

Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau
for Science and Culture in Europe

Issue 1 • 2013

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Venice Office
Regional Bureau for Science
and Culture in Europe

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

EU-FP/ Project IncREO Kick-off meeting:
Satellite observation for risk preparedness
Brussels, Belgium. 23-24 January 2013

FEBRUARY

IncREO Technical Workshop Venice, Italy.
21-22 February 2013

MARCH

Balkan Screenings (Sofia Meetings) Sofia,
Bulgaria. 14-17 March 2013

Public debate: For the Renaissance of
Europe's cultural and natural heritage
Venice, Italy. 15 March 2013

E-learning course on management of
MAB BRs and other designated areas 25
March-21 April 2013

APRIL

Second SEE World Heritage Youth Forum
for peace and sustainable development
Gamzigrad-Romuliana, Serbia. 6-11 April
2013

Travelling exhibit Imagining the Balkans and
Council of Ministers of Culture of South East
Europe Ljubljana, Slovenia. 8 April 2013 and
9 April 2013

Regional meeting on Holocaust and ex-
Yugoslav pavilion Skopje, The former
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. 18-19 April
2013

Balkan Workshop BW2013 – Beyond the
Standard Models Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia. 25-
29 April 2013

MAY

Balkan Bridges Speak Lovec, Bulgaria.
10-11 May 2013

SEE-PhytoChemNet Workshop:
Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in South
East Europe Plovdiv, Bulgaria. 29-30
May 2013

Annual meeting of SEE experts on
intangible cultural heritage Sofia,
Bulgaria. 27-28 May 2013

JUNE

Head of States Summit of South East
Europe Ohrid, The former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia. 2 June 2013

Regional meeting on the diversity of
cultural expressions in SEE Zagreb,
Croatia. 3-4 June 2013

Basic training course on underwater
archaeology Zadar, Croatia. June 2013

Forum of UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN in
South East Europe Istanbul, Turkey.
12-13 June 2013

EU-funded Project Open Discovery
Space: Conference & technical
meetings Venice, Italy. 19-21 June 2013

Why does water cooperation matter?

Freshwater is a vital element for
human existence and all ecosystems on Earth.

World Water Day
2013 International Year
of Water Cooperation

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©World Water Day 2013
logo

Dear reader,

I would like to invite you to discover this
latest issue of our quarterly electronic
newsletter, "Bridges".

In this issue, you will learn about many of
the exciting activities that our Office has
done in recent months, such as our work
with the Global Footprint Network (p. 5)
and the new travelling exhibit, "Imagining
the Balkans" (p. 8). I particularly encourage
you to read about our work related to
water sustainability, which coincides with
2013 as the UN International Year of Water
Cooperation.

UNESCO's participation in these activities
represents our contribution to creating
"bridges" for scientific and cultural
cooperation, dialogue and exchange within
the South-East European region.

Yolanda Valle-Neff

*Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for
Science and Culture in Europe*



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©2013 Marko - Bridge on
the Sava River

>> all events

The Open Discovery Space Summer School entitled "Competence-Based Training for school Teachers" to take place in Crete, Greece, from 30 June up through 5 July 2013 is organized by Ellinogermaniki Agogi and hosted by the University of Crete.

2013 Open Discovery Space Summer school

The aim of this year's edition of the summer school course is to support the development of European schools' digital culture and teachers' digital skills, so that they are able to understand the uses and applications of digital resources in school practice, and subsequently to benefit from digital content and technology solutions covering a wide range of areas: Science, Mathematics, ICT, Social Studies, Arts and Language Studies. >> [full story](#)



© Open Discovery Space - logo

Climate Change, population growth, increasing urbanization, chemical pollution and invasive species are contributing to the deterioration of water quality, while the variability in extreme events has considerably increased in recent years. The consequences for the environment and for living beings are considerable.

IncREO - Increasing Resilience through Earth Observation is a collaborative project under the call FP7-SPACE-2012-1 in support of emergency response management and risk-preparedness.

Earth Observation for risk reduction

The IncREO project was kicked off at a meeting scheduled at EC/ REA in Brussels, Belgium, from 23 to 24 January 2013. The event is closed to the public. The overall objective of IncREO is to provide actors responsible for disaster management, risk prevention, civil protection and also spatial planning with EO-based solutions contributing particularly to an improved preparedness and mitigation planning for areas highly vulnerable to natural disasters and already noticeable climate change trends. >> [full story](#)



©NOAA In Space Collection - Earth observation satellite-GOES-1

The IncREO technical workshop held from 21-22 February in Venice, Italy, was organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe with the aim to coordinate the implementation of project activities, with particular emphasis on the working packages related to global risk vulnerability modelling and mapping, and correlated end-users packages.

What does a rainy day taste like? Can you hear the fantasy of water in the rain? What will happen when the water lifted from China meets Archimedes screw pump in the West? What kinds of inspiration do designers have toward the Onymacris unguiculari in Namib Desert? Can children in Africa have water while playing?

H2Ooooh! videos on show at the Story of Water exhibition in Taiwan

The National Taiwan Science Education Center exhibits the 'Story of Water' from 15 January up to 31 May 2013 at the West Special Exhibition Gallery with H2Ooooh! animation videos on show. The goal of the exhibition is to raise the awareness on water resource conservation. Established in 1956, the National Taiwan Science Education Center (NTSEC) is a national center for science education in the country. Its permanent exhibition area displays rich content related to: Life Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and the Earth Sciences, and hosts the most up-to-date science exhibitions in collaboration with international and national museums. >> [full story](#)

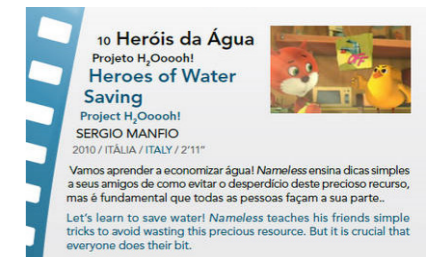


©NTSEC - Story of Water exhibition: "H2Ooooh! water project"

This course of a duration of 40 hours and scheduled from 25 March up to 21 April 2013 is the first in a series of e-learning courses based on the UNESCO publication: "Education for Sustainable Development in Biospheres Reserves and other Designated Areas: A Resource Book for Educators in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean".

H2Ooooh! initiative reached Latin America and the Caribbean

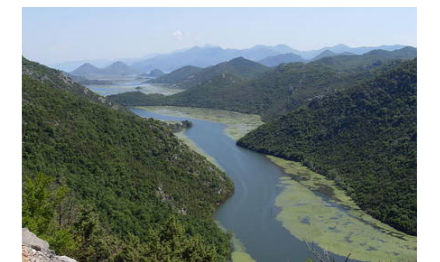
The first 3-D animated television series is more than ever in the public eye. Four cartoons of the first series were selected and screened during the 6th 'Cine Water to Drink' in November 2012 in conjunction with the '9th Amazonas Film Festival' in Manaus, Brazil. The H2Ooooh! initiative follows its expansion worldwide. For the Arab States, the awareness campaign and cartoon drawing competition for students on water issues was launched in Jordan through the UNESCO Office in Amman. >> [full story](#)



© Cine Water to Drink - Poster

Disaster risk prevention and EO imagery application

IncREO - Increasing Resilience through Earth Observation is a collaborative project under the call FP7-SPACE-2012-1 in support of emergency response management and risk-preparedness. Its overall objective is to provide actors responsible for disaster management, risk prevention, civil protection and also spatial planning with EO-based solutions contributing particularly to an improved preparedness and mitigation planning for areas highly vulnerable to natural disasters and already noticeable climate change trends. >> [full story](#)



Wikimedia Commons - Western part of Lake Skadar

Online learning course on Management of MAB BRs and other designated areas

The UNESCO resource book on which this course is based aims to build learners' capacities on how to use the MAB BRs and other designated areas in SE Europe and the Mediterranean region as learning and demonstration sites to apply holistic ESD programmes. The e-course will provide a basic training to adult learners on applying the UNESCO resource book in practice, based on given scenarios and real life situations. It is built on one of the resource book's 8 chapters, which is entitled "Management of MAB Biosphere Reserves (BRs) and other designated areas". >> [full story](#)



©mio-ecsd.org - ESD Training Material

Nature of Inquiry in Inquiry of Nature. Under this motto, the summer school organized by UAB Metis Baltic and Ellinogermaniki Agogi took place from 28 January up to 1 February 2013 in Vilnius.

2nd ODS Winter School to take off in Lithuania this winter

The course took place in the context of the project "Development of LD-skills: Development of learning design skills for enhancing students' key competencies", with the aim to have a positive impact on the development of students' problem-solving competencies by promoting the use of inquiry and problem-based approaches to teaching and thereby immersing participating teachers in the process of science-enquiry via their interaction with a unique collection of open digital educational resources, linked with the science curricula. >> [full story](#)



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©2nd ODS Winter School

First intact samples from Antarctic subglacial lake

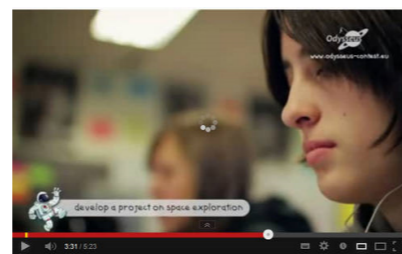
This effort marked the first successful retrieval of clean whole samples from an Antarctic subglacial lake. Water and sediment samples returned to the surface are now being processed to answer seminal questions related to the structure and function of subglacial microbial life, climate history, and contemporary ice sheet dynamics. Video surveys of the lake floor and in-situ measurements of selected physical and chemical properties of the waters and sediments are further allowing the team to characterize the lake and its environs. >> [full story](#)



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©wissard.org – camp spreads out on the Antarctic landscape

Odysseus Contest. European Youth explores the space

Students wishing to participate formed a team of 2 to 5 members, with a teacher as a coach and, prepared a project on the themes of Solar System, Spaceship global cooperation and Co-evolution of life, using their knowledge, creativity and critical thinking. All entries had to be submitted by 15 February 2013 in order to be assessed and scored on scientific knowledge, practical implementation and creativity, by highly experienced evaluators, according to predefined evaluation criteria. >> [full story](#)



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©odysseus-contest.eu - video

Following an intense week of on-ice weather delays, the WISSARD (Whillans Ice Stream Subglacial Access Research Drilling) field team successfully drilled through the overlying ice sheet and sampled directly the waters and sediments of Subglacial Lake Whillans on 28 January 2013 at 05:00 h.

Open Discovery Space invited European youth to explore the space with Odysseus, a pan-European educational competition aimed at students aged 14-18 years old from schools around the European Union, designed to challenge talented young people on science.

Science ministers to speak with one voice. Joint declaration signed in Sarajevo



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©Anosmia - Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina Building

A World of SCIENCE, Vol. 11, No. 1, January–March 2013 dedicated an article on page 16 to the joint declaration signed in Sarajevo on 23 November. The Ministerial Roundtable on Science, Technology and Innovation was organized jointly by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNESCO Venice office, the ministers issued a Joint Declaration, in which they recognize the need to coordinate their positions prior to meetings at the European Commission in Brussels, in order to push through their macro-regional agendas.

The Declaration was endorsed by ministers and high-ranking officials from 11 countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey.

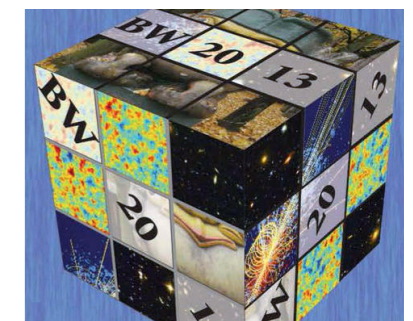
The science ministers vow to usher in a new era of collaboration by harmonizing their policies and sharing research infrastructure, in order to compete more effectively with wealthy countries in the European Union and beyond. Five key areas have been identified for collaboration: infrastructure, policy, research statistics, research networking and science journalism. The Declaration outlines a roadmap for developing priorities at both national and regional levels and for enhancing the science-policy-society interface. The ministers recognize the relevance of UNESCO's work and the European Union's Framework Programmes and other funding schemes for developing scientific collaboration and synergies among Southeast European countries. They also acknowledge UNESCO's continuous support and encouragement, which has notably resulted in the creation of four scientific collaborative networks in fields of high regional importance: astronomy; human genetics and biotechnology, risk assessment and mitigation and; mathematical and theoretical physics. The Astronomical Observatory of Rozhen in Bulgaria, for instance, is shared by researchers throughout the subregion. The ministers also said they welcomed the opportunity afforded them by UNESCO to meet periodically to discuss major policy issues with regard to science, technology and innovation and higher education. Indeed, this was the eighth high-level meeting organized by the UNESCO Venice Office in the past 12 years, within the Venice Process. >> [full story](#)

Balkan Workshop 2013: Beyond the Standard Models

This 2013 meeting of the Southeastern European Network in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (SEENET-MTP) will bring together about 40 leading researchers in the fields of High Energy Physics and Cosmology of South East Europe (SEE), Europe and U.S.A., as well as up to 20 advanced Ph.D. students from SEE.

Ministry of Education and Science will also participate.

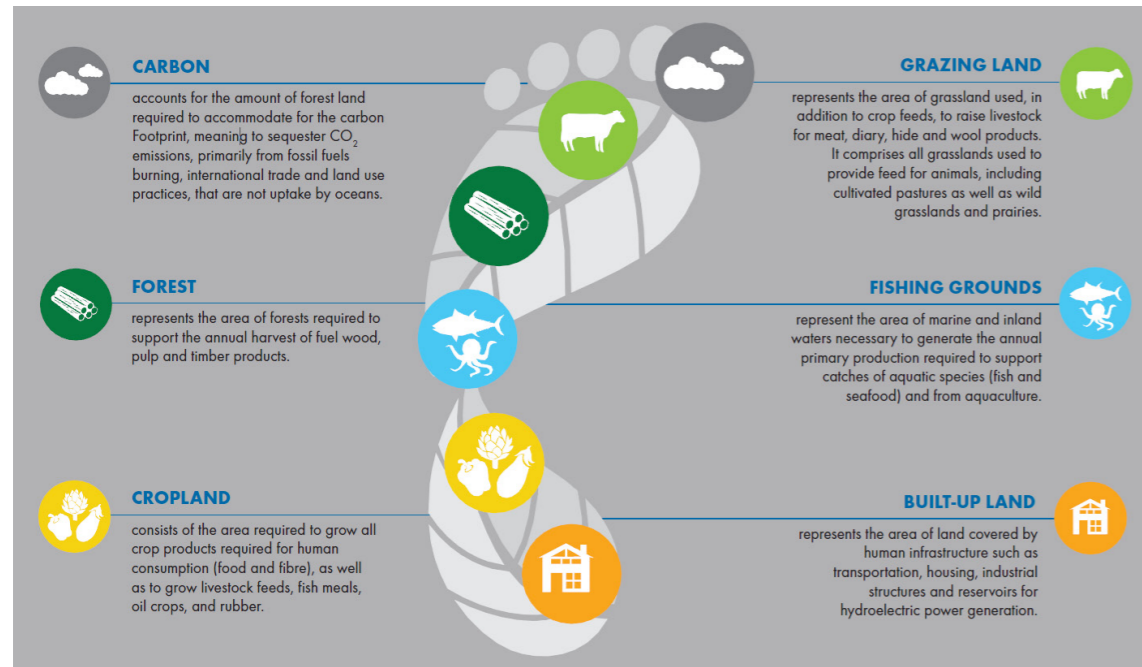
Balkan Workshop BW2013 is organized from 25-29 April 2013 in Vrnjačka Banja in the western part of Serbia by the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, University of Niš, Serbia, in co-operation with CERN Theory Division and Ludwig-Maximilians-University LMU/MPI Munich, and UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy). >> [full story](#)



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©Balkan Workshop BW2013

Representatives from EPS, BPU, CERN, SISSA, ICTP, UNESCO, CEI, SEE Physics National Societies, and Serbian

Getting out of debt. A Horizons article in 'A World of Science'



© Global Footprint Network - Land use categories comprising the Ecological Footprint

In less than 50 years, residents of the Mediterranean region have nearly tripled their demand for natural resources and ecological services. As a result, all 24 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea have become ecological debtors. These are the alarming findings of Mediterranean Ecological Footprint Trends, a report launched by Global Footprint Network on 1-2 October at a conference organized jointly with UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice, Italy) on Securing Competitiveness for the Mediterranean. Participants from the governments and universities of 15 Mediterranean countries were in Venice to debate the implications of the report's findings for the region's economic prosperity and political stability.

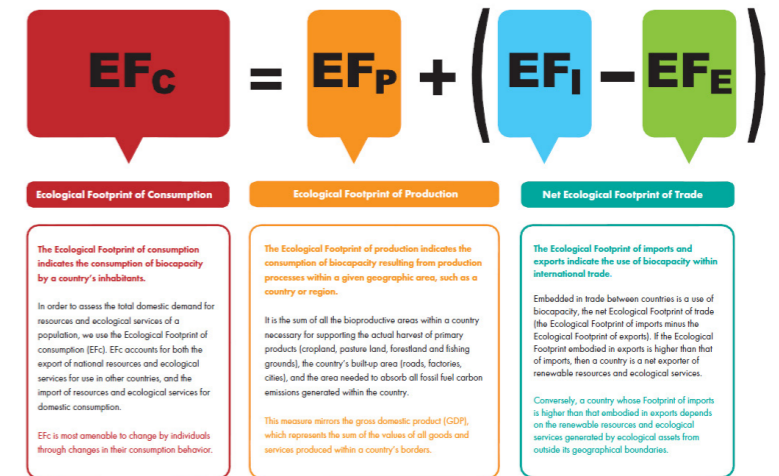
One question raised by participants concerned the extent to which the growing scarcity of natural resources in North Africa and the Middle East had fuelled the economic crisis which triggered the Arab Spring in 2011. 'The security issue is closely tied to ecological and demographic time bombs', observed one participant. 'If a country cannot satisfy its population's most basic needs, social unrest will logically follow. Even conflicts that are ostensibly based on religious differences may stem from growing competition for finite resources like land and water.'

You cannot manage what you cannot measure. It has been said that you cannot manage what you cannot measure. The ecological footprint has been devised by Global Footprint Network to help governments everywhere measure the state of their ecological assets in the form of natural resources and ecosystem services, in order to manage them better over the longer term. To gauge a

country's ecological balance sheet, you compare supply (biocapacity) with demand (ecological footprint). If demand outstrips supply, the country is considered as running an ecological deficit. Global Footprint Network has calculated that there were 1.8 global hectares per person of biocapacity (forests, croplands, urban land, grazing lands, etc) on the planet in 2008. Between 1961 and 2008, the world's ecological footprint rose modestly from 2.4 to 2.7 global hectares (gha) per person but the world nevertheless developed an ecological deficit, as its per-capita biocapacity almost halved over the same period from 3.2 gha in 1961. The situation deteriorated much faster in the Mediterranean than the global average, with the region's ecological footprint increasing from 2.1 to 3.1 gha per person. At the same time, the region's per-capita biocapacity decreased from 1.5 to 1.3 gha per person. This caused the region to shift from having a small ecological deficit in 1961 to a 150% deficit in 2008. What went

wrong? As early as 1961, 18 out of 24 Mediterranean countries were already experiencing an ecological deficit but this was offset by imports of products grown outside the region. Between 1961 and 2008, the Mediterranean region's population doubled from 242 million to 478 million, effectively outstripping productivity gains in agriculture. A second aggravating factor came into play from 1971 onwards, when the world entered a period of overconsumption defined as 'global overshoot.' With the implacable logic of economics, this surge in demand for a finite supply of commodities pushed up prices on international markets.

From ecological creditors to debtors The six countries around the Mediterranean Basin with an ecological credit in 1961 were Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. All had shifted to debtor status by 2008 (see map overleaf). It is this finding which led some participants in the Venice conference to speculate as to the influence of this ecological deficit on the Arab Spring.



© Global Footprint Network - Tracking production, consumption and net trade with the Ecological Footprint

All the other Mediterranean countries saw their ecological deficit rise, with Cyprus experiencing the largest increase and Jordan the smallest. By 2008, the five Mediterranean countries with the highest total ecological deficits were Italy, Spain, France, Turkey and Egypt. However, three of these countries also supplied nearly half of the region's biocapacity: France (31%), Turkey (15%) and Italy (11%). The study concluded that the higher the income of a country, the greater its demand for ecological resources and

services. Blessed with a relatively low population density and favourable climate, France, Croatia and Slovenia enjoyed the highest per-capita biocapacity in 2008, whereas Cyprus, Jordan and Palestine counted the lowest. In terms of the per-capita ecological footprint, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia topped the list in 2008, followed by Slovenia and Greece. At the other end of the scale with the lightest footprint came Morocco, Montenegro and Palestine. >> full story

Helping schools calculate their ecological footprint

UNESCO Programme Specialist Philippe Pypaert visited some of UNESCO's associated schools in Italy in 2010 and 2011 to show 11-14 year-olds how to calculate their ecological footprint. At Pio X Secondary School in Treviso, for example, he helped the class define an annual action plan for reducing the school's ecological footprint for energy and transportation in particular.

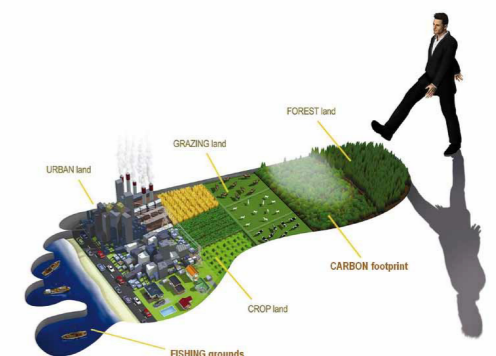
The children learned that the first step would be for them to assess their current level of consumption, expressed in global hectares per pupil. This could be done by collecting basic data, such as the school's electricity or gas bills. This information would then be stored in a database prior to being fed into

a special online calculator designed to quantify their ecological footprint.

The next step would be for the children to propose ways of reducing their ecological footprint, such as by turning lights off when they left a room, encouraging the school to buy low-consumption light bulbs, or preferring public transport to a car on their way to school.

Ideally, these measurements would be repeated every year, so that classes could follow the school's progress and test the efficiency of proposed solutions over time.

Through these exchanges, pupils came to realize that local and



national authorities could take similar measures on a grander scale, such as by improving the public transport system (local) or developing a clean energy policy (national). This realization should help prepare pupils for their future role as active, responsible citizens.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, at its sixth Ordinary Session (Paris, 10-14 December 2012), approved the applications submitted by 3 cultural institutions from Croatia, Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

3 new projects from South East Europe get funding from the IFCD

The Committee decided upon their financial support from the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), a multi-donor Fund established under Article 18 of the 2005 Convention with the purpose to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing and least-developed countries that are Parties to the Convention. The Intergovernmental Committee approved 13 projects to be implemented in 12 developing countries for more than US\$1 million in funding. >> [full story](#)



© Leandra Jasa

Holocaust education: a permanent exhibition in Auschwitz

Part of the UNESCO initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development", which seeks to promote creativity and cultural heritage as a powerful tool for sustainable development, the project reflects UNESCO's overall mission to promote holocaust education, as well as the role of museums as tools for intercultural understanding, research and dialogue. This event followed a first meeting in June 2012 in Belgrade to build on the willingness expressed by all former Yugoslav Republics not to divide the exhibition space of Pavilion 17, closed in 2009, and instead to prepare a joint permanent exhibition. >> [full story](#)



©Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum - Family portraits

Fight against Illicit Trafficking: Gaziantep presentations are online

The meeting, organized with the support of the Gaziantep Governorate, the Gaziantep Municipality and the Zeugma Mosaics Museum, was conducted by a pool of international experts and professionals and structured around 2 trainings, a legal and an operational one, with the following modules: assessment of international and national legislations; Modalities for return and restitution; Training on the use of operational tools, especially for museums and cultural institutions; Police and customs role in the fight against illicit trafficking; Media and Awareness raising. >> [full story](#)



©UNESCO Venice slideshare.net - Tuncay Günaydin

An initiative to promote Holocaust education, UNESCO World Heritage sites of memory and documentary heritage is afoot in South Eastern Europe. At an international meeting in Sarajevo on 5 December, experts on Holocaust education and museum development from the region discussed the creation of a permanent regional exhibition in the renovated ex-Yugoslav pavilion in the World Heritage site of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), jointly organized a regional meeting on "Capacity-building and awareness-raising on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property" for the South-East European region on 19-21 November 2012 in Gaziantep, Turkey.

Within the series of training sessions organized by UNESCO in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, to strengthen the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects in UNESCO Member States, UNESCO jointly organized with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey on "Capacity-building and awareness-raising on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property" for the South-East European region in Gaziantep, Turkey, on 19-21 November 2012.

The Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe held its General Assembly at the National Palace of Culture in Sofia, Bulgaria. Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), attended the meeting.

The UNESCO Venice Office, within its overall mission to support cultural creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions, renewed its cooperation in 2013 with the 17th edition of the Sofia International Film Festival (7-17 March 2013), through its support to the Sofia Meetings and its "Balkans Screenings" section.

Syrian cultural heritage: addressing the issue of illicit trafficking

The event was organized by the Amman Office under the patronage of HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan and with the support of the Swiss Federal Office for Culture, the UNESCO Offices in Iraq, Beirut, Venice and the Culture Heritage Protection Treaties Section at UNESCO headquarters. Representatives from Syria and neighbouring countries (Iraq, Jordan, Turkey), together with international experts, discussed the situation of illicit traffic and looting of cultural artifacts of Syria and ways to promote awareness and cooperation to protect Syrian cultural property. >> [full story](#)



© INTERPOL - Call for vigilance on looting of ancient mosaics in Syria

Sofia Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage holds its General Assembly

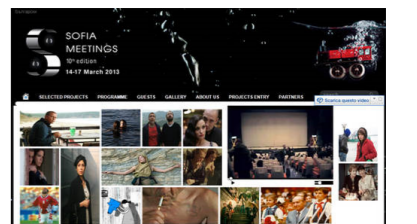
The Centre, officially inaugurated in February 2012, is recognized as a regional centre (category 2) under the auspices of UNESCO. Its mission and main objectives include to promote the UNESCO 2003 Convention and contribute to its implementation in the South-Eastern European sub-region; to enhance capacities of South-Eastern European countries in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage; and, to foster regional and international cooperation. The General Assembly discussed, among other topics, the work plan for the activities of the Center foreseen in 2013. >> [full story](#)



© 2012 Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Balkan Screenings at the International Film Festival in Sofia

"Sofia Meetings", organized from 14 to 17 March 2013, was a co-production market organized within the framework of the Sofia International Film Festival. Its aim was to help finance projects of young European filmmakers, to encourage co-productions between European countries, to facilitate distribution of films in the EU countries and help new European films to find distribution in South-East Europe. >> [full story](#)



©2013 Art Fest/Sofia International Film Festival

Venice, the European city which triggered the creation of Europa Nostra, hosted a series of meetings marking the Europa Nostra's 50th Anniversary from 14 to 16 March 2013. The highlight was a 3-hour public debate entitled 'For the Renaissance of Europe's cultural and natural heritage', on 15 March.

Europa Nostra's 50th Anniversary celebrated at special event in Venice

"Fifty years ago Italia Nostra invited heritage NGOs from other European countries to create Europa Nostra with the aim of joining forces in the effort to save Venice and other jewels of Europe's heritage. Today, Europa Nostra and Italia Nostra come together in Venice to discuss with leading representatives of Italian private and public bodies ways in which we can give a new impetus to Europe-wide mobilisation for the safeguard of our cultural and natural heritage", stated the Executive President of Europa Nostra. >> [full story](#)



©Chene Beck - Rialto Bridge, Venice

Sounds of Armenian Duduk. Photo gallery released

Maestro Gevorg Dabagyan gave lessons in duduk, an Armenian musical instrument inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Duduk and its music were inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008 (originally proclaimed in 2005). The duduk, or "dziranapogh" in Armenian, is a double-reed woodwind instrument made of apricot wood, conventionally called the "Armenian oboe". >> [full story](#)



©Music section of the Studies and Documentation Centre of Armenian Culture of Venice

UNESCO and Venice International University sign agreement for mutual co-operation

The agreement was signed by Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and Umberto Vattani, President of the Venice International University (VIU), on the occasion of the inauguration of the 2013 first academic semester of the University. The agreement indicates as priority areas of cooperation the management of cultural and natural heritage, risk-preparedness and mitigation with regard to climate change and other emerging global challenges, and the promotion of sustainable cultural and eco-tourism. >> [full story](#)



©UNESCO Venice slideshare.net - Tuncay Günaydin

The Studies and Documentation Centre of Armenian Culture of Venice, in cooperation with the Intercultural Institute of Comparative Music Studies of Giorgio Cini Foundation and the UNESCO Venice Office, organised the Course on Armenian duduk on 16-18 November 2012 in Venice (Italy). The photo gallery has been released online.

On 20 February 2013, the UNESCO Venice Office and the Venice International University have adopted a framework agreement to promote mutual cooperation and joint activities aimed at enhancing culture as a driver and enabler for sustainable development.

United Nations House in Bosnia and Herzegovina moves into its new premises



© UN.BA - UN House in Sarajevo

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina has moved into the new joint premises in Sarajevo on 4 February. This move marks a new chapter in the history of the UN involvement in the country and a renewed commitment towards its people and Government. The joint premises hosts the following UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies residential in Bosnia and Herzegovina: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNV, UN WOMEN, and WHO.

The joint premises also have designated areas for colleagues from the Non-Resident Agencies on temporary field missions with all the systems available in the premises easily accessible. The relocation of the UNCT into the new joint premises comes in the support of the UNCT's aspirations to explore the adoption of the Delivery as One (DaO) modality in Bosnia and Herzegovina which will soon be the subject of discussions with national counterparts as part of the roll-out process initiated in 2013. Providing full compliance with the UN security standards, decreased operational costs and increased UN visibility, credibility and coherence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the new joint premises pulling in agencies from 5 separate locations is considered a major step towards the DaO implementation. The UNCT in Bosnia and Herzegovina will also participate in the UNDG-led pilot initiative on developing a Business Operations Strategy that aims to enhance the cost effectiveness and quality of operations back office processes in support of UNDAF implementation. The new premises of the UN House in Sarajevo will be inaugurated some time in spring in the presence of high UN officials.

UNESCO Antenna Office in Sarajevo

The Antenna Office in Sarajevo of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is responsible for the implementation of UNESCO's core programmes and activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as in other South-Eastern European (SEE) Member States.

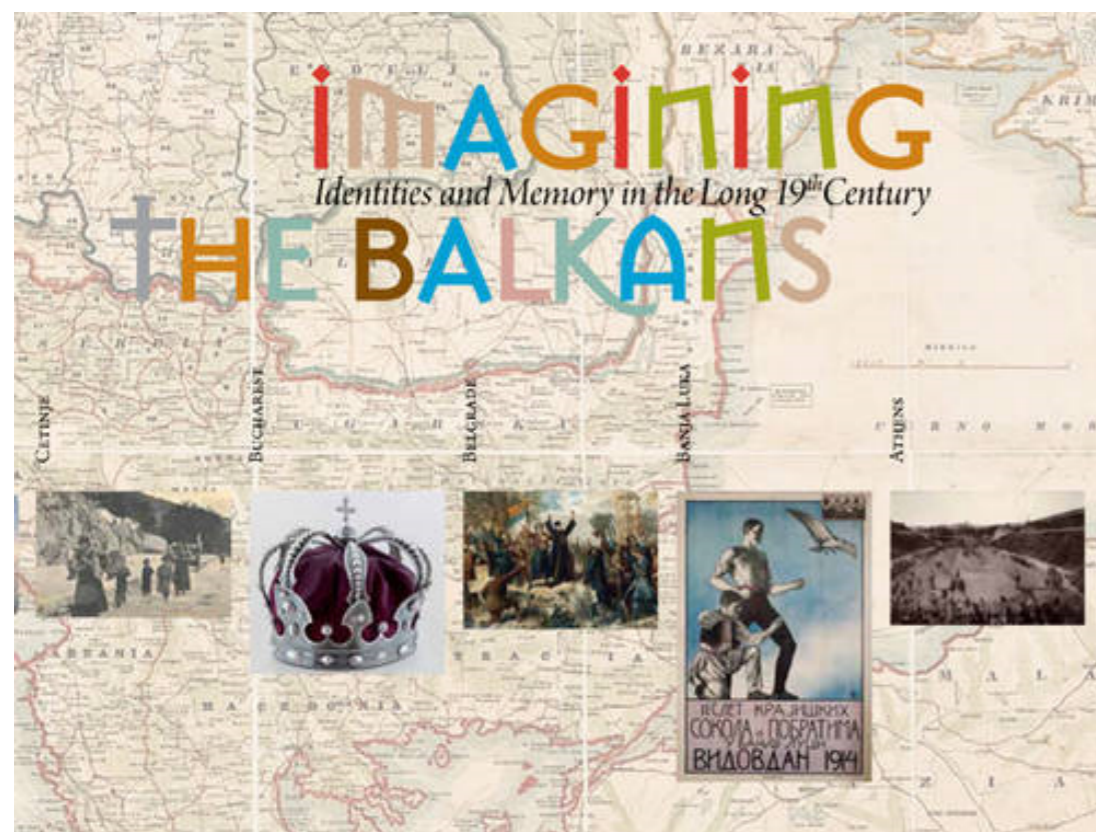
Siniša Šešum, Senior Programme Officer, and Head of the Antenna Office in Sarajevo, oversees the operational activities of the UNESCO Venice Office related to the safeguarding and management of Cultural Heritage in the region. He joined UNESCO in 1995. He is assisted by Amila Terzimehic, Programme Assistant, and Maja Nikolic, Assistant. >> [Team page](#)



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© UN Bosnia and Herzegovina - Siniša Šešum interviewed by journalists

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



© Travelling exhibit: Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century - leaflet

© Travelling exhibit: Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century -

The travelling exhibit “Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century”, a flagship initiative coordinated by UNESCO with the cooperation of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Committee for Exhibitions and Exchange (ICOM/ICEE), is opening in Ljubljana (Slovenia) at the National Museum of Slovenia, on 8 April 2013.

Venue of exhibit:

National Museum of Slovenia/Narodni muzej Slovenije
Prešernova 20, 1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: +386 1 241 44 00
Fax: +386 1 241 44 22

The exhibit will be inaugurated in the presence of the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova; the Minister of Culture of Slovenia, Uroš Grilc; and, the President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), Hans-Martin Hinz.

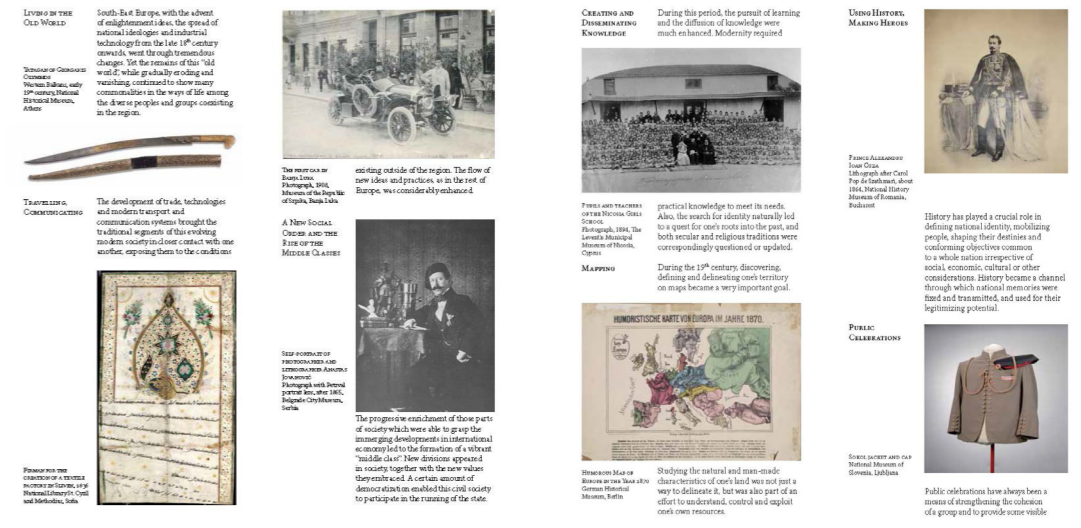
The opening ceremony, organized on the occasion of the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe will be attended by Ministers of Culture from South-East Europe.

This exhibit, part of UNESCO’s global initiative “Culture: a Bridge to Development”, seeks to enhance cooperation and dialogue among national history museums. It focuses on the constitution and evolution of modern nations in South-East Europe during the “long 19th century”, and is structured around 8 thematic paths: Living in the old world; Travelling, communicating; A new

social order: the rise of the middle classes; Creating and diffusing knowledge; Mapping; Using history, making heroes; Public celebrations; and, Images of the Nation.

This is the very first time that national history museums from South-East Europe and beyond - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - come together to put in perspective and compare their collections and their national histories.

The exhibit is produced with the belief that Nations and their History need not be just a matter of division, and developed as a historic opportunity to place national histories in a global context, compare disputed narratives, revive shared



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memories. The historical advisor of the exhibit is Maria Todorova, professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, United States of America.

“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. Travelling from one museum to another, Imagining the Balkans will help strengthen cooperation among cultural institutions and professionals and raise public awareness as the basis for deepening dialogue”, writes Irina Bokova in the foreword to the exhibit’s catalogue.

The exhibit “Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century” will be on display until 25 August 2013 and travel to Serbia and Romania in September/ December 2013, and to other countries from South-East Europe in 2014-2015. >> full story

Culture: a Bridge to Development

UNESCO’s new global initiative “Culture: a Bridge to Development” was proposed by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, and included in the Biennial Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 of UNESCO (36 C/5), as approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 36th session.

This initiative aims at promoting innovative and creative approaches which enhance culture as a bridge to sustainable social, economic and human development, and at better enhancing creativity, cultural industries and cultural heritage in all its forms as a powerful and unique tool for sustainable social, economic and human development, job-creation opportunities social cohesion, education and mutual understanding, thus bringing forth new opportunities for international cooperation.

As underlined by Irina Bokova, in her address on the occasion of the 9th UNESCO Regional Summit of Heads of State of South East Europe in Viminacium, Serbia, on 2 September 2011, this initiative “seeks to build genuine bridges within the civil society, among artists, intellectuals, teachers and creators, with a view to exchanging new ideas and visions, and so as to support regional think tanks, create innovative networks and platforms that span the region – through cross-borders festivals, exchanges of artefacts between museums of different countries, travelling exhibitions [...]. This initiative will seek to create such networks and to build such cultural bridges among professionals, civil society and politicians, [so that] it will be easier

for them to participate in urban, economic and social development projects. Modern art, networks of young artists, media, cultural industries, cultural tourism, are powerful accelerators for growth”. >> full story



© Alistair young - Mostar bridge

Bridges

The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Looking beyond the Millennium Development Goals



^ ©Realizing the Future We Want for All - UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

The current development agenda is centered on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which have an overall target date of 2015. The MDGs encapsulate eight globally agreed concrete goals, with time-bound targets and indicators for measuring progress in the areas of: poverty alleviation, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, child and maternal health, reducing HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases, environmental sustainability, and building a Global Partnership for Development.

A global development agenda beyond 2015 The outcome document of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs requested the Secretary-General to initiate thinking on a post-2015 development agenda and include recommendations in his annual report on efforts to accelerate MDG progress. Following the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, which initiated an inclusive intergovernmental process to prepare a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), there is broad agreement that there must be close linkages between the two processes and agendas.

The UN System Task Team The Secretary-General established the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. Chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, the team assembles more than 60 UN agencies and international organizations. In its first report to the Secretary-General, Realizing the Future We Want for All, the Task Team outlines a vision for the post-2015 development agenda and suggests four key dimensions which can help to guide goal setting. In addition, members of the Task Team prepared a set of 18 think pieces which explore how different themes could potentially be reflected in a new framework.

Mandate The mandate of the Task Team has been extended to include two new working groups on the partnership for global development and on monitoring and indicators. Moreover, the Technical Support Team to provide initial inputs to the Open Working Group on the SDGs, has also been established under the umbrella of the Task Team to ensure early convergence of the two processes.

High-level Panel of Eminent Persons In July 2012, the Secretary-General launched his High-level Panel of Eminent Persons to provide guidance and recommendations on the post-2015 development agenda. The panel is chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and members include representatives from the private sector, academia, civil society and local authorities. The report of the Panel will be published in May 2013. >> [full story](#)



Join the global consultation - contribute to shaping the post-2015 development agenda!

The United Nations and partners invite people all over the world to participate in setting the world's future development agenda by voting in an innovative survey known as MY World, the United Nations global survey for a better world.

In Belgrade, Serbia, was launched a national consultation process, led by the United Nations, to discuss what should be the development agenda of the United Nations in the year 2015 and beyond.

Albania is a country with a young population - the median age is 31 years old. The public policy discussion on youth employment has increasingly captured the spotlight during the past few years – especially in view of the global economic crisis.



The UN engages citizens around the world to take part in shaping the future global development agenda

Presented by the UN and partners this week, MY World provides an extraordinary pathway for citizens to have a say in what development priorities world leaders should include in the next development framework. In a special video message today for the MY World survey, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon encouraged the public: "Vote and tell us what issues matter most to you and your family. Make a difference. Mark a difference!" >> [full story](#)



^ © INTERPOL - Call for vigilance on looting of ancient mosaics in Syria

Serbia's voice joins global consultations process "The World We Want 2015"

As one of over 60 countries undergoing national consultation processes, all people living in Serbia were invited to give their opinions and contribute to the definition of a set of global Sustainable Development Goals that will guide United Nations and other partners' development activities in the period after 2015. Special emphasis was put on the voices from marginalized groups in Serbia, whose voices are often excluded in such endeavors. >> [full story](#)



^ @twitter.com/UNCT_Serbia

Albania: Young people talk jobs, and what they want #Post2015

This makes for fertile ground for Albania's "Future We Want" consultations that were started in January. Discussions were held with high school students in the capital, Tirana, and small towns including Librazhd and Lezha as well as with recent graduates from Elbasan and touristic Vlora.>> [full story](#)

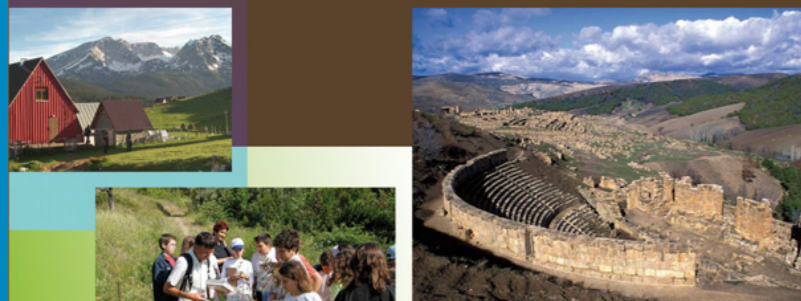


^ © Voices from Eurasia - Olsi Beci High School

Education for Sustainable Development in Biosphere Reserves & other Designated Areas



Education for Sustainable Development in Biosphere Reserves and other Designated Areas
A Resource Book for Educators in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean



© UNESCO 2013
Resource Book cover

Just released. This 258-page illustrated Resource Book for Educators in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean is the result of a large team work that has the ambition to effectively promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the field and in particular in Biosphere Reserves (BRs) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme of UNESCO, as well as in other designated areas that share some fundamental features with MAB BRs.

The combination with attempts to get a “win-win” result is: ESD can be well developed and demonstrated in such areas while ESD activities extended beyond the schooling system bring substance, interest and support to the management and protection of Biosphere Reserves. The history of this publication goes back to 2008 - when the first material on ESD in Protected Areas was produced in Greece by the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE). >> full story

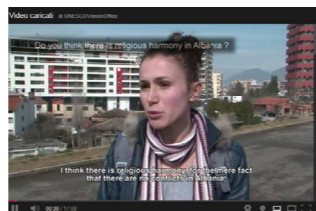
[Download PDF: Education for Sustainable Development in Biosphere Reserves and other Designated Areas: A Resource Book for Educators in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean; Publ: 2013; 258 p., illus.]

Multimedia

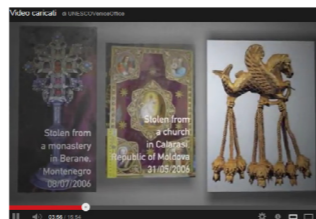
Here you will find audio and video material, photographs and other resources. Audiovisual resources are above all related to the videos produced within the frame of our activities.



EXPLORE THE MITHRAS TEMPLE OF JAJCE (JACE I MITRAS) [11:38]



ISLAND OF PEACE - PART 1 [17:08]



FIGHTING ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE [15:54]

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Bridges

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