

# Bridges

## UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

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**In focus** pages 2-3

**News and Highlights from Science & Culture** pages 4-7

**Venice story** pages 8-9

**Interdisciplinary stories** pages 10-14

**Events** page 15

**Backstory** page 16



Regional Bureau  
for Science and Culture  
in Europe





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## Cities leverage UNESCO Designated sites to contribute to sustainable development

The capacity-building workshop on “Managing multiple designated areas related to UNESCO conventions and programmes for sustainable urban development” was convened in Turin, Italy, from 1 to 6 December 2016. The workshop aimed at advancing the institutional and professional capacities of managing authorities and relevant operators of World Heritage properties, Creative Cities and biosphere reserves, in order to support achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The workshop was part of the ‘International Academy on Sustainable Development’, launched in 2015 on the occasion of the 3rd World Forum on Local Economic Development in Turin and the International EXPO 2015 in Milan. The first edition committed to the management of food-productive landscapes in UNESCO Designated sites, successfully brought together key stakeholders involved in the management of over 30 sites from across the world. The second edition of the workshop was jointly organised anew by the Research Centre Silvia Santagata – Ebla (CSS-Ebla) and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, with the support of the Fondazione CRT, Compagnia di San Paolo, and the Turin International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO). The workshop was focused on

the links between urban and rural heritage, cultural productions and creativity, so as to define place-based solutions for sustainable local development in urban and peri-urban areas. Accordingly, the programme included 3 subtopics: Urban heritage as driver of change; Cities as incubators of creativity and innovation; and, Cities and rural areas as cooperative systems.

“Special attention is paid to the governance and management issues posed by areas hosting multiple UNESCO designations, and to crosscutting issues such as community involvement, tourism, territorial branding and partnership for fundraising.”, said Giovanna Segre, President of CSS-Ebla. “The Academy has an innovative approach as it brings together stakeholders from UNESCO global networks that have sustainable

development goals at an objective to identify, to share and to discuss management policies and practices.” Participants came from **European and South-East European Countries: Austria; Croatia; Czech Republic; France; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Poland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Ukraine; and, the United Kingdom of Great Britain.** The 2016 workshop

aimed at further developing the participants’ capacities by means of combining presentations, tutorials, team work and site visits. The field work focused on selected case studies in Turin, namely: the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy World Heritage property, the Collina Po Biosphere Reserve, and the Torino UNESCO Creative City for Design. The training course based

at the UN Campus in Turin debated the main challenges, priorities and opportunities posed by sustainable development in relation to the different categories of concerned designations. Training sessions enabled knowledge and experience sharing among participants, with contributions by lecturers from UNESCO, the academic world and other experts. >>full story



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### Links between urban and rural heritage, cultural productions and creativity

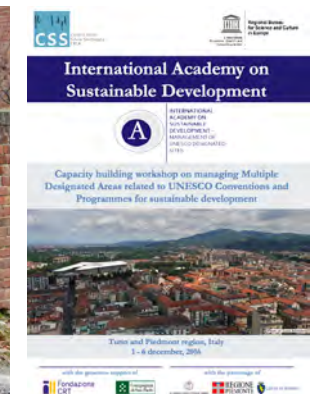
**Urban heritage as driver of change**  
Heritage cities can act as drivers of local and inclusive economic development, playing a crucial role for promoting cultural diversity, social inclusion and engagement towards sustainable practices. New approaches toward urban heritage conservation and management are a major challenge to build up sustainable development policies, in line with the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation, the Policy for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, and other relevant standards.

**Cities as incubators of creativity and innovation**  
Cities, with their physical and social capital can work as networks for incubating and disseminating sustainable development practices based on creativity and innovation. Cultural and creative industries, such as design, gastronomy, arts and crafts, media, music, etc. play a relevant role both for economy of the contemporary society and for the expression of cultural diversity. Tourism itself, as a major object of urban policy and a growing economic sector, could be a powerful driver for sustainable development.

**Cities and rural areas as cooperative systems**  
Cities associated to productive landscapes or natural protected areas could play as functional nodes in which to generate sustainable development by means of innovative integrated management and governance systems. Rural-urban connections are becoming a key issue in determining the quality of life of communities, both in economic and environmental terms, providing opportunities for sustainable income-generating activities, recreational areas, good and healthy food and other ecosystem services.



© UNESCO - Family photo /Capacity-building workshop on “Managing multiple designated areas related to UNESCO conventions and programmes for sustainable urban development”



© CSS-Ebla, Turin





▲ © Lapplaender/ Tourism at Samaria Gorge

## Unveiling the unexplored potential of Biosphere Reserves: around the Mediterranean

Co-organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the Samaria Gorge Management Body and the Region of Crete, with the support of the MAB Secretariat and the Greek MAB National Committee, the workshop took place in Chania, Crete (Greece), on 3-5 October 2016.

The Gorge of Samaria National Park is a mountainous limestone area located on the southwestern coast of Crete renowned for its deep narrow gorge. The gorge was designated a biosphere reserve in 1981 and added to the World Heritage Tentative List of Greece in 2014.

The site plays a key role in the sustainable development of the tourism industry of the Island, with 120,000 tourists out of 3,5 million per year that cross the Gorge. Located at the “heart” of Lefka Ori (White Mountains), the area is rich in flora and fauna and has a high degree of endemism. Human presence is found in the small villages nestled in the mountain foothills; the practice of semi-traditional economic activities is combined with the protection and maintenance of an emblematic

natural environment. Today, the Gorge of Samaria faces a double challenge. On the one hand, that of finding the best management scheme for the protection, enhancement and sustainable development of the biosphere reserve, and on the other, that of setting the standard for a new development approach of one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Mediterranean area. Such development would benefit from the precious help of local institutions and the generous support of the EU funding for Crete. It would also permit to better value the natural route that connects the 3 UNESCO designated sites of the island: Gorge of Samaria Biosphere Reserve, Global Geoparks of Psiloritis Natural Park and Sitia.

The international workshop on “Unveiling the unexplored potential of Biosphere Reserves. Around the Mediterranean” held in Chania over

3 days made a specific reference to the provisions of the Lima Action Plan of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves for 2016-2025, adopted at the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (Lima, Peru; March 2016); and, to the initiatives already taken within the framework of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves as well as the Mediterranean network of Biosphere Reserves.

The objective of the workshop was primarily to facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices among biosphere reserves having common issues to address - such as climate change, tourism development and seasonal migrations, water resources management, etc. The workshop aimed to strengthen knowledge and skills of key biosphere reserves’ stakeholders with a view to enhancing their managerial and communication capacities in addressing the current emerging challenges faced by island and



▲ ©UNESCO - Family Photo International workshop on Unveiling the unexplored potential of Biosphere Reserves. Around the Mediterranean

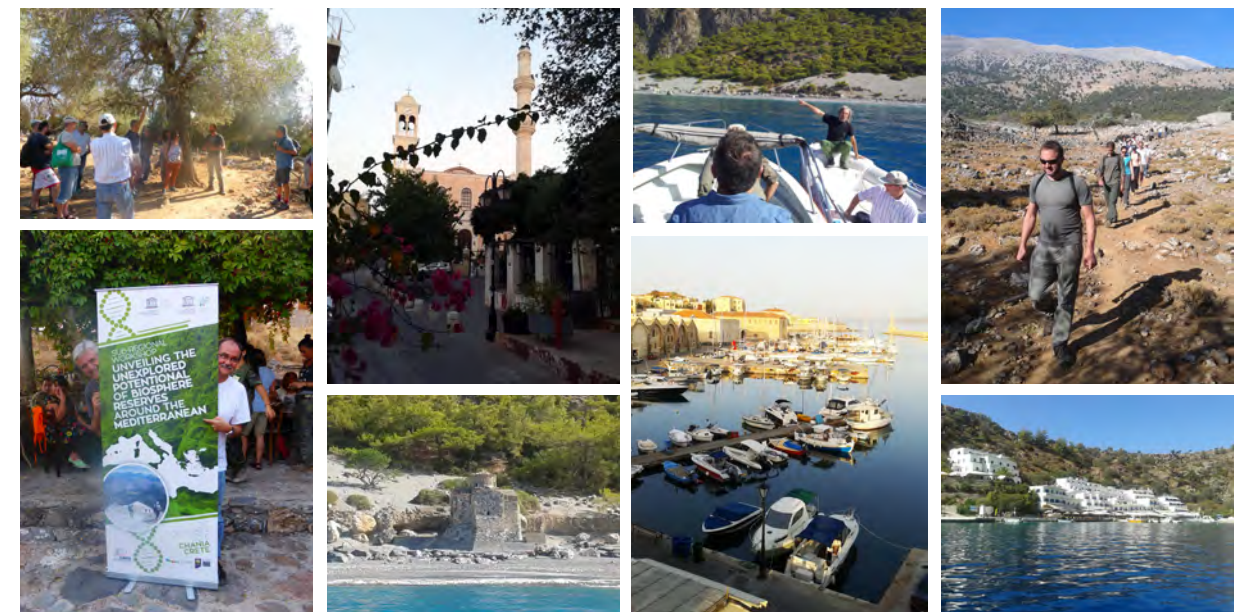
coastal biosphere reserves. The workshop laid the ground for joint action towards Sustainable Tourism.

tourism development is approached and implemented in their respective territory. >> full story

Participants included representatives of existing and future island and coastal biosphere reserves from **Mediterranean countries - including Croatia, France, Greece, Italy and Spain**. Participants presented their biosphere reserve - its management scheme, its main challenges and successes – and provided explanation as to how sustainable



▲ ©Despina Michailidou/ Capra aegagrus creticus; Medecotourism - ecotourism in the mountains of the Samaria National Park; Lapplaender/ Tourism at Samaria Gorge, road sign



### Field visits to the Gorge of Samaria Biosphere Reserve

An alternative track within the biosphere reserve, not heavily visited by tourists. Through an impressive landscape, visits were organised to the villages of “Aradaina” and “Agios Ioannis”, isolated with a dramatic view to the White Mountains and the Libyan Sea. Participants, distributed in 2 or 3 smaller groups, shared feedbacks from the field visit and elaborated on: suggestions they would take back home to improve their governance and sustainable development activities; suggestions they would make from their own experience for the improvement of the Gorge of Samaria Biosphere Reserve zonation and governance schemes.





▲ © 2017 MAB Youth Forum

# 2017 MAB YOUTH FORUM

## 2017 MAB Youth Forum commits to Sustainable Development

**Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy. 18-23 September 2017. Young people are the future of biosphere reserves and must be given a voice in shaping their territory and defining their engagement in the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO.**

The MAB Secretariat offers, in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Bureau located in Venice, an opportunity for young people who care about the special territories in which they live in to become active in the MAB Programme and to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities, in line with the Lima Action Plan.

Announced for the first time during the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru, the forum has been welcomed by a standing ovation! The forum will take place from 18 to 23 September 2017 in the heart of the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve. The 5 days will be organized in

plenary sessions and parallel sessions, which will be carried out in various symbolic places of the Po Delta, in order to encourage exchanges between the participants and the actors of the territory.

A large-scale, online consultation will shortly be implemented among youth stakeholders of the MAB, which will provide an opportunity to define their expectations and the issues which will be debated during the Forum.

At the moment, 3 thematic areas around which to develop the preparation and implementation of the Forum have been identified: The contribution of young people to the life of biosphere reserves; Research and studies into the sustainable development of biosphere reserves; and, A sustainable future for the youth of biosphere reserves

The Forum is addressed to youth aged between 18 and 35 who live or work in biosphere reserves, or who study or conduct research in

these areas. The participants will be nominated by their respective biosphere reserve managers/ coordinators, and supported by their MAB National Committees.

The organizers will promote a gender parity in the Forum participation and, considering the 3 main thematic areas of the Forum, the following main categories of participants should be also equally represented:

- Youth active in the civil society (associations) of their territory
- Youth dedicating their studies/ research to their territory
- Youth earning their livelihood within the biosphere reserve

Thanks to the economic support provided by UNESCO and by the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo, the organizers of the Forum will be able to cover the travel costs for up to 100 participants, particularly those from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. >>full story



▲ © 2017 MAB Youth Forum



▲ © 2017 MAB Youth Forum



The Lima Action Plan, adopted in March 2016 at the IV World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, to implement the 2015-2025 Strategy of the MAB Programme, provides a sound basis on which to build initiatives such as the 2017 MAB Youth Forum. We refer, in particular, to the desire to establish strong partnerships with universities and research institutions to support essential capacity-building processes, and the need to strengthen and support a participatory and inclusive network of all stakeholders within the MAB Programme and biosphere reserves, to ensure the better involvement of youth in governance. The exchange of best practices and the promotion of biosphere reserves as tools for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be an important focus of the Forum since they should be models of sustainability across the board, from the good management of natural resources to the green economy, from sustainable tourism to education.

The Forum is conceived as an event that will provide young people with a unique opportunity to meet, debate and share their vision and commitment to sustainable development. It aims to become a place where strategies and action proposals can be discussed and implemented in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum is fully aligned with UNESCO's Operational Strategy on Youth. Young women and men are a priority group of the Organization's actions, engaging them not only as beneficiaries of actions, but also as fully-fledged actors and partners. Their civic involvement, participation in democratic life and social innovation are among the main fields of focus of UNESCO's work in the framework of the Strategy. Strengthening their participation in MAB networks and their involvement in the management of biosphere reserves aims to ensure they become agents of change and promoters of a more equitable and sustainable society.

### Ambassadors

MAB Youth ambassadors (ideally one per region of the world) will be designated at the end of the Forum and charged with the mission of representing the MAB Youth community during the 2017 UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris; and presenting the messages from the Forum to the MAB ICC in June 2018.

### Participants

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1. Youth active in the civil society (associations) of their territory;
2. Youth dedicating their studies/research to their territory;
3. Youth earning their livelihood within the biosphere reserve.

A good knowledge of English is required, since it will be the lingua franca of all activities of the Forum.

### Application procedures

Participants will have to fill out the application form at :

[www.MYForum2017.com](http://www.MYForum2017.com)

They must attach a motivation letter and a letter of recommendation/support from their biosphere reserve.





▲ Athens Nature Journal - Summer University of Samothraki 2016 Snapshots

## Integrated management approaches for Biosphere Reserves at Summer University of Samothraki 2016

The island of Samothrace in Greece hosted from 9-22 July 2016 a Summer University on the themes of Aquatic & Social Ecology: Theory and Practice (Course A), and Integrated Water and Coastal Management - Educational and Participatory Approaches (Course B). Supported by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the school provided high quality education to postgraduate students and young scientists from European and South-East European countries on Integrated Management practices of biosphere reserves and various other categories of protected areas (National Parks, Areas Natura 2000, etc.).

The Island of Samothrace, or Samothraki as often referred to, is among the rare remaining examples of natural island beauty among the Greek Aegean Archipelago. A large part of its total surface area of about 178 square kilometres is mountainous, owing to the volcanic origin of the island, the highest peak rising up to 1,611 meters. Most of this mountain territory is currently protected as a Natura 2000 conservation area that was extended in 2009 by a marine

protection area. Samothrace's rich fauna includes mammal species, reptile and amphibian, and bird species. A unique characteristic of the island is the abundance of water owing to a winter cover of snow in high altitudes, cool freshwater that flows year round in the numerous streams and rivers of the island across hundreds of waterfalls. This is a rare physical characteristic that is mostly absent from the rest of the Greek islands. Water and its management was at the core of the Summer University of Samothraki 2016 organised within the scope of integrated management approaches for biosphere reserves.

Over 12 days, the school deepened the understanding of the value of biosphere reserves, as "laboratories" and "catalysts" of Sustainable Development. It highlighted the rich natural and cultural diversity and heritage of Samothrace and support the proposal for its inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO. The innovative multidisciplinary and experiential intensive training was designed with the cooperation and synergy of research institution and networks,

universities, national and local authorities, NGOs, as well as key UNESCO branches.

The school combined both plenary and group work with participants included postgraduate students and young scientists from Europe and South-East Europe, including Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Turkey and Kosovo\*. Daily, trainees attended a two-hour plenary - where the most important issues were presented in the form of lectures. Trainees spread in smaller groups to follow complementary directions of the Summer University (Courses A and B) and, in parallel, undertook intensive guided group work and/or research under the guidance of the invited professors and experts. By the end of the school, participants synthesized their work in the form of presentations - including recommendations for the sustainable management of biosphere reserves, using the Samothrace island as a study case. In course B, two entire days were dedicated to the GWPO Toolbox, and key lessons learned from its application around the world.

The Summer University of Samothraki 2016 was organised by:

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research; Vienna Institute of Social Ecology, Alpen Adria University; University of Patras; UNESCO Chair and Network of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (UoA); Network of Mediterranean Universities (MedUnNET); Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and its Educational Initiative MEDIES; Technical University of Catalonia; and, University of Antalya.

The summer school was supported by: UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe; Municipality of Samothrace; and,



▲ UNESCO - Summer University of Samothraki 2016

Global Water Partnership (GWPO), under the auspices of: Special Secretariat for Water of the Ministry of Environment & Energy of Greece;

MAB National Committee of Greece; and, Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO. >>full story  
\*Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution. 1244/99

## A coordinated sediment monitoring system up and running for the Sava River Basin

UNESCO and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) are cooperating closely for the implementation of the initiative "Towards Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase". Building upon strategic

Sediment management is an essential element of river basin management plans. "Sediment" covers all natural river bed substrate from fine silts and sands up to large boulders, and is the layer over which water flows and on which plants and animals thrive. Sediment management covers a

management needs to be done on an international scale, the need to coordinate amongst the various state and other actors is a must, as the actions of one country upriver could have dramatic effects on another country downriver.



goals and specific objectives of the sediment monitoring and data exchange system for the Sava River Basin that were established in 2015, a series of activities were implemented in 2016 by ISRBC, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, aimed at the establishment of a coordinated sediment monitoring system in the basin.

wide range of activities that includes anything from the removal of dry gravels to the dredging of whole river channels and the reintroduction of removed sediment into the water environment. Historically, sediment management has been carried out for several reasons, including reducing flood risk, reducing bank erosion, for use as aggregate and to improve land drainage. When sediment

The idea of the project is to bring together the state-of-the-art in scientific as well as practical knowledge on Sustainable Sediment Management (SSM) and to make this knowledge available through practical training courses and a guidance document on SSM, which was launched in November 2015. This guidance is intended to be used by policy makers at international, national/entity and local levels, contracting authorities, designers of water engineering structures and researchers. It is expected that the implementation of the guidance in the Sava River Basin will inspire other river basins in the world to do the same. European and South-East European countries involved in the project are - Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Slovenia. Experts have underlined that all efforts should ideally be supported by developing Part II of both the guidance document and capacity-building efforts undertaken several years ago with the support of UNESCO-IHP, the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Venice and SEDNET. >>full story





# UNESCO and Italian Carabinieri support Bosnia and Herzegovina to fight illicit trafficking of cultural property



▲ © Onuttalia - Carabinieri per l'arte, in fase pre-operativa il progetto "Psyche"

The fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property is a priority on the political agenda about culture of the South-East European countries. When an object is illicitly detached from its context, it can serve no purpose at all. The return of stolen objects to their places of origin is crucial to restore their cultural and spiritual value.

Although the illicit traffic of cultural goods cannot be scaled through exact figures, it is one of the main criminal activities in the world, along with the illicit trade of weapons and drugs. Besides being a crime against the history

and identity of the concerned communities, as well as of the entire humanity, the illicit trafficking of cultural property is increasingly intertwined with other serious transnational criminal activities and networks, including the financing of terrorism.

Since 2006, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe is active in discussing the regional cooperation on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in South-East Europe. A first regional expert meeting was organized in **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, and a

second one followed in **Turkey**. The outcomes and recommendations of the two meetings called for the enhancement of capacity-building actions at national level, with special focus on the coordination among relevant institutional stakeholders including police forces, ministries of culture, customs agencies and the judiciary. 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. In 2014, UNESCO and Italy joined hands to train in Rome officials from



▲ © Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela del Patrimonio Culturale (Carabinieri, Cultural Heritage Protection Department, Italy) - Visits



the national authorities for culture, police and customs of countries of **South-East Europe**. The former **Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** and **Albania** have respectively benefitted from the training.

From 21 to 25 November 2016, a group of officials from relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina visited Rome to benefit from the training organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela del Patrimonio Culturale (Carabinieri, Cultural Heritage Protection Department, Italy). The organisation of the workshop was made possible thanks to the generous contribution of Italy to the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Venice. The objective of this third training workshop in Rome was to raise awareness and develop professional capacities of the concerned services (with special



Protection Department - TPC) and the contribution of international experts, participants in the workshop received information and training on a variety of topics related to the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural properties, as well as on issues such as the restitution or return of cultural objects, preventive measures and risk mitigation. The workshop's resource persons included senior representatives from international organizations - UNESCO, UNIDROIT, UNODC, RILO-WE, - as well as from Italian ministries and specialized services.

During the workshop, participants also had the opportunity to attend a ceremony for the restitution of



▲ © Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela del Patrimonio Culturale - Awarding diplomas to participants - cultural art items seized

focus on police, customs, judiciary, ministries of culture and civil affairs) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at both the State and Entities levels, for the implementation of the relevant international standards, tools, and best practices.

Special focus was set on the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), and on the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995). Thanks to the precious cooperation of the Italian Carabinieri, Comando per la Tutela del Patrimonio Culturale (Cultural Heritage

archaeological items seized by the Cultural Heritage Protection Department - TPC in favour of the Embassies of Ecuador and Guatemala in Italy, as evidence of the crucial importance of international cooperation in fighting such criminal activity.

To date, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property has been ratified by 131 Member States of UNESCO, including many culture-rich countries as well as former hubs of illicit traffic, supporting UNESCO's untiring efforts to foster international cooperation on this topic. >>full story





▲ © Massimo Catarinella - View of Piazza del Campo (Campo Square), the Mangia Tower (Torre del Mangia)

## Walled Cities, Open Societies: Managing Historic Walls in urban World Heritage properties

**26-27 January 2017: The workshop is hosted by the City of Siena and organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice, Italy), in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The workshop will be structured over 2 days along the following thematic panels: Integrating historic walls within management systems; Sustainable use and conservation of historic walls; and, Communicating heritage: new symbolic values for historic walls.**

The world's urban population represented around 10% of humanity in the beginning of the 20th century, and 50% in the beginning of the 21st century. By 2050, it is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the 21st century's most transformative trends. Cultural heritage, in all its forms, either tangible or intangible, is increasingly "urban". The challenge is presently to build a new development culture and practice, harnessing the digital revolution, based on the regeneration and

sustainable use of heritage and cultural assets as part of a new socio-economic, environmental and cultural balance for tomorrow's cities, while addressing social change and transformations. Urban ensembles or cultural heritage within an urban context are one of the most represented categories of properties on the World Heritage List. In many of them, especially in Europe, historic walls either coincide with the inscribed property's boundaries or are included therein. Historic walls are a meaningful legacy representing the multifaceted relations of towns and cities with the surrounding environment, as well as their layered history, sometimes keeping people in and sometimes out.

The workshop aims at promoting the sharing of relevant experience among city managers, scholars/researchers and other relevant practitioners, and at developing their capacities to manage this heritage for the benefit of local communities. Special attention will be paid to exploring the links



▲ © Siena views - Michal Osmenda, Massimo Catarinella, o2ma

between culture and sustainable development, highlighting how heritage-based innovative approaches can serve urban development and regeneration. The workshop will explore the integration of walled historic cities' specific built heritage in their urban and socio-economic environment, including the relevant planning and institutional frameworks. It will further look into how modern needs are addressed in a historic setting, through a series of thematic panels and case studies focusing on different links between development issues and heritage values, with special focus on World Heritage walled cities in Europe.

The meeting will be an opportunity to strengthen cooperation among participating cities, universities, and other relevant actors, with a view to develop partnerships for promotion, research and innovation, and resource mobilization. Expected participants in the



▲ © City of Siena - The City Assembled, Spiro Kostof

workshop are mayors and other representatives of the managing authorities from selected World Heritage cities in Europe, notably city planners; scholars and researchers; World Heritage focal points at country level; together with UNESCO staff and other international resource persons. Participating cities from **European and South-**

**East European countries include: Albania; Croatia; Estonia; France; Greece; Montenegro; Republic of Malta; Romania; Spain; Turkey and United Kingdom.** The workshop's concept, programme and background documents have been developed with the kind support and cooperation of the Mediterranean Network of UNESCO Chairs. >>full story

## EU countries share experiences on Disaster Risk Management for cultural heritage at the European Parliament

**UNESCO supported the organisation of a workshop on "Emergency intervention for Cultural Heritage" to share good practices on the protection of heritage from disasters, which took place at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, on 29 September 2016. The workshop was hosted by Mircea Diaconu, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-President of the Committee on Culture and Education.**

The initiative was intended to support the Ministry of Culture of **Romania** and the Romanian Institute for Cultural Heritage in their efforts to improve the legal, institutional, and operational framework for the protection of cultural heritage in Romania, by means of presenting and discussing selected experiences from other European countries. Special attention was paid to cooperation between cultural heritage and civil protection authorities and professionals with regard to the reduction and management of disaster risks for cultural heritage deriving from natural and human-induced hazards.

UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, its Culture Sector's Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit, and its Liaison Office in Brussels supported to the organisation of the workshop by providing advice and technical assistance for the definition of the programme and the selection of relevant case-studies and resource persons.

The workshop was opened by Mircea Diaconu, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Education and Culture; Oana Bogdan, State Secretary at the Ministry of Culture of Romania; and Paolo Fontani, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels and Representative to the European Institutions. The introductory speeches and following session on sharing experiences among European countries on Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage were respectively moderated by the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Venice and the International Scientific Committee

on Risk Preparedness of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS-ICORP). Presentations from invited countries focused on respective experiences with regard to risk prevention and management as well as post-disaster emergency interventions.

Participants and speakers included representatives of cultural heritage and civil protection authorities from Romania, Austria, France, Italy and Spain, as well as international experts from ICOMOS-ICORP and UNESCO.

>>full story



▲ © UNESCO Brussels/ "Emergency intervention for Cultural Heritage" Workshop at the European Parliament





▲ © UNESCO Archives - c4388

## UNESCO joins Venice in its remembrance of the great flood of 1966, the Aqua Granda

UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, based in Venice, participated with the Italian authorities, the Municipality of Venice and a wide range of institutions and stakeholders in the commemoration of the great flood, "Aqua Granda 1966-2016".

On 4 November 1966, the exceptional rise of water caused severe damage to the cities of Venice and Florence, their inhabitants and their cultural heritage. UNESCO's involvement for Venice started with the appeal launched by its then Director-General, René Maheu, on 2 December 1966, which led to the International Safeguarding Campaign for the Safeguarding of Venice. Funding and assistance came from all over the globe.

The campaign, which ended in 1991, resulted in an outstanding cooperation experience that allowed the restoration of major monuments within the city, in close collaboration with the Superintendencies (Ministry of Cultural Heritage) and some 50 private committees established throughout the world, demonstrating international solidarity, both public and private. The spirit of the Campaign is still alive today in the joint UNESCO-

International Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice, which allowed some 700 restoration and conservation projects, as well as research and capacity-building activities.

The "Venice Report" published by UNESCO in 1969 called the attention of the international community to the need to extend the safeguarding efforts to the entire ecosystem of the Lagoon of Venice. The report also led to the adoption in 1973 of the Italian "Special Law for Venice" recognizing the safeguarding of the site as a national priority. That same year, UNESCO opened an office in Venice to coordinate the Campaign, which expanded further until becoming, with the support of the Italian Government, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

The international conference promoted by UNESCO in 1981 set the basis for the launching of the "Venice Lagoon System" project,

a vast international research effort funded by the Italian authorities over an entire decade (1990-2000), providing a considerable knowledge for the management of Venice and its lagoon.

As one of the entities in charge of its implementation, UNESCO developed two projects, first the "Venice Lagoon Ecosystem" (1990-1994), followed by the "Venice Inner Canals" (1995-1999). This last project led to the development of a Sediment Transport Model of the inner canals of Venice as well as to the development of a web-based GIS

application as a Decisional Support System for the urban planning and management of the City of Venice, successively transferred to the entity responsible for the integrated restoration project of the Venice inner canals.

In 1987, Venice and its lagoon were recognized as an inseparable whole of which the city is the pulsating historic heart and a unique artistic achievement. The site was inscribed on the World Heritage List, due to its uniqueness and outstanding universal value. Between 2009 and 2012, UNESCO

sustained the Municipality of Venice in coordinating a large consultation process which led to the Management Plan for the World Heritage property of "Venice and its Lagoon".

Today, after 50 years, UNESCO and its Member States remain committed to the challenges of safeguarding Venice, standing beside the responsible Italian authorities, favouring an approach of support to all the institutions responsible for protecting "Venice and its Lagoon" World Heritage site. [>>full story](#)



▲ Comune di Venezia - Fotoreporter, Venice flood of 1966

## From the emergency to the restoration of cultural heritage. Stories and images from the archives of Venice



▲ Biblioteca Marciana - Exhibition

Among the numerous events organised as part of "Aqua Granda 1966-2016", UNESCO contributed to the exhibition "From the emergency to the restoration of cultural heritage. Stories and images from the archives of the city". The exhibition ran from 28 October 2016 until 27 November 2016 at the Marciana National Library in Venice, Italy.

The Aqua Granda 1966-2016 exhibition at the Marciana National Library (original title: "Venezia 1966-2016. Dall' emergenza al recupero del patrimonio culturale. Storie e immagini dagli archivi della città") was organised by the State Archives of Venice, the Marciana National Library, the Municipality of Venice, in collaboration with the State Central Archives of Rome, the Archive Superintendence for Veneto and Trentino - Alto Adige, the Venice

Superintendence of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscapes, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the Association of International Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice, the Italia Nostra-Venezia, the RAI Veneto and the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland.

During the inauguration ceremony several personalities intervened among which the Director of the Marciana National Library, the Director of the State Archives of Venice, the Venice Superintendent of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscapes, the Secretary General of the Ministry of cultural properties and activities and tourism, the Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau, the Vice-President of the Association of the International Private Committees for the

Safeguarding of Venice, the Chair of Italia Nostra-Venice.

Documents and photographs originating from the archives of the main Venetian institutions, both public and private, offered a retrospective of the great flood, as well as numerous testimonies.

A video realised by the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne illustrated chronologically 50 years of restoration projects implemented during the International Safeguarding Campaign for Venice and within the Joint UNESCO-International Private Committees Programme for the Safeguarding of Venice, as well as by various private committees directly. A specific documentary was realised by the Italian television RAI, including pictures, film archives and interviews. [>>full story](#)





▲ © UNESCO - Irina Bokova and Francesco Bandarin, Grand Canal in Venice (Italy)

## 50 years after the Venice flood, the UNESCO Director-General renews commitment to the World Heritage City

On 3 and 4 November, fifty years after the 1966 Venice flood and the International Safeguarding Campaign launched by UNESCO, the Director-General, Irina Bokova, undertook a visit to Venice, Italy.

The visit was an opportunity to mark the longstanding cooperation with Italy and to express UNESCO's support to its government and people after the country was struck by a series of powerful earthquakes – causing human casualties and considerable damage to heritage, notably in Amatrice and Norcia. In Venice, the Director-General opened an international conference at the Fondazione Cini on the future of the lagoon city and the sustainable management of its heritage, entitled "Sustainability of local commons with a global value: the case of Venice and its lagoon".

The Director-General reiterated UNESCO's determination to support the Italian authorities in the safeguarding of the World Heritage site of Venice today, in response to the rise of sea level and tourist pressure, which is expected to grow dramatically. This event took place in the presence of Mr

Giovanni Bazoli, President of the Cini Foundation, and Ms Ilaria Borletti Buitoni, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism.

During the visit of the exhibition entitled "Venezia 1966-2016. Dall' emergenza al recupero del patrimonio culturale. Storie e immagini dagli archivi della città" (From the emergency to the restoration of cultural heritage) organized to commemorate this event at the Marciana National Library), the Director-General recalled the depth of UNESCO's engagement in Venice since the launch of the International Safeguarding Campaign in 1966, which resulted in outstanding cooperation and worldwide support for the inventorying and restoration of major monuments within the city.

The Director-General held a one-hour bilateral working meeting



▲ Municipality of Venice; University Ca' Foscari of Venice; Fondazione Giorgio Cini onlus; Archimede Seguso glass factory; UNESCO



▲ © Han Meilin -Director-General visit of 'The World of Han Meilin', an exhibition sponsored by the Municipality of Venice, the Italian Ministries of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism and of Foreign Affairs, hosted at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice

with the Mayor of the city, Mr Luigi Brugnaro, to discuss the way forward. "We all agree on the need to alleviate the immense touristic pressure on the city, and we will work with all those ready to provide concrete proposals to build a sustainable future for the city," said the Mayor. "We are all in this together, in the same team for the protection of Venice," said the Director-General.

"Venice is a shared heritage of outstanding universal value, it must remain also a dynamic place where all Venetian can live and work. UNESCO is deeply respectful of Italian efforts and is determined to support the people of Venice in this endeavor," said Irina Bokova.

The Director-General and the Mayor agreed to meet in the following

weeks to continue this discussion and come up with concrete proposals in view of the next meeting of the World Heritage Committee. Irina Bokova also met with Undersecretary Ilaria Borletti Buitoni to discuss the vital cooperation with Italian authorities, which is more important than ever. "Venice calls on us to work together, bringing together Ministries of Culture, Foreign Affairs, Environment and Transport, there is no other way but joint cooperation and a culture of dialogue," concluded the Director-General.

During her visit, the Director-General highlighted the diversity and dynamism of city, as a cultural powerhouse, and the potential of cooperation with UNESCO to promote creative industries as a source of pride and jobs for the city. She discussed these subjects with the

President of the Biennale of Venice, Mr Paolo Baratta, and visited the Seguso Glass Factory in Murano. While in Venice, the Director-General also gave a lecture at the Ca' Foscari University on the theme "Fostering Cultural Diversity as a shared heritage to build Peace", in the presence of Professor Tiziana Lippiello, Pro-Rector of the Ca' Foscari University. "Venice has always been a crossroads of cultures, bringing together people from across the world, at the western end of the silk roads, sharing goods and ideas. We need to learn from the lessons of Venice, and strengthen such cultural literacy to live in peace in the world today," said the Director-General. On this occasion, the Director-General received an Honorary fellow of Ca' Foscari University of Venice. >>full story



▲ © UNESCO - Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General with UNESCO Venice Office staff and ADG/CLT, family photo; from left to right: Mohammad Taufiq, Francesca Santoro, Laura De Stefani, Lejla Hrejla, Maja Nicolic, Anne Ajoux, Sinisa Sesum, Lauren Bohatka, Veronique Dauge, Cristina Faccia, Francesco Bandarin, Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Matteo Rosati, Marina Gilebbi, Philippe Pypaert, Giulia Della Giustina, Benedetta Colasanti, Jun Fei Qian, Jiayao Gu, Wally Merotto, Claudio Vincenzi and Razvan Ioan Dimitriu





▲ © Lake Ohrid - Instagram

## Protecting Lake Ohrid : Towards strengthened governance of this shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage

The EU-funded project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region” aims to improve transboundary cooperation and management effectiveness for the protection of the natural and cultural heritage in the Lake Ohrid region.

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

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

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

During the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, the EU and Albania funded project “Towards Strengthened Governance of the Shared Transboundary Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid

Region” was cited as a model for World Heritage upstream processes aimed at supporting World Heritage nomination efforts by national and local authorities. The Lake Ohrid project was highlighted for its strong capacity-building components for integrated management and its interlinkages of natural and cultural heritage conservation. In cooperation with the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) capacity building activities related to integrated management and other relevant thematic areas, such as collaborative management. >>full story



▲ © Protecting Lake Ohrid - our shared responsibilities and benefits

## Promoting People-Centred Approaches: Engaging Communities in the Conservation of Nature and Culture

The Regional Course took place in the Lake Ohrid region in **Albania** and in **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** on 4-13 October 2016, with the aim to provide heritage practitioners with the necessary tools to engaging communities in the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

The course was organized to reinforce knowledge and provide tools to work more effectively with communities through existing management systems to experts from partner institutions of Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The course, open to practitioners from the wider

region, allowed to create a forum for participants to share their experiences from both the cultural and natural heritage sectors, learning from other heritage practitioners who are actively involved with communities.

The course consisted of lectures, interactive sessions on sharing experiences and practical exercises based on a real-life case study. Engaging communities in all processes of World Heritage has been emphasized by the World Heritage Committee through recognizing the engaging of ‘communities’ amongst its five strategic directions. This also strengthens article 5 of the



▲ © UNESCO - Lake Ohrid, Albania

World Heritage Convention, which explicitly indicates States Parties should adopt general policies aiming to give cultural and natural heritage a ‘function in the life of the community.’ >>more

## 4th Transboundary Platform Meeting to safeguard Lake Ohrid

The project’s fourth transboundary Meeting took place on 27 and 28 October 2016 in Struga, **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**.

Representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and Ministry of Culture of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the Albanian Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Culture and the Albanian National Agency on Protected Areas; as well as members of the joint secretariat of the transboundary Water Management Committee for Lake Ohrid; representatives from the local governments around the lake and UNESCO, got together to pursue



▲ © UNESCO - Slavica Panova Struga in the Lake Ohrid Region

their work in establishing a viable cooperation platform. Transboundary Platform Meetings have been designed to facilitate management and collaboration between Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to develop a strengthened

management framework for the potential transboundary extension of the mixed World Heritage property: “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region” (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) to the Albanian part.

The objective of the meeting was to review progress made in the implementation of the abovementioned project and to discuss and agree on the steps to ensure greater synergies and complementarity between the management plans for the existing World Heritage property. >>more

## Nature Management Training in the Lake Ohrid region



▲ © UNESCO / IUCN/ Aleksandra Nikodinovic - Fisherman

The training course “Nature Management for the Proposed Extension of the World Heritage Property: Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region” was held in Tushemisht, **Albania**, on 6-7 December 2016.

The course aimed to build capacities for implementing nature management actions based on cross-sectoral cooperation for the proposed extension to the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid region of the existing World Heritage property. The training course, was coordinated by IUCN with the support of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, to contribute to a shared understanding of the ecosystem of the region; of the threats to the lake ecosystem; and, of the actions required to address those threats. The training offered a conceptual background, case studies and group exercises on nature management.

The health of the lake ecosystem is critical to the region, but can easily be overlooked. This gap was addressed by bringing together experts and managers to highlight the values of the lake and identify measures and means for effective conservation of the lake ecosystem. The training focused on communicating the science of the Lake Ohrid Ecosystem to non-specialists involved in its management, who will learn why the lake is so important and how scientific information, research and monitoring should be used to inform the planning and management of the lake and its surroundings. >>more



## UNESCO helps build regional capacity in Disaster-Risk Management of South-East European designated sites



▲ © UNDP BiH – Floods recovery 2014 in Maglaj, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Professionals from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia were the beneficiaries of the sub-regional workshop on “Managing Disaster Risks in UNESCO Designated Sites” held in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 10-13 October 2016. The event was organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in support of the World Heritage Convention and the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, in cooperation with the National Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for UNESCO and the City of Mostar.

Of great concern to the international community, natural hazards draw attention to the impending threats that may affect our life and shared cultural and natural heritage. While most disasters cannot be prevented, preparatory measures can mitigate or effectively reduce their impacts and risk preparedness can contain expenses during the recovery phase. Heritage can likewise contribute to reducing the impacts of disasters. Improving the management of risks for designated sites - properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and biosphere reserves - is necessary to attempt preventing and reducing damage

from disasters and to preserve their cultural and natural values, thus protecting an essential support for the social and economic well-being of their communities.

Policies and practical measures have been developed to address these challenges. The Strategy for Risk Reduction at World Heritage Properties approved in 2007 by the World Heritage Committee encourages all States Parties to develop disaster risk management plans for the World Heritage properties in their respective countries. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 emphasizes the importance of reducing disaster risk in cultural and natural heritage sites.

In 2014 and 2016, several countries of South-East Europe and Italy were devastated by severe floods, earthquakes and other natural and manmade disasters, that caused loss of lives and enormous economic damages to the affected countries. Awareness was raised of the need to strengthen disaster risk preparedness, in general terms but also in relation to management of cultural and natural heritage. Disaster risk management is however still at a preliminary stage among heritage site managers and

governance bodies, although the region has a high level of exposure to various hazards.

The workshop in Mostar followed previous workshops focusing on the same theme at regional or national levels (Sofia 2014; La Valetta, 2015; Sighisoara, 2015). It targeted UNESCO designated sites from **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia** with a view to introducing disaster risk reduction principles in site management plans and improving cooperation between site managers and civil protection authorities. Special attention was drawn to the necessary legal, institutional and policy framework adjustments, to enable the application of disaster risk reduction principles within the concerned sites.

The objective of the workshop was, first, to raise the awareness and understanding among relevant stakeholders of the principles of disaster risk management; and, secondly, to build stakeholders' capacities to elaborate and integrate risk management plans in the governance of their designated sites. The workshop included representatives from the 3 beneficiary countries of site managing bodies of World Heritage properties and biosphere reserves;

representatives of relevant emergency responders and civil protection agencies, at both local and central levels; national focal points for World Heritage and the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB); and, other relevant stakeholders. The workshop applied a participatory methodology based

on the World Heritage Resource *Manual Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage* (2010). Special focus was devoted to geohazards risk preparedness, with emphasis on landslides, seismic events, floods and wild fires, through the participation of an international team of experts. The workshop provided participants

with knowledge on current thinking, methods and tools available for the identification, assessment and management of multiple natural-derived risks and preparatory measures to mitigate their impact and damages both at human and material levels in the designated sites. >>full story



▲ © UNDP BiH – Floods recovery 2014

## Ground Source Heat Exchangers innovative solution for sustainable energy soon to be tested in Croatia



A demonstration of Cheap-GSHPs (Cheap and Efficient Application of reliable Ground Source Heat Exchangers and Pumps) will be hosted at the premises of the of The Nikola Tesla Technical Museum in Zagreb, one of the most visited museums in Croatia. The management of the museum is committed to replace the heating system based on highly consuming, undersized and expensive electric heaters located in the temporary exhibitions room, where the Cheap-GSHPs solution will be implemented.

Thanks to funding from the European Union, through the Horizon 2020 programme, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) and the National Research Centre of Italy, Institute of Atmosphere Sciences and Climate (CNR-ISAC) carried out a couple of missions during 2016, visiting the management authority of the museum and the concerned spaces with encouraging findings.

The team benefited from the assistance of the museum management authority and of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (FSB) at the University of Zagreb (**Croatia**). Preliminary findings confirmed that the hydrogeological settings are very promising to host a Cheap-GSHPs

derived solution due to the high return of energy from the Ground Source Heat Exchangers - as already demonstrated by installations in the neighbouring University of Zagreb FSB. A set of geological materials derived from the coring activities operated at the university campus was collected and handed over to the Cheap-GSHPs project. Additional technical investigations on the local thermal conductivity and structural elements of the museum are underway. Due to the ongoing renovation in the exhibition area of the museum, where Cheap-GSHPs application is expected to take place, a better

insight into the underlying structure was made possible, allowing a more thorough analysis of potentialities and drawbacks of that area with the management authority of the museum.

The Technical Museum in Zagreb is willing to display Cheap-GSHPs installations as a permanent component of education to renewable energy and energy efficiency. It is also committed, by mandate, to promote science-related educational, informative and exhibitions activities, lectures and panel discussions to popularise science, using its own



▲ ©UNESCO/ family photo CHEAP-GSHPs Mission Zagreb February 2017

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



## ICT-based solutions at the service of Disaster Risk Reduction

The 2016 September workshop was a milestone event of the H2020 Project “Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies” (I-REACT) which aims to set an integrated platform to support emergency response in case of floods and wildfires, or other extreme events, by leveraging on a wide array of new information and communication technologies for real time reporting, exploiting social media, imagery from space as well as wearable (bands, smart glasses) and drone technologies.

UNESCO’s contribution to the I-REACT project is consistent with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in particular with the use of communications and geospatial and space-based technologies and related services to strengthen the use of mobile phone networks in support of national measures for successful disaster risk communication - as appropriate and in accordance with national laws. The technological innovation embedded in the I-REACT project aspires to increase effectiveness and coordination of emergency responders on the entire disaster management cycle, with particular emphasis in multi-hazard preparedness and warning.

The International workshop on “Increasing Resilience to Natural hazards through Information and Communication Technology” was jointly organised by the Section on

Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction and the Science Unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the Institute Superiore Mario Boella – ISMB (Project leader), and the Consorzio per il Sistema Informativo del Piemonte (CSI-Piemonte) in Italy.

The event took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, on 14-15 September 2016. The workshop was built upon an interactive framework in which emergency responders and carefully-selected international advisors will interplay with I-REACT system developers to provide substantial feedback on how the system should be conceived, designed and developed so as to better tackle the hazards at stake - mainly floods and fires – and, how to bridge the existing gap between innovative space-based solutions and end users in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR). The lack of information, the inherent complexity modern tools and their poor interoperability constrain end users by putting up obstacles to benefiting from innovative solutions.

UNESCO’s role in enhancing the capacity of Member States in DDR through the use of technological innovation and science is fully in line with this strategic vision, which also entails a meaningful action and a well-devised, innovative mobilisation of citizens and professional volunteers, through the use of an integrated system, that encompasses

social media and crowdsource technologies.

The workshop hosted end-users from 8 Member States in Europe - including **Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal and United Kingdom of Great Britain**, I-REACT’s Advisory Board members, composed of high profile experts and professionals from the public, private and

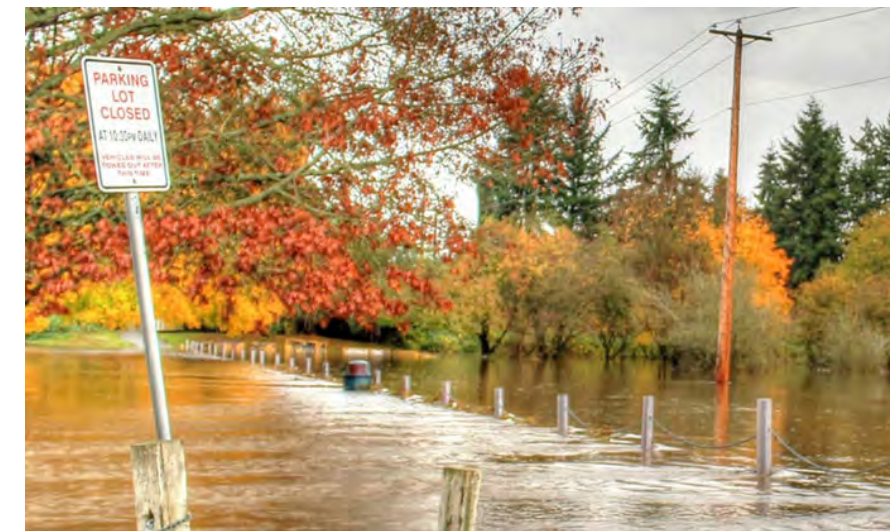
intergovernmental sectors, also participated in the workshop. The Advisory Board interacted with the project team and users and, helped define the strategy for a successful implementation of the project with a medium and long-term perspective.

The consultation served to identify practical ways to link research and innovation activities of the I-REACT project to the requirements of

national and international disaster risk management professionals. This also with a view to better coordinate efforts and services for risk reduction and disaster prevention for a more resilient society, that adopts a broader and a more people-centered preventive approach to disaster – as recommended by the Sendai Framework. >>full story

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

## FLOODIS project extension strengthens resilience and flood preparedness in Albania



© FLOODIS- Better information in your hands

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

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

Floods are rising in Albania, requiring a more efficient and effective

coordination between civil protection authorities and the entities in charge of weather forecasting and environmental monitoring with the inclusion of professional volunteers and skilled users from the local communities and required external expertise to enhance safety of persons and property. This is the challenge that prompted Albania to join the EU-funded FLOODIS project to test the area of Shkodra with success in June 2015. The project FLOODIS (Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing a flood information service), a collaborative European Community project funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7-SPACE-2013-1), ran from 2013 to

2015 under the leadership of ISMB in Turin with the participation of UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in Venice. Aimed at supporting the implementation of the EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC in Albania, FLOODIS intended to support the development of policies and provide technical assistance necessary to strengthen early warning and flood monitoring systems promoting the national framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The project, implemented with UNESCO as a partner, was developed to provide disaster alert and information system leveraging on existing space and mobile communication assets for emergency response teams and affected citizens. Following the optimal results achieved in the testing phase of the FLOODIS application, a second phase began in order to operationalise its real time reporting function, being a highly valued service according to the Civil Protection authority in Albania, and within the DEWETRA platform.

The DEWETRA platform is a real-time integrated system for hydro-meteorological and wildfire risk forecasting, monitoring and prevention created by CIMA foundation, on behalf of the Italian Civil Protection Department, endorsed by the World Meteorological Organization, and operated in Albania in joint cooperation with IGewe. The system is based on the rapid data availability for the establishment of up-to-date, reliable risk scenarios. >>full story



## Teachers from learners to thinkers. Ark of Inquiry trains Italian educators in IBSE methodology



Training was given to teachers from the provinces of Naples, Vicenza and Perugia, under the EU-funded Ark of Inquiry project, implemented in Italy by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. Over

and December 2016. - *Naples nucleus*: 36 teachers from predominantly lower secondary schools participated in the first part of the 20-hour training course at the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn. They

model of Ark of Inquiry, the pedagogical scenarios and how to apply them. Working group sessions were focused on the first module 'Teachers as Learners', sustaining the reflection on applying inquiry-



Teacher educator



Science centres and museums



Pupil



Scientist

Ark of Inquiry - Graphics

a hundred teachers were introduced to the basic and intermediate tenets of inquiry-based science education according to the Ark of Inquiry training model, propelling them to apply the lessons learned in their classrooms.

To achieve the vision of creating a "new science classroom", the Ark of Inquiry project is training teachers from across **12 European countries - Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, and Turkey** - in inquiry-based science education (IBSE) through the use of vetted online activities in their classrooms. The training is composed of 3 separate, yet interrelated modules: Teachers as Learners (phase 1), Teachers as Thinkers (phase 2) and Teachers as Reflective Practitioners (phase 3).

In close cooperation with national partner the National Association of Natural Science Teachers (ANISN), the training modules in Italy were used in varying and tailored approaches according to the level of IBSE understanding and awareness by each set of trainees. Three Ark of Inquiry nuclei (communities of teachers and trainers) have taken the first steps in the South (Naples, Campania region), North (Rosà, Veneto region) and Centre (Foligno, Umbria region) of Italy. The first and second phases of the training courses were held between October

were introduced to the inquiry model of the project and discovered the huge amount of resources available on the project website and portal. Through working groups and plenary discussions, they were supported on how to apply and adapt the inquiry activities available on the Ark of Inquiry portal in their science classrooms, transforming them according to different pedagogical scenarios. Teachers later focused on the third and final training module 'Teachers as Reflective Practitioners'.

- *Rosà nucleus*: The Istituto Comprensivo Statale "A.G. Roncalli" hosted the training course with participation of 39 teachers from primary and lower secondary schools. The first part of the 20-hour training introduced teachers to the inquiry

based learning when instructing the youngest of pupils. Teachers, having already experience in inquiry teaching, discussed in depth the different possibilities for the various pedagogical scenarios they may encounter working on an inquiry activity. During the second training session, teachers were exposed to the 'Teachers as Reflective Practitioners' training module.

- *Foligno nucleus*: 39 primary and secondary school teachers participated to the first of two 8-hour trainings held at the Experimental Sciences Laboratory of Foligno. As teachers in Foligno were not already familiar with the Inquiry approach and Responsible Research and Innovation and had little practical experience in



UNESCO - Ark of Inquiry teachers' training

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

applying them in their classrooms, a more accurate introduction were proposed on IBSE and inquiry models. Through working groups, they focused on the first training module 'Teachers as learners' and carried out hands-on activity chosen by the trainer from the Ark of Inquiry portal.

A very positive follow-up has been collected by the attending teachers, the majority of whom have already started to develop the activities with their students. In Naples and Rosà, they have created different subgroups choosing the same inquiry activity, mainly from the Italian



Ark of Inquiry - Graphics

resources but also among resources available in English.

The aim of the Ark of Inquiry teachers training in Italy was to enhance the cooperation in sharing different points of view coming from different teachers and classroom contexts and to collect evidence on the effectiveness of the resources transformed according to different

scenarios. The remaining training sessions for all 3 nuclei are foreseen to be concluded within January 2017.

UNESCO will continue to periodically follow-up with the teachers trained to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the trainings in their classrooms. [>>full story](#)

## Regional Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development for Learning Cities & SDG4 - Education 2030



© Thomas Fries Hamburg western HafenCity area and Speicherstadt

**Over 50 experts and city representatives from Europe and North America gathered in Hamburg, Germany, from 12-14 December 2016. The aim of the regional workshop was to further advance the role of cities in accelerating sustainable solutions at local level through education. The Europe and North America region was the first to officially adopt the strategy of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, towards the promotion of a better quality of life for populations and human settlements.**

UNESCO promotes Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through the Global Action Programme (GAP), the official follow-up to the

UN Decade for ESD. It is against this background that key partners, the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities with its secretariat at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) and the City of Hamburg, organised the Regional workshop for Europe and North America, in collaboration with UNESCO Education sector and UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

One of the five Priority Action Areas of the GAP focuses on mainstreaming ESD at local level. Ensuring efficient GAP implementation to enhance and integrate ESD at local level means mobilizing local municipalities and communities, ensuring they have sufficient capacities in ESD,

strengthening learning opportunities for citizens in various settings, and also promoting collaboration among relevant local stakeholders in different sectors.

The key outcomes of the Workshop included a better awareness on integrating ESD at local level, supporting the implementation of the SDGs through ESD, and building ESD capacities in cities and municipalities. Priority areas for ESD activities were identified, in particular linking ESD with the different SDGs and their implementation at city level.

Educational scenario exercises for participatory sustainability planning at local level were introduced. The workshop permitted to present ESD practices and policies in urban contexts that could be shared and replicated. Finally, ESD Policy & Action Pact were promoted.

Partnerships will be explored between the cities having similar profile and challenges, for example between the cities of Hamburg and Venice (including the potential of the Universities of Hamburg and Ca' Foscari), encouraging expansion of multi-stakeholder ESD platforms, and reinforcing exchange of good practices through UNESCO. [>>full story](#)



## 2016 CommOCEAN : Second International Marine Science Communication



The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO invites you to take simple steps towards protecting our ocean by joining the new "Our Ocean, Our Health" campaign developed by the Sea Change project to raise awareness of the interconnectedness of ocean and human health.

Sea Change is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project which aims to raise European citizens' awareness of the intrinsic links between ocean and human health, and to empower us, as "Ocean Literate" citizens, to take direct and sustainable action towards a healthy ocean, healthy communities and ultimately a healthy planet. UNESCO's IOC is a Sea Change consortium member organization.

"Our Ocean, Our Health" emphasises the vital role of the ocean in making life on Earth possible. Our ocean provides us with oxygen, it regulates our climate and produces over 140 million tons of food each year. But human activity and our way of life is affecting the ocean's health. If we don't take care of the ocean, we endanger our own survival. Help to spread the word about the ocean's life-giving vitality by sharing Sea Change's new video, which highlights the ocean's contribution to the oxygen we breathe.

Sea Change encourages you to take action by pledging to make a "sea change" in your daily behaviour at [www.seachangeproject.eu/takeaction](http://www.seachangeproject.eu/takeaction) and sharing your commitment online using #OurOceanOurHealth. Even by making small changes in our activities, together we can achieve big results to tackle the marine issues of plastic debris, acidification, pollution and depletion of fish stocks.



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**Are you a marine scientist that would like to be speed-trained by experts in the skills of modern ocean science communication? Or, trained as a communicator, and hired by a marine institute, a governmental body or a NGO, are you curious about learning the best of blue science? These were the people 2016 CommOCEAN addressed.**

Held on 6-7 December 2016, the conference - which welcomed **214 participants (82% from Europe and South-East Europe)** - combined hands-on exercises in current science communication skills for disseminating ocean research and technology, with plenty of expertise-sharing, social interaction and fascinating marine science along the way. Dissemination, outreach and communication of scientific knowledge are becoming more and more important in today's society, where social inclusion is an integral part of environmental protection and sustainable development. This is particularly true for the world of ocean research, a world that is largely hidden from our view, representing an added challenge to the communication of marine research.



From its inception, the Ocean Literacy movement has advocated closer interaction between marine scientists, educators and other stakeholders (the public, policy-makers, private sector), and inspired new events and networks all over the world.

Both the EMSEA (European Marine Science Educators Association) annual conferences and the CommOCEAN event are prime examples of such new initiatives. CommOCEAN as the International Marine Science Communication Conference, was launched by the European Marine Board Communications Panel (EMBCP) and organized in the first instance by its Portuguese partners (CIIMAR, Ciencia Viva) in Porto in 2014. The organizers (VLIZ, EMB, EMBCP and UNESCO/IOC/IODE) developed an inspiring, innovative and interactive programme consisting of two separate events: a two-day conference in Bruges, followed by a one-day training programme in the InnovOcean facilities in Ostend.

The conference focused on a target audience of young marine scientists and communicators who wanted to be trained in science communication skills. By using examples from ocean science, the Bruges-Ostend CommOCEAN event was a unique opportunity to make a major leap forward in communicating your ocean knowledge. [>> full story](#)

## INNOVATIVE WAYS TO TEACH OCEAN LITERACY

**A free online course entitled "From ABC to ABSeas: Ocean Literacy for all", led by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), empowered second-level teachers and marine educators to enhance students' understanding of the ocean and its important planetary role.**

The online course was available on the European Multiple MOOC Aggregator (EMMA) was available for 4 weeks, from 7 November - 5 December 2016 in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Catalan.

Many European citizens are not aware of the ocean's influence on us and our influence on the ocean. In other words, many of us lack a sense of "Ocean Literacy". This clearly presents a barrier for citizens to engage in ocean-responsible behaviour or consider ocean-related careers. Experienced educators, tutors, professors and researchers from the EU Horizon 2020-funded Sea Change project have developed this novel Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) with the aim to create a deeper understanding amongst European citizens of how their health depends on the health of our seas and the ocean. The ocean plays a fundamental role in the health of our planet and of human beings. We need to become aware of its importance to be able to act as responsible citizens.

The Ocean Literacy MOOC took participants on a journey to

understand the ocean and how they can behave responsibly to enjoy its full potential.

The course provided support and advice for 500 teachers and educators - 400 from **Europe** and 30 from **South East-Europe** - to incorporate the Ocean Literacy into educational programmes,

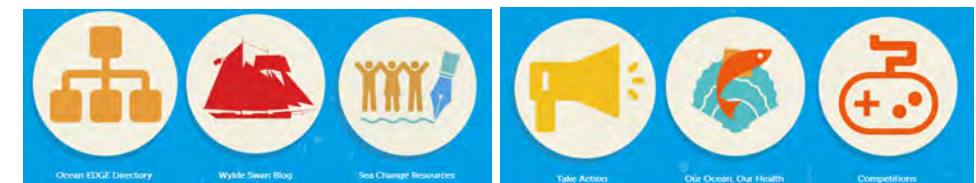
learning to their students, as well as develop inquiry-based activities with an interdisciplinary context. This MOOC allowed one to be part of a dynamic group of teachers, marine scientists and educators from all around Europe, and beyond. One had the chance to learn about Ocean Literacy and innovative teaching methods, and share experiences and



© World Animal Protection - lost and abandoned fishing gear that turns oceans into death

sharing activities and lesson plans developed by experts in the field of Marine Education. Upon successful completion of the course, participants took the Ocean Literacy principles and concepts into the classroom using a range of innovative educational approaches. They were able to suggest engagement and exploratory

approaches with colleagues. The ultimate goal of this educational resource was to equip teachers with the tools to encourage their students to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources. A certificate of participation was issued to all those that completed at least 70% of the course activities. [>> full story](#)



## FROM ABC TO ABSEAS: OCEAN LITERACY FOR ALL

# Bridges



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### 2016

#### July

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

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

#### August

Biosphere Reserves branding through high quality food products and gastronomy Italy. 30 August - 1 September 2016

#### September

I-REACT Workshop "Increasing Resilience to Natural hazards through Information Communication Technology" France. 14-15 September 2016

Emergency intervention for Cultural Heritage Belgium. 29 September 2016

#### October

Unveiling the unexplored potential of Biosphere Reserves. Around the Mediterranean Greece. 3-5 October 2016

Promoting People-Centred Approaches: Engaging Communities in the Conservation of Nature and Culture Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 4-13 October 2016

Managing Disaster Risks in UNESCO Designated Sites Bosnia and Herzegovina. 10-13 October 2016

Inauguration of Cultural center Dom kulture "Edhem Mulabdic" Bosnia and Herzegovina. 19 October 2016

1st UNESCO Water Chairs meeting: New Humanism for the XXI Century Italy. 24-26 October 2016

4th Transboundary Platform Meeting for the safeguarding of the Lake Ohrid region The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 27-28 October 2016

#### November

Venezia 1966-2016 / Aqua Granda Exhibition at the Marciana Library - From the emergency to the restoration of cultural heritage. Stories and images from the archives of the city Italy. 28 October - 27 November 2016

International Conference "Sustainability of Local Commons with a Global Value: Venice and its Lagoon" Italy. 4-5 November 2016

FLOODIS-DEWETRA interoperability test Albania. 4 November 2016

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

ECOPOTENTIAL Workshop – Pelagos Sanctuary Italy. 28-29 November 2016

#### December

Capacity-Building Workshop on managing multiple designated sites related to UNESCO's Conventions and Programmes for sustainable urban development Italy. 1-6 December 2016

Nature Management Training in the Lake Ohrid region Albania. 6-7 December 2016

CommOCEAN 216 - 2nd International Marine Science Communication Conference Belgium. 6-7 December 2016 (Conference) / 8 December 2016 (Training)

Meeting of the CoMoCoSEE Committee of Officials Albania. 21 December 2016



▲ © UNESCO Venice Office staff and interns taking part in the orangetheWorld campaign. Photo 1 (from left to right): Jiayao Gu, Claudio Vincenzi, Francesca Santoro, Lauren Bohatka, Jun Fei Qian, Philippe Pypaert, Wally Merotto, Mohammad Taufiq, Yuto Takahashi, Giulia Della Giustina, Laura De Stefani, Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Igor Kitaev, Veronique Dauge, Marina Gilebbi, Anne Ajoux, Benedetta Colasanti, Cristina Faccia, Gianni Torre and Razvan Ioan Dimitru; Photo 2 (from left to right): Lejla Hrejla, Sinisa Sesum and Maja Nicolic.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

>> all events



## Backstory

### French donation to flood-affected areas helped renovate cultural centre in Maglaj



▲ © UNESCO - Cutting the ribbon to inaugurate renovated cultural centre in Maglaj

In the aftermath of the devastating floods of 2014, France together with Slovenia and the European Union convened a Donors' Conference to mobilise further support to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a mark of solidarity, France donated 1 Million euro to support the reconstruction of 3 cultural institutions in Dobož, Maglaj & Bosanski Samac.

UNESCO responded to this emergency recovery need with the project titled "Revitalization of cultural institutions and services in flood affected municipalities Dobož, Maglaj and Bosanski Samac". Of a duration of 2 years, the project was implemented by UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, and its Antenna in Sarajevo, thanks to a generous financial assistance of 1 million euro from **France**. The project was not only a rebuilding challenge but also an opportunity to contribute to the full recovery and wellbeing of the population heavily affected by the floods through the re-establishment of essential cultural public services.

On 19 October 2016, a new cinema in the Cultural Center of "Edhem Mulabdic" in Maglaj, destroyed during the 2014 floods, was inaugurated in the presence of Muhamed Mustafbasic, Mayor of Maglaj; Emmanuel Mouriez, Director of the French Institute in Bosnia and Herzegovina; H.E. Claire Bodonyi, Ambassador of France in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rasida Muhic, Director of the Cultural center in Maglaj; Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, UNESCO representative and Director of the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and Sinisa Sesum, Head of the Antenna in Sarajevo.

As pointed out by the hosts, Rasida Muhic Director of the Cultural Centre "Edhem Mulabdic" and Mehmed Mustafbasic current Mayor of Maglaj, "the purpose of renovating this facility was to bring people together, to promote culture and unity in diversity, that makes Maglaj recognizable". Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Director of the Regional Bureau in Venice emphasized that the renovation was not only related to the physical reconstruction but to the importance of culture: "We have tried to create a place for young people where they can use their cultural potential and creativity".

The project titled "Revitalization of cultural institutions and services in flood affected municipalities Dobož, Maglaj and Bosanski Samac" successfully closed with the inauguration of Maglaj cultural centre. Ambassador Bodonyi concluded: "I am most pleased that, through the implementation of the project, a strong connection between cultural actors in the country and those abroad is being established". >>full story



### French donation to Maglaj cultural centre

Inaugurating a new cinema



▲ © France diplomatie - Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Développement international - inauguration ceremony

# Bridges

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