework of the Territorial Cooperation Programme for South East Europe.



▲ © Project - SEE River - Corridors of the SEE rivers: Soča, Vjosa, Neretva and Prut

Cross-sectoral cooperation as a basis for contemporary river corridor management



▲ ©SEE River Final Publication

The 45-page SEE River Project final publication entitled "Towards Contemporary Rivers in South-East Europe" has been released online. The publication is available in English and in 9 other languages.

The contemporary river is a river managed in a way that ensures the accomplishment of all conservation and development sectoral goals, initiatives and measures as well as the interests of riparian local communities and inhabitants.

In 2008, when the Drava River Vision was adopted in Maribor, Slovenia, 10 goals for sustainable future of the Drava River as a contemporary river were determined. At the time few were aware of its likely influence and contribution to future river management and restoration processes. During the following years it was decided to meet other South-East European rivers,

going far beyond the Drava River basin, to bring them closer to their contemporary modes.

An established common vision of one river inspired an international interdisciplinary team of experts from 26 public institutions, administrations and NGOs in the field of water management and nature protection, located in 12 South-East European EU and non-EU member countries from the Danube River and the Mediterranean Sea drainage basins, to initiate complex processes of contemporary river corridor management on 6 very different transboundary rivers: Drava, Bodrog, Neretva, Prut, Soča and Vjosa.

The SEE River project has addressed cross-sectoral river corridor management issues in the South-East European countries. This was a highly challenging professional experience for the institutions and the individuals involved. The region is a diversity of cultures, languages, perceptions, capabilities, terminologies, approaches, technical solutions, and therefore also river management related institutional frameworks, administration systems and management practices. Furthermore, social and political circumstances were also important factors and even extreme floods and events in the last year of the project did not stop the work in the affected regions.

The partnership faced many challenges as a whole and on each

pilot site. How to manage such a complex issue, who are the partners and what positions do they possess in their countries? Which sectors are the players, which stakeholders should be involved in individual pilot cases? How to ensure an effective project process and the methods applied as well as the comparability of the results at local, national and international levels? Similar questions were on the partners' daily agenda. >>full story

▲ ©SEE River Final publication





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

Conservation and restoration of ceramics. Intensive training for young professionals in Albania

From 16 to 29 November 2014, a group of young professional restorers and conservators from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Montenegro and Serbia, selected according to their professional and educational profiles, benefitted from a regional training workshop on the conservation of ceramics which the Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments of the Institute for Cultural Monuments (IMK) organized in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

The course, held at the premises of the Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments based in Tirana, Albania, displayed a series of lectures, discussions, demonstrations, laboratory sessions and practical activities aimed at supplying participants with the latest and most relevant conservation and restoration techniques, in compliance with internationally recognized conservation principles and standards.

The primary goal of the course was to improve trainees' skills in the conservation of archaeological materials, providing them with an understanding of the chemical and physical features and related decay and deterioration of ceramics, disseminating effective

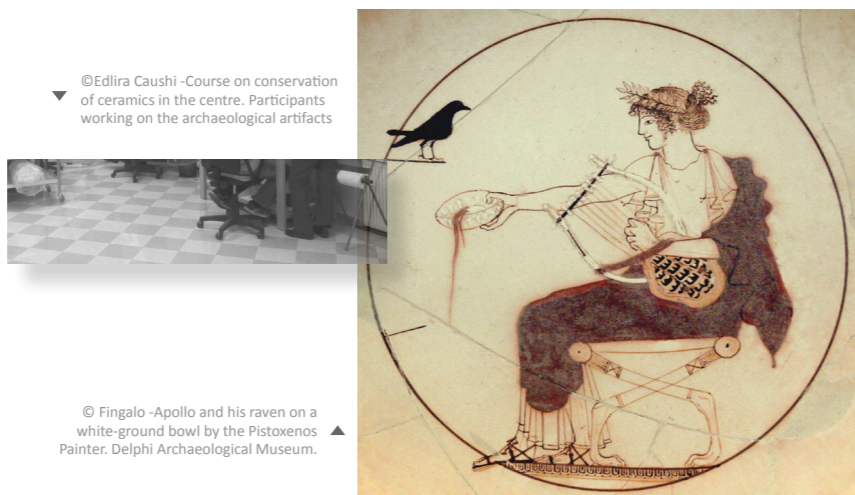
conservation methodologies and ensuring a practical understanding of appropriate restoration methods and long-term conservation strategies.

The programme - full time from Monday to Saturday - lasted two weeks. During the first week, trainees attended theoretical and practical lessons, including lectures on raw materials, photographic and graphic documentation, various tests, and other topics concerning ceramics, its deterioration and its restoration techniques. The second week focused more on practical activities, working directly on materials and with different analysis techniques. A team composed of two experts, one Albanian and one international, conducted the training activities, under the joint coordination of IMK and the UNESCO Venice Office. At the

end of the workshop, a certificate of attendance was granted by the Centre for the Restoration of Monuments to trainees who had completed at least 90 % of the course.

This was not a first-of-its-kind initiative launched by UNESCO Venice Office in Albania. Last year, a regional training workshop on the restoration of Ottoman cultural heritage in South-East Europe was held in Tirana and Berat, in cooperation with the Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments. The 2-week training which focused on the restoration of wall paintings from the Ottoman period was organized with the support of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA).

[>>full story](#)



© Edlira Caushi - Course on conservation of ceramics in the centre. Participants working on the archaeological artifacts

© Fingalo - Apollo and his raven on a white-ground bowl by the Plistoxenos Painter. Delphi Archaeological Museum.

UNESCO and Italy together in Rome held training on the fight against illicit traffic of cultural property

From 13 to 17 October 2014, ten officials from the Ministry of the Interior, customs agency and Ministry of culture of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia met in Rome to benefit from a training organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), in cooperation with the Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela del Patrimonio Culturale (Carabinieri, Cultural Heritage Protection Department).

The fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property remains a priority on the political agenda on culture in South East European countries, which have all ratified the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, more specifically, ratified the 1970 Convention in 1997, and adhered to the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on stolen or illegally exported cultural objects.

In March 2006, the UNESCO Venice Office organized a first expert meeting in Ohrid, to discuss regional cooperation mechanisms. The meeting's recommendations called for the enhancement of the relevant legal framework, national inventories and databases, security measures, cross-border cooperation, as well as for the development of institutional and professional capacities through the exchange of information and experiences.

The development of human and institutional capacities is also a priority for the action of UNESCO in this field, on issues including national inventories, information and communication, exchange of best practices, and awareness-raising. Accordingly, the objective of this Seminar was to raise awareness and develop the professional capacities of the concerned services of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (with special focus on police), with special regard to the implementation of the relevant international standards, tools, and best practices.



© Return of Cultural Properties - Ministry of Interior, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Thanks to the vital cooperation of the Italian Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela del Patrimonio Culturale (Cultural Heritage Protection Department) and the contribution of distinguished international trainers and speakers, participants in the Seminar acquired information and training on a variety of topics related to the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, as well as on related issues such as the restitution or return of cultural objects, preventive measures and risk mitigation, etc., having the opportunity to discuss about priorities, needs and possible implementation of good practices in their country.

This seminar was aimed at officials from the Ministry of the Interior, Customs, Ministry of Culture and the Cultural Heritage Protection Office of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Speakers include senior representatives from international organizations (UNESCO, INTERPOL,

World Customs Organization / Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Western Europe WCO - RILO WE, International Institute for the Unification of Private Law UNIDROIT, ICOM Italian National Commission) as well as of experts from Carabinieri and from other Italian authorities (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, Ministry of Justice) and specialized services.

Since its approval in 1970, 127 Member States of UNESCO have ratified the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, including all South-East European Member States, advancing UNESCO's tireless efforts to lead and support international cooperation on this topic. [>>full story](#)

© Recovered Treasures: an exhibition of stolen and recovered works of art - ©Soprintendenza Speciale per i beni archeologici di Roma





©UNESCO / S.Sesum - The main entrance to Rila Monastery

Protecting World Heritage: Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Tourism Planning in South-East Europe

This regional workshop held in Sofia on 3-6 November 2014 was organized jointly by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria. The overall objective of the event was to contribute to the development of sustainable tourism planning and disaster risk management for World Heritage properties in South-East Europe.

World Heritage properties and cultural and natural heritage resources in general, are increasingly affected by disasters and conflict situations throughout the world, resulting from a variety of underlying factors including natural hazards, climate change and political instability. In past years the World Heritage Centre has developed a comprehensive strategy to deal with this kind of issues, e.g. through the provision of resource materials. On the other hand, tourism has become an important cross-cutting issue and

Centre has developed the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme to catalyse positive change to protect and conserve the sites while at the same time enriching the lives of local communities and enhancing the experience of travellers. An important goal of that Programme is to provide World Heritage stakeholders with the capacity and tools to manage tourism efficiently, responsibly and sustainably based on the local context and needs. The Capacity Building Strategy adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2011 highlights the need to develop training related to these two fields, among others.

This workshop in Sofia, generously funded by the Bulgarian authorities, was accordingly aimed at World Heritage site managers involved in planning and daily management of their site, having specific issues related to disaster risk management and sustainable tourism. Some 30 site managers from South-East Europe attended the workshop: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

The workshop enabled to set the basis for the development of a value-

based management approach that is attentive to the management of the potential threats and challenges faced by World Heritage properties in the sub-region.

After the workshop, participants were able to apply the methodology for Disaster Risk Management developed by UNESCO, as reflected in the resource manual "Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage" to World Heritage properties in the region. They acquired specific knowledge concerning Sustainable Tourism in relation to World



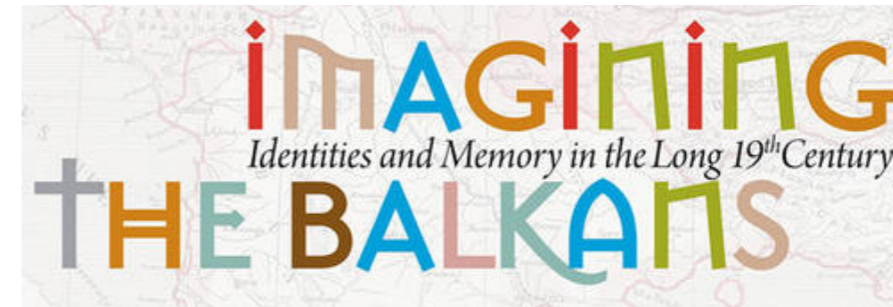
©UNESCO / S.Sesum - participants during the study visit to Boyana Church

Heritage and become familiar with the capacity-building tools and other mechanisms to manage tourism efficiently, responsibly and sustainably, based on the local context and needs. Finally, they committed to further share/ disseminate the knowledge acquired during the workshop within their partner institutions, and act as focal-points for possible follow-up activities. >>>full story



The UNESCO World Heritage

'Imagining the Balkans' exhibit arrives at the National Historical Museum of Greece



© Imagining the balkans exhibit - Poster

This was the fifth stop for the 'Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century' travelling exhibit, in Athens, Greece, coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) with the support and participation of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

This exhibition traces the history of a vibrant cultural mosaic, revealing the diversity of this region's cultural

heritage and the energy arising from the interweaving of influences between and within countries.

It was inaugurated at the National Historical Museum on Monday 10 November 2014 at 7 pm. Lina Mendoni, Secretary-General, Ministry of Culture and Sports of Greece, officially opened the event in the presence notably of ICOM and of UNESCO Venice Office. A speech by Christina Koulouri, professor in Modern and Contemporary History,

director of the Research Centre on Modern History, at Panteon University of Political and Social Sciences followed.

The exhibition is part of a wider initiative entitled "Culture: a Bridge to Development", launched by UNESCO to mobilize culture as an accelerator of creativity and reconciliation throughout the region and beyond. It captured UNESCO's fundamental idea that the defences of peace must be built in the minds of men and women, in their imagination and dreams.

The "Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century" exhibition will be on display at the National Historical Museum of Greece until 19 April 2015 before traveling to other countries of South-East Europe.

>>>full story

Conclusions and recommendations of the 2001 Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention regional meeting in SEE

Organized by the Government of Croatia and UNESCO, the regional meeting on the implementation and ratification of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe (30 September-1 October 2014) was attended by representatives of ministries of culture of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey.

During this meeting held at the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) in Zadar, Croatia, high-level representatives from South-East Europe shared their experiences in ratifying and implementing the 2001 Convention, discussed some of the major issues that underwater cultural heritage faces, and formulated the respective

recommendations to improve its safeguarding. During the sessions, the necessity to improve access - including virtual access - to and the popularization of underwater cultural heritage emerged as a shared priority. Participants agreed on the key role of inter-institutional cooperation in planning, monitoring, as well as defining sustainable uses of underwater cultural heritage to confront pillage, looting, invasive fishing and other threats that underwater cultural heritage faces. The great potential of EU-financing opportunities was remarked and, to this end, the reinforcement of the networking and regional cooperation for fundraising highlighted.

Participants unanimously regarded the need to enhance the link between underwater cultural heritage and sustainable development as a key priority and a necessary condition to reinforce the safeguarding of underwater

cultural heritage. Capacity building and regional cooperation were confirmed as a priority to work on. An invitation to ratify the 2001 Convention was extended to all countries that have not yet done it. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Body to the Convention was reminded of the need to renew the members and participating countries were likewise invited to submit an application. >>>full story



Igor Miholjek - The island of Palagruža, reef Pupak, Shipwreck with Hispanic amphorae, 1st century AD

UNESCO puts its values into practice, empowering women A conversation with our former director



▲ © UNESCO C. Vincenzi - Marina Gilebbi, Yolanda Valle-Neff and Mohammad Taufiq

Yolanda Valle-Neff spent more than two years with us at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), where she acted as Director from April 2012 until her retirement in August 2014. In this short interview with her, we would like to recall all the years she spent with UNESCO and pay tribute to her dedication and personal commitment.

She joined UNESCO in 2002, as Director of Budget. Alongside the responsibility that came with this position, she also represented the Organization in the UN Chief Executive Board's High-Level Committee on Management (CEB-HLCM).

Prior to joining the organization, she had a broad background of professional experience, working for multinational companies – for instance, as Financial Manager for Kraft Foods – and as Director of Administration, Budget and Finance for international and humanitarian organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the French Red Cross. She was also Vice-Chair of the Finance Commission of the International Red Cross (IFRC). Could you tell us about your background prior to joining UNESCO?

I learned a lot from all my previous positions, in particular how to apply private sector techniques for

maximizing profit to the non-profit sector in order to enhance the effectiveness of the organization. In the private sector, the goal is to make a profit by developing the business while reducing the costs; in humanitarian and international organizations, the goal is to implement the programme of work, putting your available resources to good use, which means investing all the budget, but in an effective manner – a subtle, yet important, distinction that I also incorporated into my years of teaching at the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (also known as "Sciences Po") and took with me during my years with UNESCO.

Could you discuss your professional experience – in particular as a woman – with UNESCO?

Throughout my career, I have often reflected on what it meant to be a woman in the workplace, particularly as I was the first woman to hold a number of senior managerial positions in the companies and organizations that I worked for. I was the first female senior manager for Kraft Foods and the first woman to hold the post of Director at the OECD – at the time, the OECD did not have many women Ambassadors, so I was very much in a minority.

All this has now changed, but those were important milestones at a time when women were still figuring out how to succeed in what was then perceived as a "man's world". When I joined UNESCO in 2002, I was



▲ © VIU; UNESCO; L. De Stefani - Yolanda Valle-Neff, moments of her career during her tenure as Director of the Office

pleasantly surprised at the change in environment – I saw so many women holding top-level positions in the organization's managerial and ambassadorial ranks that I thought: this is an organization that puts its values into practice, empowering women...

Could you explain what your vision has been in leading this Office?

I very much enjoyed each of my visits to the South-East European region: its cultural and natural beauty and the welcoming nature of its people are unparalleled. However, while a great deal of progress has been made in mending wounds over the past two decades, there is still much work to be done in terms of fostering intercultural dialogue and scientific cooperation across borders. All of our Member States in this region have demonstrated their strong commitment and willingness to achieve this goal.

The role of a Regional Director is a very unique and important one – it is the only position in the UN system that truly incorporates all aspects of the Organization – from the backstopping of administrative and support services, to the direct intervention of programme activities and the diplomacy and leadership roles required as a representative of the Organization. I found it incredibly rewarding to be working in the field, able to see first-hand the impact that our activities have and to better understand the real issues that we are working to tackle in close cooperation with our Member States and other key partners.

My only regret, in hindsight, is that I did not seize the opportunity to work in a field office sooner. While my time in Office was, regrettably, too brief to fully explore all corners of the region, I very much look forward to returning

to it as a tourist and continuing to get to know the wonderful people and places that make up this diverse and fascinating part of the world.

What have been the main achievements of the Office during your tenure? Can you single out particularly significant initiatives implemented in the region?

In the UNESCO Office in Venice, as in everyday life, change is constant. But while people and programmes have come and gone over the past few years, colleagues have worked hard to build on past successes and ensure continuity and positive outcomes for Office activities. Particularly salient examples in this respect are the re-conceptualized Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe and the efforts made towards the designation of transboundary Biosphere Reserves in the region. I was extremely impressed with my colleagues' ability to react quickly to the needs of Member States, as it was the case with our Antenna Office in Sarajevo following the disastrous floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. None of this would have been possible without the integration of interdisciplinary activities within the Office. As a Regional Bureau for the

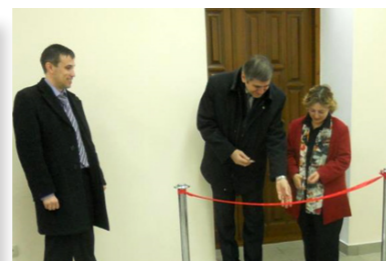
two UNESCO sectors, Natural Sciences and Culture, it is only natural that we should engage in more cross-sector activities.

Under my supervision, in order to facilitate this process, teamwork was improved, by configuring the office in such a way as to encourage exchange between departments. I believe that the continuation of this practice will help to further enhance both the effectiveness of the Office and the quality of its results.

You retired after an extensive, active career. Looking back, what are the memories you cherish most? How will the future unfold?

I am looking forward to embarking on my next adventure, that of opening art galleries in Sologne, the Loire Valley Castles area, and in Paris, in cooperation with a group of contemporary artists, whom I am keen to put in contact with some of the emerging artists from the South-East European region. I hope, therefore, that I will have the opportunity to return to both South-East Europe and Venice, and to continue to support and promote the diversity of cultural expressions that these two unique places have to offer. >>full story

▼ UNESCO, Moldovan Agency for Inspection and Restoration of Monuments- Yolanda Valle-Neff, moments of her career during her tenure as Director of the Office



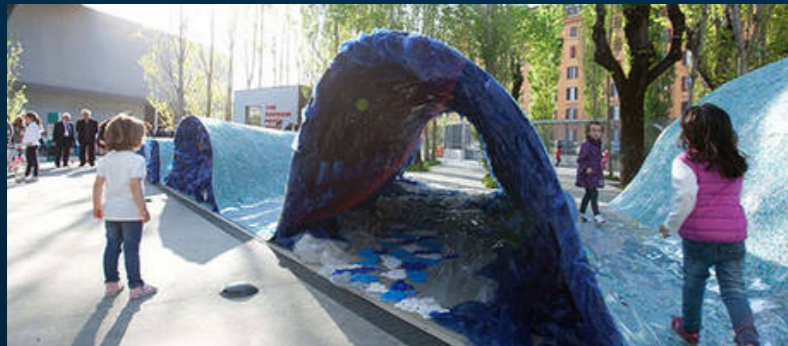
Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment UNESCO aims to advance gender equality and promote women's empowerment by effectively mainstreaming gender into all of our activities. Women and men, girls and boys, need to be provided equal opportunities and chances. Women and men need to participate as equals in all of our activities, and benefit fairly from the outcomes and impacts of our interventions.



▲ George Gordeziani - Family Photo - First Eastern Partnership Ministerial Conference on Culture

Backstory

Garbage Patch State awarded 2014 International Prize for Water Civilization



Maria Cristina Finucci - The Garbage Patch State installation in Rome ▲

On 29 November 2014, the Seventh International Prize for Water Civilization was awarded to Maria Cristina Finucci for her Garbage Patch State and related series of installations. A round table on the impact of plastics on the environment, entitled “+ Water - Plastic = Treviso”, with talks with the artist, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture, Venice (Italy), the National Research Council - Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR-ISMAR) and Contarina, followed.

The Centre for Water Civilization NGO has decided to award to Maria Cristina Finucci the International Prize for Water Civilization for the originality of her message that, through art, has come to touch cords that the scientific information failed to resonate. The prize, named after “Renzo Franzin” one of the founders of the NPO Center for Water Civilization, has reached this year its seventh edition. Its objective is to enhance and support knowledge, experiences, initiatives, publications, research and innovative projects, nationally and internationally completed, which are in line with the statutory purposes of the Centre.

For the jury, Maria Cristina Finucci has, with her artistic work ‘The Garbage Patch State’, launched a major challenge in raising public awareness on the devastating consequences of floating plastic islands in the oceans. A first installation was inaugurated in 2013 at UNESCO’s headquarters in Paris and followed by other installations hosted by the Ca ‘Foscari University of Venice, the European Institute of Design in Madrid, and this year by the National Museum of the XXI Century Arts (MAXXI) in Rome and the United Nations in New York

Maria Cristina Finucci through her exemplary artistic work alerts on the plastic islands in the oceans and seas worldwide. To her, we owe the provocative idea of giving to these new territorial entities the dignity of “State”. According to the findings, these islands stretch for over 16 million km². The largest, consisting of plastic waste partly floating and partly dissolved in water, covers an area equal to the state of Texas. Still, the garbage patch is not detectable on any map, not even the satellite measurements can delimit its precise boundaries. >>>full story

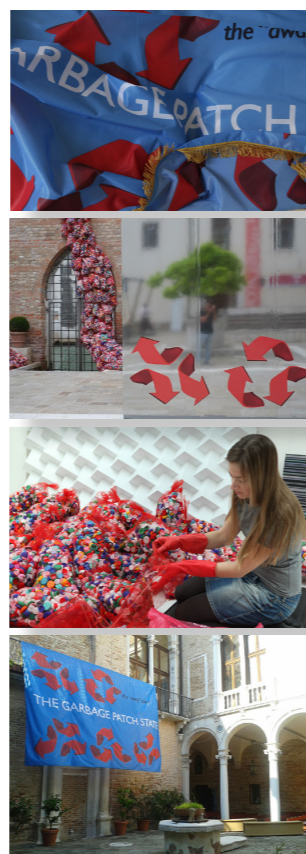


© garbagepatchstate.org - Installation in Rome ▲

Postcards from Garbage Patch State



Garbage Patch State in Venice



Bridges

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