

Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Issue 3 • 2013

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Venice Office
Regional Bureau for Science
and Culture in Europe

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

Workshop on Earth Observation for multi-risk scenarios, EU FP7 Project IncREO France. 2-4 July 2013

Holocaust education and intercultural understanding in South-East Europe Poland. 3-4 July 2013

Inauguration of the UN House Bosnia and Herzegovina. 5 July 2013

Training Workshop on Statistical Survey of Science Technology and Innovation Albania. 9-11 July 2013

Meeting of Category 2 Centres active in the field of intangible cultural heritage Bulgaria. 24-26 July 2013

AUGUST

Working group on Quality Assessment of Research, Development and Innovation Statistics in the Western Balkans Italy. 6-7 August 2013

SEPTEMBER

Opening of the exhibit "Imagining the Balkans" in Belgrade Serbia. 9 September 2013

Advanced underwater archaeology course Croatia. 16-28 September 2013

The Best in Heritage Croatia. 19-21 September 2013

EMME Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East Summer School for Science Communication Spain. 23-26 September 2013

ODS Training Event for Teachers 2013 Serbia. 29 September 2013

School on Sustainable Energy Governance in World Heritage Sites Croatia. 30 September - 4 October 2013

OCTOBER

First Regional Science Promotion Conference Serbia. 2-3 October 2013

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

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

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

Kick-off Meeting of the EU Project FLOODIS- Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing a flood information service Italy. 15 October 2013

Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR): Towards More Effective Management of Shared Ecosystems and Sustainable Development of Bordering Territories" Canada. 17 October 2013

Training seminar "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)" Canada. 19-20 October 2013

Capacity-building training on the restoration of Ottoman cultural heritage in South-East Europe Albania. 21 October 2013 - 2 November 2013

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

REENFOR-2013 Renewable Energy: Towards Raising Energy and Economic Efficiencies Russian Federation. 22-23 October 2013

Regional seminar on the practical implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions Ukraine. 23-25 October 2013

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

NOVEMBER

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

UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development Italy. 9 November 2013

UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development Montenegro. 10 November 2013

Capacity-building workshop for the finalization and implementation of the Management Plan for the World Heritage site Stari Ras and Sopocani Serbia. 11-14 November 2013

International School and Workshop in Nonlinear Mathematical Physics and Natural Hazards Bulgaria. 25-29 November 2013

DECEMBER

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



▲
©UN envoy urges 'uniting for youth' with first in series of virtual Google+ Hangouts

12 August : Each year, a theme is selected for the International Youth Day. This year it is 'Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward'.

Young people today face pressing global challenges such as high levels of unemployment, vulnerable working conditions and marginalization from decision-making processes.

Dear reader,

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

Working in partnership with young people has been a long-standing priority for UNESCO, one that the UNESCO Venice Office is motivated to continue as we actively seek to incorporate youth in our daily activities.

From developing new and engaging initiatives aimed at teaching children to better safeguard and protect our precious water resources (p.8) to providing essential job skills and training for young restorers and conservators (p.12), to inviting them to join us as interns and volunteers in our Office (p.13), working with and for this key group of stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners is recognized as key for building future "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



▲ ©Youth - iStockphoto

>> all events

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First-ever Eastern Partnership Ministerial Conference on Culture

This high-level event of the Eastern Partnership Initiative held on 27-28 June 2013 in Tbilisi, Georgia, was organised by the European Commission – Directorate General for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Youth & Sport and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. The Tbilisi declaration was signed by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation participating in the Conference.

The conference represented a milestone in the cultural dimension of the Eastern Partnership, aiming to give guidance for future work and providing an occasion for a mid-term assessment of the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme.

Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), represented UNESCO at this first-ever Eastern Partnership Ministerial Conference on Culture.

Likewise participated in the event: Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth; Bidzina Ivanishvili, Prime Minister of Georgia; and the ministers of culture of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The conference highlighted the contribution culture can bring to the different threads of development (political reforms, civil society development, economic development, job creation and social cohesion), while also providing the opportunity for a mid-term

assessment of the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme and to offer information about the future Creative Europe Programme.

Three sessions were scheduled:
 1 - Culture as a vector for political reforms and social development;
 2 - Culture as a vector of economic growth and job creation; and,
 3 - EU instruments and international cooperation - perspectives for the future.

The event closed with the release of the Tbilisi declaration.

The Eastern Partnership Initiative (EaP) is created to support sustainable reforms in Eastern European countries with a view to accelerating their political association and economic integration with the European Union (EU) and to facilitating the mobility of citizens.

At the heart of this joint endeavour lies a shared commitment to fundamental values, such as democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. >>full story



© Girl with EU weathercock - EU Neighborhood Info center; EU-funded Eastern Partnership Youth Regional Unit (EPYRU)

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

What happens in the countries in Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus affects the European Union. Successive EU enlargements have brought these countries closer to the EU and their security, stability and prosperity increasingly impact on the EU's. The potential these countries offer for diversifying the EU's energy supplies is one example.

All these countries, to varying degrees, are carrying out political, social and economic reforms, and have stated their wish to come closer to the EU. The conflict in Georgia in August 2008 confirmed how vulnerable they can be, and how the EU's security begins outside our borders.

The European Commission put forward concrete ideas for enhancing our relationship with: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. This would imply new association agreements including deep and comprehensive free trade agreements with those countries willing and able to enter into a deeper engagement and gradual integration in the EU economy. It would also allow for easier travel to the EU through gradual visa liberalisation, accompanied by measures to tackle illegal immigration.

The Partnership will also promote democracy and good governance, strengthen energy security, promote sector reform and environment protection, encourage people to people contacts, support economic and social development and offer additional funding for projects to reduce socio-economic imbalances and increase stability.



© Eastern Partnership Initiative - Family Photo

Tbilisi Declaration

We, the Ministers and Heads of delegations participating in the first Eastern Partnership Ministerial Conference on Culture, held on 28 June 2013, in Tbilisi, Georgia:

1. Recalling:

- the principles underpinning the Eastern Partnership, including a shared commitment to fundamental values, such as democracy, the rule of law, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- the vision of culture referred to in the Commission Communication on the Eastern Partnership, adopted on 3 December 2008 whereby the EU has specifically recognised the value of cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue as an integral part of all external policies and has underlined the importance of cultural cooperation in addressing political processes and challenges;
- the importance of further enhancement of co-operation and policy dialogue on culture reflected in the Joint Declaration of the 2nd Eastern Partnership Summit (Warsaw, 29-30 September 2011);
- the principles stated in the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 20 October 2005, including the link between culture and development, as well as the importance of maintaining, adopting and implementing policies for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions;
- the standards developed by the Council of Europe and enshrined in The European Cultural Convention and specific conventions.

2. Reaffirming:

- the role of culture in human and socio-

economic development, as well as in political reforms;

3. Acknowledging:

- the essential role of the Eastern Partnership Platform 4 "Contacts between People" in providing a framework for a policy dialogue on culture between the EU and Eastern Partners;
- the results achieved through the series of seminars and meetings held in the context of the work programme of Platform 4, taking forward this dialogue on cultural policy;
- the important added value of the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme, both in terms of allowing for a strong participation of cultural operators from the region in cooperation projects as well as in providing capacity building to public institutions;

4. Welcoming:

- the opportunities opening up under the new Creative Europe Programme, and in particular the possibility for Eastern Partners to fully participate in the Culture and MEDIA strands of the programme, on an equal footing with EU Member States and candidate and potential candidate countries, provided a number of technical conditionalities are fulfilled;

5. Express our commitment:

- to pursue the reform and modernisation of our cultural policies and to fully implement the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 20 October 2005;
- to include culture in our development agendas and to harness the potential of

culture in smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;

- to foster inter-ministerial cooperation on cultural issues, in the spirit of acknowledging the transversal nature of culture strongly contributing to e.g.: social integration, economic growth, education and intercultural dialogue;
- to develop cultural policies in close cooperation with civil society, and to this end encourage and strengthen dialogue structures;
- to enhance a balanced, comprehensive and strategic approach to cultural and creative sectors, covering in particular architecture, archives and libraries, artistic crafts, audio-visual (including film, television, video games and multimedia), cultural heritage, design (including fashion design), festivals, music, performing and visual arts, publishing and radio;

6. Therefore call on the EU:

- to pursue its support for the modernization of cultural policies in the Eastern Partnership countries, in particular by ensuring a continuation of the capacity building component of the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme;
- to facilitate and, if necessary, to co-finance the participation of the Eastern Partnership countries in the Creative Europe Programme by ensuring the necessary information and communication about the requirements for participation;
- to look at ways of enhancing cultural cooperation in the Eastern Partnership framework.

>> Download the Tbilisi Declaration



UN House in Sarajevo inaugurated

▲ ©UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 5 July 2013, the United Nations House was officially opened in Sarajevo by Helen Clark, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator and Chair of the UN Development Group (UNDG) and Bakir Izetbegović, Member of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency. Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), represented UNESCO at the inauguration.

In her address, Helen Clark underscored the commitment of all the United Nations Agencies to join their efforts with those of the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities in the development of the country, as well as to strengthen co-operation between governmental institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the United Nations.

“All UN agencies want to support the development and progress of BiH. The opening of the UN House represents a symbolic act

of strengthening the co-operation between the BiH Government and the UN. With this effort we also wish to support local and international partners in realising their objectives, i.e. promoting rule of law, local development, increasing energy efficiency, as well as seeking a lasting solution for refugees and displaced persons,” she said.

Following the opening ceremony, Clark attended the signing of the Joint Declaration on Resolving Protracted Displacement in Bosnia



▶ ©UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina - Helen Clark meets with Yolanda Valle-Neff and Siniša Šešum, members of the UN Country Team in Bosnia and Herzegovina



◀ ©UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina - Helen Clark and Siniša Šešum, head of the UNESCO Antenna Office in Sarajevo



▲ ©UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina - Address to the members of the UN Country Team in Bosnia and Herzegovina

and Herzegovina, which addresses the issue of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Collective Centre residents in the country.

In addition to the opening ceremony of the UN House and the signing of the Declaration, during her three-day visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina Helen Clark met with Bakir Izetbegović, Member of the BiH Presidency, Zlatko Lagumdžija, BiH Minister of Foreign Affairs, Milorad Dodik, President of Republika Srpska, Željka Cvijanović, Prime Minister of Republika Srpska, Nermin Nikšić, Prime Minister of the Federation of BiH, Peter Sorensen, Head of the EU Delegation to BiH and Special Representative of EU and other senior officials and diplomats in



▲ ©UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina - Opening ceremony of the UN House

Bosnia and Herzegovina. Helen Clark also met with members of the UN Country team in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO

Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and Siniša Šešum, head of the UNESCO Antenna Office in Sarajevo. >>full story

Following through on commitments made at its first international conference to “Safeguard the cultural heritage in Kosovo[1]” in 2005, UNESCO is zooming in on the antique settlement of Novo Brdo/ Novobërdë in cooperation with and funding from the European Union.



▲ ©UNESCO - Novo Brdo Castle

Dating back to the IV century BC as the economic and trade center of the medieval Serbian state, this site is of significant historical and archaeological value. Novo Brdo/ Novobërdë was one of the most important late medieval cities in the central Balkans. Its growth was predicated on the rich lead, silver and gold mines in the vicinity whose extensive exploitation began in the first decades of the fourteenth century. Situated on a hill in the southeast region of Pristina, the municipality and its invaluable cultural heritage underwent significant damage during, and especially following, the armed conflict in the region.

Once thriving from its mining exploitations and duly inhabited, Novo Brdo/ Novobërdë included a large valley settlement, a fortified hill and citadel. Today, the fortifications survive

in a ruinous state, growing increasingly vulnerable to further and rapid decay. As such, the complex requires an extensive assessment with regards to conservation needs and archeological exploration.

Further, UNESCO considers the protection of cultural heritage as a valuable multi-purpose framework, capable of creating reconciliation opportunities, fostering peaceful relations within once torn communities and developing a positive ripple across neighboring regions. Consequently, the European Union has partnered with UNESCO in a joint management project aimed at (a) revitalizing the Castle through conservation and restoration efforts and (b) managing and valorizing the municipality’s cultural heritage assets through socio-economic development initiatives.

Revitalization of Novo Brdo/Novobërdë Fortress, one of the most important late medieval cities in the central Balkans

This project is developed in line with and as part of the European Union umbrella mission, “Balanced Regional Development.”

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

[1] As defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)



▲ © Evgeni Dinev – Landscape from the Strandzha Mountains, Bulgaria

Introducing Education for Sustainable Development in Biospheres Reserves and other Designated Areas at EuroMAB 2013

Within the 2013 EuroMAB Network Meeting in Canada, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is scheduling a training seminar on Education for Sustainable Development from 19-20 October 2013. This event shall contribute to enhancing the capacity of Biosphere Reserves to fulfill this third function by developing Education for Sustainable Development-oriented activities and, by doing so, to widen their impact on our societies while encouraging sustainable ways of living.

EuroMAB is the oldest and largest regional network of Biosphere Reserves, consisting of over 284 sites in 52 countries. This network represents a wealth of experience, knowledge and passion to implement conservation and sustainable development principles. Biosphere Reserves are designated by the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) as areas of significant ecological importance where a variety of actors are engaged in the common pursuit of building sustainable communities.

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere will welcome world sustainability leaders to EuroMAB 2013 from 15-19 October under the theme, "Engaging our Communities". The event highlights the essential contributions of a variety of groups in implementing MAB objectives, including local populations and

organizations, academia, different levels of governments, and the private sector.

The training on Education and Sustainable Development (ESD) is a post-event of EuroMAB 2013 which will allow participants to share their experiences and exchange knowledge, good/best practices and lessons learnt in relation to ESD activities developed in and around BRs; it will focus especially on good practices and lessons learnt related to activities demonstrating the third function of a BR, how it logistically supports ESD projects.

The publication "Education for Sustainable Development in Biosphere Reserves and other Designated Areas: A Resource Book for Educators in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean" will be distributed to the participants during EuroMAB 2013.

The book published by the UNESCO Venice Office is the result of a large teamwork that has the ambition to effectively promote 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 BRs. Developed in close co-operation with MIO-ECSDE, the handbook is an illustration of what UNESCO can achieve when it takes advantage of its multifaceted mandate, combining resources from its various sectors together with the demonstrated influence in the field of the MAB Programme and its network of BRs.

While focusing on a particular region of the world, there is no doubt this resource book contains elements of interest for all members of the EuroMAB network, especially for those interested in increasing the capacities of trainers and educators seeking to design and implement innovative educational projects, using BRs and other designated areas as authentic "ESD laboratories". >>full story



▲ ©The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Welcomes World Sustainability Leaders to EuroMAB 2013

Transboundary Biosphere Reserves: towards a more effective management of shared ecosystems and sustainable development of bordering territories

Within the 2013 EuroMAB Network Meeting in Frontenac Arch Biosphere, Canada, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), will hold a workshop on Transboundary Biosphere Reserves on 17 October 2013 with the aim to enhance the capacity of EuroMAB countries to establish and manage their biosphere reserves, particularly transboundary ones, and to look at the transboundary potential within the EuroMAB network through innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development.



▲ © Tibor Mikuska - Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere will welcome world sustainability leaders to EuroMAB 2013. The EuroMAB 2013 workshops will serve as key opportunities to build and strengthen relationships among participants to encourage and guide further engagement after the event; workshop presenters will share practical knowledge and insights they have gained through their experiences.

In particular, the workshop on Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBRs) will aim to enhance the capacity of EuroMAB countries to help establish and manage their Biosphere Reserves – BR(s), particularly transboundary ones, and look at the transboundary potential within the EuroMAB network through innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development. The workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss added values of BRs in the integrated management of shared water resources. The workshop will also help bridge the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the International Hydrological Programmes (IHP) of UNESCO while implementing activities towards sustainable development of transboundary areas.

At this time, over ten countries of sub-regions under the coverage of the UNESCO Venice Office - South-Eastern European (SEE), Mediterranean, Black Sea and Caucasus countries - have

initiated and/or undergone processes for the establishment of possible TBRs.

There is a need to facilitate these processes – in particular, at a crucial moment when stakeholders require support and communities and authorities need clarification about their engagement, responsibilities and benefits - and to move forward with the designation process(es).

The workshop on Transboundary Biosphere Reserves is open to all interested countries and their representatives in EuroMAB 2013 Network Meeting. The workshop will bring specific added values to the South East European, Mediterranean, Black Sea and Caucasus countries

and it will strengthen the promotion and use of the BRs as a network of experimental sites established in the frame of the MAB Programme of UNESCO, in order to promote Sustainable Development in the subregions concerned.

Finally, the workshop shall contribute to catalyse the establishment of new BRs in the above countries, in particular in transboundary contexts, providing them with tools for the co-management of shared ecosystems (related in particular to water) and facilitate the dissemination of good practices and policy advice on Sustainable Development including a green economy approach. >>full story



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND OTHER DESIGNATED AREAS: A RESOURCE BOOK FOR EDUCATORS IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

UNESCO publication. UNESCO Venice Office, Italy, 2013. 258 p., illus., maps. This illustrated Resource Book aims to increase the capacities of those trainers and educators seeking to design and implement innovative educational projects, using Biosphere Reserves and other designated areas as authentic "ESD laboratories".



Science Journalism: Serbia is host of the first South-East European School

The first edition of the SEE Science Journalism School, organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), from 3 to 5 October 2013 in Belgrade will be oriented towards improving the quality and quantity of ethical science reporting by South-East European (SEE) media.

◀ © CPN Serbia - Youth and Science

Science journalists and media communicators from the SEE region, press officers and communication officers of international organizations, agencies and institutions active in science communication, scientists and researchers have been invited to apply. Numerous submissions were received from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey as well as from Austria, Italy and other extra-European countries.

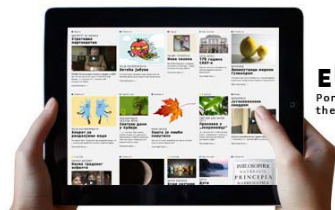
Twenty selected participants will have the opportunity to learn from and exchange views with an international panel of science journalists and media experts.

The residential nature of the school will allow for open discussions and exchanges among trainers and trainees in the classroom. The school will cover topics such as: how to improve the quality of science reporting and avoid pseudo-science; how to build and maintain trust between science and journalism; the watchdog role of journalism; rebuilding public

trust in science; and, dealing with uncertainty and risk.

In accordance with the mission of UNESCO, the school aims at promoting responsible and ethical high-quality science reporting in the region, with a long-term goal of reducing the existing gap between science and the public and developing a critical science journalism culture in the SEE region. To enhance the impact of the initiative, the school will be held in conjunction with the First SEE Regional Science Promotion Conference. >>full story

Why is the promotion of science important? Discussions on the agenda in Belgrade



Elementarium
Portal of Popular Science of the Center for the Promotion of Science

▲ ©CPN - Portal for the Promotion of Science

The First SEE Regional Science Promotion Conference (SCIPROM) is co-organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and the Center for the Promotion of Science.

The conference will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, from 2-3 October 2013 under the patronage of UNESCO. It will gather science promotion professionals, practitioners and enthusiasts from our region to share experience, network and formulate the

next steps towards strengthening the link between science and society. It is time to meet, discuss challenges and share experiences.

The region is rich in creative people who share similar cultural background, so synergy should be easy to establish. It is an invitation to explore how to increase the scientific culture in the region and identify the short- and long-term strategic goals of science promotion. Keynote sessions will bring on board international experts and organization representatives of research and education institutions, science camps and media.

As a back-to-back programme with the South-East European Science Journalism School, participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and information about science topics in the media in the South-East European region. >>full story

Sustainable Energy Governance in UNESCO World Heritage sites



▲ © aGreenweasel - Old harbour of Dubrovnik

The goals of the school on Sustainable Energy Governance in UNESCO World Heritage sites are to offer educational support to World Heritage local-central governmental officials, site planners and managers, scientists, practitioners and researchers with applied interest on sustainable energy governance issues; to build capacities on renewable energy and energy efficiency promotion using UNESCO designated sites for learning and sharing knowledge; to strengthen the dissemination of information on renewable energy and energy

efficiency potentials in UNESCO designated sites; to enhance problem-solving capacity and critical thinking through the adoption of an interdisciplinary approach of sustainable energy issues; and to promote the interface between young researchers and practitioners with industrial partners of high profile for the improvement of summer school technical provision and follow-up.

With its interdisciplinary approach the school targets a broad audience that includes World Heritage

The School in South-East Europe on Sustainable Energy Governance in UNESCO World Heritage sites, organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is being held from 29 September to 4 October 2013 at the University of Dubrovnik in Croatia. The school's course includes a number of team working sessions and on-site exercises which will use the World Heritage site of Dubrovnik as a demonstration case.

managers, scientists, practitioners and researchers with applied interests in sustainable energy governance issues, preferably but not exclusively in UNESCO designated sites, from countries in South-East Europe and the Caucasus. Experienced lecturers highlight through various methodologies how to link advanced technologies in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy with the preservation of historical buildings, towns and natural settings. >>full story

Upgrading Life in Historical Towns: Sustainable Energy

The workshop is organized by the City of Dubrovnik & the Croatian Association of Historic Towns (CAHT), the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and the Marco Polo System, in partnership with the University of Dubrovnik, RENFORUS, and under the patronage of the Croatian Ministry of Culture.

The international fall workshop on "Upgrading Life in Historical Towns - Sustainable Energy", will take place from 3 to 4 October 2013 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

The workshop will look at energy issues including energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in historical towns as part of global sustainability in



▲ © Historic Towns - International Fall Workshop on "Upgrading Life in Historical Towns - Sustainable Energy"

the use of energy sources.

Energy is increasingly at the core of global sustainability and climate change mitigation discussions. As energy demand continues to grow, the ability to address energy issues, including energy access, efficiency, and renewable energy sources, will be paramount in enabling development

and climate change priorities to be met in a mutually reinforcing way. Professionals and advocates of sustainable energy are invited to take part in an exchange of innovative ideas, leading edge concepts, new technologies, ongoing research and demonstration projects, and policy updates that will shape the future of sustainable energy. >>full story



SEE River Project. Hand in hand for rivers: from local to transboundary, from top down to bottom up

The project intends to reach a common agreement on river corridor management for the harmonisation of both development and conservation interests. This will be achieved through a close cooperation of experts from a wide range of fields from different countries and the active involvement of stakeholders from local river areas and national or regional authorities. The project is introducing a new approach to river and land management by focusing on the river corridor as the selected, local river area where most pressures occur.

Harmonizing interests through combined approaches

Contemporary circumstances demand integrative and strategic river management, based on a combination of local, regional, national and transboundary approaches, as well as on knowledge and experiences in cross-sectoral reconciliation. For this purpose, SEE River intends to reach a common agreement on river corridor management for harmonizing both development and conservation interests along six selected rivers. This will be achieved by a close cooperation of experts from a wide range of fields from different countries, and active involvement of stakeholders from local river areas and regional or national authorities. The project is introducing a new approach to river and land use planning management by focusing on the river corridor as the core part of the catchment area where most pressures occur.

Developing a sustainable model and guidance

Project activities and findings will result

in the SEE River Toolkit, an innovative and generally applicable model and guidance on how to achieve future sustainable use of river corridors by taking into account and harmonizing stakeholder interests at different levels. It will be tested through the application at six international river corridors and integrated into the daily work by 26 organizations from 12 countries. The toolkit will promote techniques for communication, dialogue and facilitation. It will be prepared concretely, however general enough to ensure that it could be used on any river corridor. The project also aims at reaching stakeholder agreement on concrete actions at the six river corridors as a basis for future implementation and funding in the 2014-2020 EU financing period.

Expected project results

The main expected project result is the Toolkit for Integrative Management of International River Corridors developed as a joint approach to integrative management of river corridors in SEE, tested through application on 6 international river corridors and integrated into their daily work by 26 organisations in partner countries. Other expected key results include: Drava River Action Plan for integrative management; Five multi-sectoral stakeholder agreements - Local Action Plans for management of five Pilot Areas on the Drava River corridor; Five Draft Action Plans for integrative management of the Bodrog, Neretva, Prut, Soca, and Vjosa river corridors; Directory of good practices of integrative management of international river corridors, follow-up project proposals prepared on the basis of future joint actions, Sustainability plan for future cooperation of the SEE RIVER

network of experts, and others.

Sharing Knowledge and Experience: partnerships

The project partnership consists of 26 of the most relevant institutions and international organisations involved in managing river corridors from 12 countries of South Eastern and Central Europe. They will combine and share knowledge, data, information and experiences from several expert fields: water management, nature protection, energy, spatial planning and others. Project partnership ensures cross-sectoral, vertical, local and transnational cooperation, and sustainability of project results for the involved countries and for the SEE region as a whole through partners' involvement in the relevant bodies and networks. The project is led by the Slovenian Institute for Water (IzVRS).

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is affiliated to the project as an observer partner. >>full story



© SEE River Project - Brochure



Science communication and Euro-Mediterranean/Middle Eastern solidarity

Forty science communication professionals from Southern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East came together for the first edition of the Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East Summer School of Science Communication (EMME) to drive development of new science communication endeavors in their respective countries and regions.

© Peterfh - Parque de las Ciencias, Granada

This multicultural effort, motivated by a passion for science communication without borders, was held at Parque de las Ciencias in Granada, Spain, from 22 to 27 September 2013.

The EMME summer school groomed future science communication leaders by targeting middle profile staff of existing science centres and museums as well as newcomers to the field from related organizations such as universities, local

authorities and associations. Training bolstered participants' professional skills and expertise in the management of science centres and a range of public engagement with science and technology activities including exhibitions, science festivals and school programmes.

The school programme featured experienced speakers and facilitators from science communication

institutions who provided training in strategic planning, management, exhibition development, new technologies and learning methodologies.

The project responds to the growing number of science centers and science communication activities occurring around the Mediterranean and especially in the Middle East. >>full story

UNESCO Club of Rome delivered its contribution for the rebirth of the City of Science

On 28 June 2013, the UNESCO Club of Rome handed over to Prof. Silvestrini its contribution to the rebirth of the City of Science in Naples.

"With this contribution we want to blame and discourage violence and support the cultural and civic engagement," said Carla Mazzuca, President of the UNESCO Club of Rome.

The City of Science fell victim to arson on 4 March 2013. "The heartfelt words of the President of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, Prof. Giovanni Puglisi, could not go unheeded. The UNESCO Club of Rome wanted to concretely react to the cultural wound inflicted by the heinous arson not only to the City of Science in Naples, but to the Italian and worldwide culture. I wish - he continued - that many other cultural associations and clubs existing in Italy will share our choice and join our initiative."

The delivery of the contribution was held in the presence of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy). The meeting was an opportunity to strengthen relations of cooperation among the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), the City of Science, NGOs and UNESCO on the role of science in development cooperation also in view of the forthcoming World Science Day for Peace and Development to be held at the City of Science on 9-10 November 2013.

The City of Science is an initiative for the promotion and popularization of science run by the Fondazione IDIS-Città della Scienza and implemented

through a multi-purpose facility located in Naples, consisting of an interactive science museum, a business incubator and a training center. >>full story



©cittadellascienza - UNESCO Club of Rome delivers its contribution



©Gabriele Nosio - exhibition at the Science Centre of the City of Science



© Gruppo Alcini/Ciak Junior - Water belongs to us all!

UNESCO Venice Office YouTube channel airs new cartoons on water issues and the Garbage Patch State

Within the second cartoon series of the H2Ooooh! Initiative, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), encourages youth around the world to create and share their own stories on how to better safeguard and protect the precious natural resource of water. During the 24th Edition of the CIAK Junior International Film Festival four cartoons were produced by the participants.

CIAK Junior calls upon youth from Europe and around the world to create an audio-visual product - from start to finish, covering all phases, and taking part in the production of a short film. Every year, the young participants present films which clearly express their concerns, the daily challenges they face, their hopes and their willingness to propose changes which they think need to be addressed so as to have a more equitable, peaceful, stable world - in other words, a more livable world. The short animated films produced during the CIAK Junior Festival are now on air on the UNESCO Venice Office YouTube channel.

Water belongs to us all!

PetPal Nameless, the little chick whose actions speak louder than words, is in its natural habitat next to a body of water. A truck appears and with a pipeline sucks up the water in great amounts, desiccating the surrounding wildlife. Nameless in response clogs up the pipeline with a clothespin, causing it to burst and thus return the water the earth. One realizes that water we use can come at the expense of others. We

become mindful of water as a shared resource. Watch : Water belongs to us all! [0:57]

Don't waste water!

PetPal Diva, the vain and impulsive duckling, is watering her garden. Diva answers a call on her mobile phone, leaving the hose running. Her garden overflows with water, while the water of a frog in the nearby pond runs out. The angry frog travels through the conduit connecting his pond to Diva's garden. He bangs on Diva's door and she answers it, only to have the wasted water flood her home. Diva, remorseful, opens her garden gate and water gushes forth, replenishing the emptied pond. Diva is once again watering her plants, but this time shutting off the hose in a more conscientious manner. Diva understands that carelessness with water use can be avoided simply by being aware of one's actions. Watch: Don't waste water! [1:45]

Garbage Patch State 1

A seagull is flying over a supermarket from which a man exits and guzzles a bottled drink. Instead of disposing of

this bottle in its appropriate bin, he throws it into the ocean. The bottle is met with more and more floating debris until it forms a mound of garbage. This is the Garbage Patch State, an area of over 15,916,000 square kilometers of litter floating in the ocean. The seagull, visibly saddened by the polluted state of the water below, flies away. Watch: Garbage Patch 1 [1:27]

Garbage Patch State 2

Two monster-like garbage trucks are taking in piles of trash and then dispensing them into the ocean next to a seagull, who is then hit by a discarded bottle. The garbage floats along the ocean, eventually entering the mouth of a whale who becomes ill as a result and shoots it out of his blow-hole. A flying bottle again hits the injured seagull, and lands on a massive accumulation of trash. Both the bottle and the upset seagull are shown atop this accumulation, which is the Garbage Patch State. The Garbage Patch State is visible from space, and then the earth itself turns out to be a piece of garbage next to the bins. Watch: Garbage Patch State 2 [1:53] >>full story

UNESCO TV Spanish airs H2Ooooh! video 'Heroes of water saving': Héroes ahorradores de agua

© Proyecto H2Ooooh! - Héroes ahorradores de agua



Renewable Energy: Towards Raising Energy and Economic Efficiencies



© REENFOR2013 - Permanent International Forum on Renewable Energy

The first international forum on Renewable Energy REENFOR-2013 will take place from 22-23 October 2013 in Moscow at the initiative of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Non-Profit Partnership "Scientific-Technical Council of the Unified Energy System".

On Day 1, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), will organize the plenary session on "Energy education and training of specialists for renewable energy sector" (PS 12). The forum is organized by RAS Scientific

Councils for Complex Energy Problems, for Renewable Energy Sources (RES), for Reliability and Security of Large Power Systems and Non-profit Partnership "Agency of scientific and business communications" (NP "ANDK"), in partnership with the UNESCO Venice Office, and UNESCO institutions and centres on Sustainable Energy Development.

REENFOR considers the issues surrounding efficiency and practical uses of advanced renewable technologies, how to improve their output and economic performance

in various climatic and socio-economic conditions and to analyze the best practices in the use of RES in the Russian Federation. REENFOR is expecting the involvement of representatives from leading international organizations, research centers and foreign companies active in the field of renewable energy. REENFOR aims to establish closer scientific, technical and business cooperation amongst parties interested in participating in the development of RES in the Russian Federation. It also aims to discuss their potential participation in creating a prototype model for renewable energy installations within the country.

The forum will consist of plenary sessions, panel discussions and presentations by companies and regional representatives on the issues of development and practical uses of available conversion technologies, such as: solar, wind, biomass, hydrokinetic, geothermal, natural and low-grade waste heat pumps. >>full story

KULTURisk workshop: benefits of disaster prevention measures

The third workshop of the KULTURisk collaborative project, Knowledge-based approach to develop a cULTure of Risk prevention, funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) - Environment was held in Venice on 19-20 September 2013.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), intervened in the third session and presented some insights on the UNESCO strategy in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and on the multiple actions undertaken by the Office in order to strengthen the capacity of South-East European Member States in Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) and preparedness.

Effective strategies and plans of Disaster Risk Reduction are

built on a good understanding about the risks a community is facing. This understanding can only be achieved through a Risk Assessments methodology that considers the multi-faceted physical/ environmental, social and economic aspects. The extreme consequences of recent catastrophic events have highlighted that risk prevention still needs to be improved to reduce human losses and economic damages.

The project, coordinated by UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education - one the largest international postgraduate water education facility in the world based in Delft, the Netherlands, aims at supporting the spreading of a culture of prevention, by offering the possibility to evaluate the actual economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits of different risk reduction measures. This evaluation is carried

out with the use of a comprehensive risk assessment methodology. The methodology has been developed and validated on water-related hazards (i.e. floods, debris flows and landslides, storm surges), in different European case studies and with different receptors/elements at risk.

One objective of the project is to generalize this methodology and explore the applicability of the KULTURisk approach to different types of natural hazards, like earthquakes, forest fires, etc. >>full story



© KULTURisk - Knowledge-based approach to develop a cULTure of Risk prevention



Cultural Diversity, Civil Society and International Cultural Cooperation in South-East Europe

The 2013 Conference on Cultural Diversity, Civil Society and International Cultural Cooperation in South-East Europe, organized jointly by the Culturelink/IRMO and the Centre for Democracy and Law Miko Tripalo, in co-operation with the Croatian Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), was successfully held in Zagreb on 3 and 4 June 2013, bringing together representatives of national focal points for the 2005 UNESCO Convention, researchers, professionals, artists, members of the Culturelink Network and other participants from the region of South-East Europe and beyond. The event was attended by 55 participants from 16 countries.

Following its adoption and the first round of periodic reports that have been received and analysed by UNESCO, the question of the effective

implementation of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is more pertinent than ever.

The Convention aims to strengthen the link between culture and development, to foster cultural interaction and dialogue, and to establish innovative approaches towards international cooperation and solidarity. It encourages opening towards other cultures, and recognizes and defends the distinctive nature of cultural activities, goods and services as vehicles of identity, values and meaning.

The Convention also encourages its signatories from the developed world to offer preferential treatment to artists and cultural workers from developing countries in order to assist in the development of their cultural industries. It emphasizes the role

and the legitimacy of public/cultural policies in the promotion of cultural diversity and defines their relations with other international instruments.

The discussions at the Conference were focussed around a set of key issues concerning the implementation of the Convention, aiming to analyse good practices and expectations from the international community. Special attention was paid to the analysis of the information submitted to UNESCO through the periodic reports, with focus on the state of affairs in South-East Europe. The conference was structured around 4 thematic round tables, centring around different levels of intervention: policy-advice and planning, information-sharing, operational partnerships and civil society. >>full story

© culturelink.org - Photo of the event

© culturelink.org - Photos of the event



2013 edition of The Best in Heritage

Twenty award-winning museum, heritage and conservation projects from the last year, at both national or international levels, were presented at the 12th annual edition of "The Best in Heritage".

Since 2002, this event has been organized in partnership with Europa Nostra with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Venice, (Italy). This year's edition took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 19-21 September.

The conference serves to identify and promote the best museum, heritage and conservation projects in the world, and brings together museum and heritage professionals, institutions and professionals from a



©The Best in Heritage

broad range of practices and interests in the field of heritage.

'The Best in Heritage' presents awarded, new or renewed institutions worldwide and a great number of exceptional projects hardly known to the international professional public.

The conference offers a unique chance to see, hear and meet representatives of professional excellence and gain insights into innovative contemporary practice. A new addition to this year's conference

was the Global Heritage Forum.

The aim of this initiative was to bring together senior representatives of European and international heritage organizations to discuss a global agenda for heritage.

This top-level but informal meeting, in which a global strategy and an action plan for cultural and natural heritage were outlined, was a joint venture between Europa Nostra and the International National Trusts Organisation. >>full story



©app. preservenice.org

PreserVenice unveils UNESCO-funded smartphone application and website on public art in Venice

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Venice Project Center announced the release of the "PreserVenice" website and smartphone app aimed at publicizing and protecting the unique collection of public art that adorns the streets and canals of the city of Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The PreserVenice website showcases all of the 1,098 coats of arms, 943 patere (roundels), 394 reliefs, 173 sculptures, 109 street altars, 109 fountains, 75 crosses, 56 flagstaff pedestals, 32 decorations, 30 inscriptions and 25 fragments, for a total of 3,044 elements of Venice's urban decor.

Each piece's information can be viewed in individual wiki pages on Venipedia and in more succinct forms viewable directly by clicking on artifact symbols on the map of Venice.

The companion PreserVenice app is usable on all smartphones, from the

web browser, and it designed to elicit participation through crowdsourcing and crowdfunding from interested users who are willing to contribute to the upkeep of each collection piece by flagging erroneous data, by providing updated information or by taking new photos, and also by donating money towards chosen artifacts that need urgent repair.

An additional 5,000 artifacts that await funding to be included in the PreserVenice web site and app. The goal is to complete the publishing of all collected data and then creating a nonprofit organization called PreserVenice, that will collaborate with the UNESCO Venice Office to

actively preserve and restore these outdoor testimonials of Venice's past.

The team plans a Kickstarter campaign to fund the next phase of the project. In the spirit of the entire initiative, PreserVenice will employ "crowdfunding" techniques to collect restoration funds from many small contributors, who can make micro-donations in real time from the Venipedia wiki as well as from the mobile app.

The PreserVenice app currently runs on Chrome, Safari and Firefox. Internet Explorer might be supported at a later date. >>full story



ICUA Category 2 Centre in Zagreb conducted its 2013 Advanced Underwater Archaeology Course with the support of UNESCO

©Igor Miholjek/ ICUA - Pelsejac Peninsula



The International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) in Zadar launched its second Advanced Underwater Archaeology Course. The course lasted two weeks and took place in Pula, Croatia, from 16-28 September 2013. It was organized with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).



The course consisted of theoretical and practical (hands on) instructions in the techniques of underwater archaeological excavation, data processing and use of new technologies in underwater documentation.



Archaeologists from ICUA and guest lecturers conducted theoretical lessons, complemented by optional courses in specialty diving according to the requirements of the SSI or PADI systems. Practical instruction took place in the frame of underwater archaeological researches of ancient shipwrecks in Ližnjan, Pula environs, in order to prepare the participants to actively take part as a regular member of an underwater archaeological excavations team.



The course's beneficiaries were archaeologists with diving experience and basic practical underwater archaeology experience. The course was designed to develop advanced skills and experience in underwater archaeological work and project planning basics. Participants from the following countries were eligible for coverage of participation costs: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia,

Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

The theoretical part of the course was conducted at the diving center in Pula, and the practical part at the nearby archaeological site of Uljeva, Ližnjan. Lectures included: Introduction in the conservation of underwater finds; Amphorae in archaeological context; Research and publication of project results; Advanced methods and techniques of underwater documentation; Postmedieval pottery finds in Adriatic; and 3D survey and computer post-processing of data.

Practical exercises - which every participant had to learn - were divided by days, so each group of two to four students had to deal with them daily: logistical organization of personal and team equipment; basic boat operations; use of water pump and hoses; underwater use of water dredge in a trench excavation; underwater photo documentation of a trench and a site; lifting of heavy objects from the sea bottom; packing, labelling and transport of finds; underwater drawing documentation and post-processing of data; practical use of site recorder computer program for documenting of the site; and area survey with use of a boat mounted side scan sonar.

All participants took part as novice members of a team in archaeological excavations of the ancient shipwrecks for on-site training. Participants who completed the course received the ICUA official certificate of successful course completion. >>>full story

▲ International centre for underwater archaeology in Zadar



Global meeting for Category 2 Centres in the field of intangible cultural heritage

UNESCO and the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe organized a global meeting of category 2 centres active in the field of intangible cultural heritage at Sozopol on Bulgaria's Black Sea coast.

©Nenko Lazarov - Sozopol

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), joined the productive exchanges and dialogue of this meeting held from 24 to 26 July 2013. The event was an excellent opportunity for the participants to take stock of the recent

developments in the life of the Convention and the larger trends underway at UNESCO concerning category 2 centres. The meeting also facilitated joint efforts for the integration of the Organization's medium-term strategy (37 C/4) and programme and budget for the

coming quadrennium (37 C/5) into the medium-term and short-term planning of the respective centres, enabling them to continue to contribute effectively to UNESCO's work. >>>full story

Auschwitz-Birkenau: Building a new common exhibition in former Yugoslav Block 17

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum hosted on 3-4 July 2013, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) a meeting of the international steering committee in charge of coordinating, under the auspices of UNESCO, the establishment of a renovated joint exhibit space within the ex-Yugoslav pavilion (Block 17).

The meeting was organized to continue discussions on the renovation and transformation of the former Yugoslav block nr. 17, situated within the State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, and the setting up of a joint exhibit on the Holocaust. The meeting allowed experts to present selected items and discuss common approaches for the contents of the joint exhibit.

internationally recognized institutions: Shoah Memorial (France), The Topography of Terror (Germany), Holocaust Memorial Museum (USA), with the participation as Observers of the National Fund for Victims of National Socialism (Austria) and the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum (Poland).

The renovated Block 17, which also comprises the Austrian pavilion (ground floor), is due to open in 2015, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. The experts also used this opportunity to consult archives and visit other recently renovated national pavilions (Belgium, France, Hungary, Jewish, Netherlands, Roma) situated within the Memorial, a World Heritage site since 1979.

The objectives of this meeting resonated with UNESCO's overall mission to promote Holocaust education, as well as the role of museums as tools for intercultural understanding, research and dialogue. The meeting was supported by UNESCO's Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, and is organized within the overall framework of UNESCO's global initiative "Culture: A Bridge to Development". >>>full story

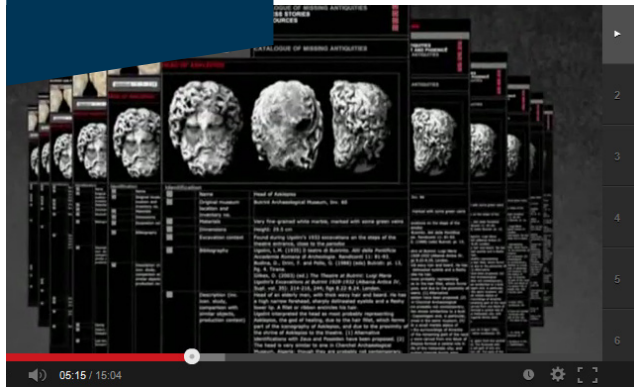


▲ © 2013 Yad Vashem - Birkenau, Poland, 27/05/1944, Jews alighting from a train

The international steering committee comprises relevant Ministry representatives and Holocaust experts from each of the six successor states (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), UNESCO, as well as representatives of the following



▲ © Auschwitz-Birkenau blocks - scrapbook pages



The 15' video on sensitization and awareness-raising on the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural property is now available in Turkish and directly accessible on our YouTube channel.

Watch the video on YouTube: [Fighting illicit traffic of cultural property in South-East Europe \(Language: Turkish\) \[15:04\]](#)

© UNESCO - Fighting illicit traffic of cultural property in South-East Europe

Fighting the illicit traffic of cultural property in South Eastern Europe. UNESCO video is now available in Turkish

In addition to Turkish, the video produced by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), with the support and co-operation of the Ministries of Culture and the National Commissions for UNESCO from the South-East European region is also available in English and in 9 languages from South-East Europe (Albanian, Bulgarian, Bosnian, Croatian, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Romanian, Serbian and Slovenian).

The video puts the emphasis on issues specific to the region (such as the fight against looting of religious heritage, the need for training,

capacity-building and sharing of information mechanisms); shows images of famous and valuable stolen and recuperated objects; promotes the value of all types of movable cultural properties; and increases awareness of the wider public on the importance of their contribution to the appropriate management and protection of their cultural heritage.

The video also features interviews by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO; Karl-Heinz Kind, Coordinator, Works of Art Unit, INTERPOL; Elena Korka, Director for the Documentation and Protection of Cultural Goods, Ministry of Culture,

Greece; Colonnello Raffaele Mancino, Division for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Comando dei Carabinieri -Tutela Patrimonio Culturale, Italy; Bianka Perčinić-Kavur, Chief of Department for Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Croatia; Despo Pilides, Curator of Antiquities, Ministry of Communications and Works, Cyprus.

This video was produced for the general public to show the different dimensions of illicit traffic in South-East Europe, promote regional and international cooperation and mobilize public opinion. [>>full story](#)



© UNESCO - Fighting illicit traffic of cultural property in South-East Europe

The Contribution of audio-visual productions to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage

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

© etnofilm.org - 22nd edition of the International Festival of Ethnological Film

The meeting on "The Contribution of audio-visual productions to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage" is organized by the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade, in cooperation with the Sofia Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Bulgaria) and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy). It will include a round table on the realization of a possible

regional audiovisual production on intangible cultural heritage in South-East Europe – challenges and opportunities. Participating experts will include representatives of heritage safeguarding agencies, anthropologists, film makers and other individual practitioners.

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

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

ETHNOGRAFSKI MUZEJ U BEOGRADU
ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM IN BELGRADE



'Imagining the Balkans'. The exhibit travelled to Serbia

The exhibit "Imagining the Balkans. Identities and Memory in the long 19th century", coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), with the support and participation of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), was inaugurated at the Historical Museum of Serbia, on 9 September 2013, in the presence of Bratislav Petković, Minister of Culture and Media, Serbia.



© Imagining the Balkans - Exhibit Poster

Part of UNESCO's global initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development", the exhibit 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.

"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 will be on display until 6 November and travel to Romania in December and to other countries from South-East Europe in 2014-2015. [>>full story](#)

Venue of exhibit:
Historical Museum of Serbia
website: www.imus.org.rs



◀ Lumen roma - Stari Ras and Sopoćani

Towards the finalization and implementation of the Management Plan for Stari Ras and Sopoćani

The UNESCO Venice Office will support the organization of site-specific, thematic workshops intended to develop the capacities of national and local stakeholders in the management of selected World Heritage sites and other UNESCO designated sites (Man and the Biosphere Reserves), with special focus on the integration of management plans with local development programmes and strategies.

The first workshop will take place in the World Heritage site of Stari Ras and Sopoćani, in Serbia, on 11-14 November 2013. It will be organized by the Serbian Ministry of Culture and Media, in cooperation with the Institute for the Protection of Culture Monuments of Serbia with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

No heritage management plan has been completed or adopted in Serbia so far. Currently, a plan for the World Heritage site Gamzigrad - Romuliana is in the final stage of preparation and it is expected to be soon ready for public review. The preparation of a plan for the Stećci medieval tombstone as part of the nomination

dossier is also underway, while the preparation of a plan for Stari Ras and Sopoćani is hugely delayed.

Although in Serbia management plans are not mandatory under the law, experts and government officials are increasingly aware of their importance as well as of the importance of integrating such documents with other relevant planning tools. This awareness is also the result of several trainings and consultations carried out in Serbia since 2009. However, when it comes to local stakeholders, the situation is different.

Local communities seem not to have developed so far a sufficient understanding of the function and purpose of management plans, especially in terms of fostering local sustainable development, nor of their key role in the definition and implementation of such plans. On the contrary, management plans have been sometimes the reason of additional controversies related to local political, economic, cultural and/or religious issues. Stari Ras and Sopoćani is a very clear example of this.

The site is inscribed in the World Heritage list since 1979. Although

several years have passed since the initial drafting of the document, the scarce awareness, involvement and ownership by the local communities with regard to the preparation of Plan, combined with an insufficient dialogue among the relevant stakeholders (representatives of the state planning and preservation institutions at both central and local level, representatives of religious communities, NGOs, the private sector, etc.) have severely hampered the process.

Accordingly, the establishment of a broad and inclusive participatory approach seems to be the top priority for the definition of a shared and high-quality planning document, as well as for its future implementation. >>>full story



▲ © Natasha Lazic - Stari Ras and Sopoćani

Restoration of Ottoman cultural heritage in South-East Europe at the Tirana Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments

The Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments based in Tirana, Albania, and the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), are launching this first regional training workshop. Of a duration of 2 weeks, the event will take place in Tirana and Berat from 21 October to 2 November 2013.



◀ © King's Mosque - Edlira Caushi

The training programme will consist of theoretical and practical (hands-on) activities aimed to introduce relevant conservation and restoration techniques, in compliance with internationally recognized conservation principles and standards. Lectures and site work will address the principles of conservation and restoration on monuments, buildings decorations and artefacts from the Ottoman period, with a special focus on wall paintings, including insights into historical techniques of

execution, deterioration processes, conservation treatments and methods, as well as maintenance requirements. The course will include a one-week theoretical training module at the Tirana Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments and a two-week field module in the city of Berat, a UNESCO World Heritage site, focusing on the complex of the King's Mosque, one of the oldest in Albania, built in the 15th century under Sultan Bayezid II (or Sultân Bayezid-î Velî). Training activities will

be led by a team of experts - two Turkish and one Albanian - under the joint coordination of the Regional Centre for the Restoration of Monuments, the TIKA Headquarters and Office in Tirana, and the UNESCO Venice Office.

The course is intended for young restorers and conservators - ideally under 30 years of age - willing to develop their professional capacities in the training topics. >>>full story

Stepping up efforts to implement the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the diversity of cultural expressions in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), will represent UNESCO at the Regional seminar on the practical implementation of the UNESCO 2005 Convention, on 23-25 October 2013 in Lviv, Ukraine.

The seminar is the first event organized within the framework of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) with specific focus on the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

The Convention is a legally-binding international agreement that intends to ensure artists, cultural professionals, practitioners and citizens worldwide can create,

produce, disseminate and enjoy a broad range of cultural goods, services and activities. The seminar aims to raise awareness of the challenges regarding policy development to promote the diversity of cultural expressions within the countries of the EaP.

The seminar will encourage discussion on how EaP countries address different aspects of policies to promote the diversity of cultural expressions, including diversity of local cultural content, diversity through greater exchanges of cultural content regionally or at an international level, etc.

A great number of policies are concerned in this context: not only policies in direct support of the cultural and creative sectors, but also

policies that help create an enabling environment in which these sectors can operate and grow, and policies which ensure a broad access to diverse cultural goods and services such as intellectual property rights, information society/digitization, taxation, social affairs, local and regional development, international relations and cooperation, international trade. >>>full story



▲ © Jan Mehlich - Old town in Lviv (Ukraine)

IBAMBINI DI
OVS SALVANO
IL MONDO



Until 31 December, children - alone, in a group or with their own class - can participate in this initiative promoted by OVS in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), and Gruppo Alcini. Children are our future, but not only. Children are exceptional in their love for life, for nature and for what is ultimately right. From this awareness the initiative was born with the aim of promoting respect for nature and a conscientious use of the planet's resources.

The initiative was presented on the occasion of the theatrical release of the animated feature film "Pet Pals - The Land of Wind" produced by Gruppo Alcini. The cartoon brings to the stage the Pet Pals characters, which are engaged in combat with the machinations of Wizard Crow, their historic rival. Wizard Crow wants to stop the "whirligig" that generates the stream of air necessary to the everyday life in the village of Breath. Should the wind stop blowing, everything would stop in the village, because in the village each machine exploits wind energy.

The film, presented at the 70th Venice International Film Festival is the leitmotif of the initiative: an invitation for children to draw, by themselves or with their own class or friends, a storyboard for a short cartoon starring the Pet Pals on issues related to

environmental sustainability. A unique opportunity for them as the 3 most interesting ideas will be selected to become real short cartoons that - dubbed in various languages - will be broadcasted all over the world. Moreover, the most significant among these short cartoons created by the students will be shown in the "Pet Pals - The Land of Wind" film credits.

Strong emphasis has always been given to environmental protection issues and even more so to children and their education. An interest testified by the various initiatives undertaken to date by Gruppo Alcini in collaboration with the UNESCO Venice Office - CIAK Junior festivals and H2Ooooh!

Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), is a proud supporter of this new initiative: "Once again, the fantastic Pet Pals will be the testimonial of a campaign aiming at raising awareness of the central themes of sustainability: we are sure that many Italian children will respond to this call to be the

'OVS Children Save the World' initiative takes kids on a fantastic adventure towards environmental sustainability

creators and the actors of a more righteous and beautiful world".

What will children be able to do when connecting to the website of the 'OVS Children Save the World' initiative? The youngest ones will be able to play! Connecting to the web page "Play with Pet Pals" they can animate 3 of the most beloved characters of this cheerful group: Top Hat, Moby and Wizard Crow.

From the main page, the oldest can enter the competition, by drawing a storyboard for a short cartoon starring the Pet Pals on the following themes:
1. Ecological footprint; 2. Water saving; 3. Alternative energy and energy saving; 4. The city suitable for children; and, 5. Waste and recycling. Children can download a pre-set storyboard to create their own storyboard and to upload it online by 31 December 2013. They also have the possibility to directly draw their cartoon on the portal by uploading it automatically. >>full story

Website: <http://ibambinidi-ovsalvanoilmondo.ovs.it/>



© I bambini di OVS salvano il mondo



From Venice to the Caucasus Mountains. Tobias Mohn

Tobias Mohn, a former intern in our Science unit has taken some time to let us know what he thought about his 4-month internship with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

Originally from South Germany, Tobias has spent the past years between Berlin where he studied and many places. It is with pleasure that we recall Tobias Mohn's internship with us over April-August 2011. We much thank Tobias for having accepted to reply to the interview questions from the Caucasus mountains.

"I recently finished my Master in environmental engineering and sustainable development at the Technical University of Berlin. Throughout my studies, I was interested in the work of international organizations and their role in sustainable development and environmental protection.

Venice is a city which had a great impact on my personal life in the past, so when I learned that there was a vacancy for an intern in the field of science diplomacy and transboundary water management, I just did not hesitate to apply.

I was interested in UNESCO as it reflected my multiple interests and I saw the internship as a great chance to get to know better also a variety of activities, which are not in my professional domain - like culture and education. Now and then, when my work was finished, I spent hours searching the extensive library of UNESCO for publications ranging from Central Asian history to Education on climate change.

After the internship, I continued to travel and accumulate work experience. I had the chance to share my experiences tutoring for a German scholarship programme for international students working in development countries and do other internships in Central Africa for the German International Cooperation (GIZ) and China.

While finishing my studies, I co-authored a book titled "Slowly Africa" (original title: Lentamente l'Africa)

Interested in joining the UNESCO Venice Office as an intern or a volunteer?

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about my bike travels in West Africa. I am about to end a 2-month bike tour across the Caucasus, working on a photo project about Georgia and Armenia. Upon my return, I will pack my bags and move to Congo to start my first real job in a major national development agency. It will be again in the field of transboundary water management, the topic I learned so much about during my internship time at UNESCO." >>full story



© Tobias Mohn - Himself and 'Lentamente l'Africa' Book cover

Arielle Sibony, a young volunteer from France

Arielle joined our Office from 25 June to 31 July 2013, in the Executive and Coordination Office under UNESCO's new Volunteer Programme. Arielle is a college-preparatory student in Prépa littéraire (Khâgne) at Lycée Balzac in Paris with a focus on History/Geography. She has an international experience working as a facilitator in a youth movement and as a representative of its French delegation at seminars abroad.

"This year I studied International Relations, and through worldwide conflicts, the importance of agreement and cooperation among the countries. My studies were focused on culture; therefore it was a great opportunity for me to join the UNESCO Venice Office



© Arielle Sibony

which united at the same time both aspects of international relations and culture. During my internship, I learned much about the Balkans and the issues they face. I was able to do my research work quickly. This also very much thanks to UNESCO's website which

allowed me to gain a good knowledge of the political, social and economic situation in the region. I found the experience very rewarding - humanly, intellectually and in practice. I was able to see what is "life" within an office, how the organization works and how the missions were prepared. During my internship, my "superiors" provided guidance and orientation I needed. Besides, the staff was very friendly, and the tasks given were adapted to my age and background. This was a proof of open-mindedness of this organization."

We wish Arielle every success in her studies and future endeavours.

In memoriam

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Eyüce, Member of our Scientific Council



Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), expressed deep sadness over the news of the death of Prof. Dr. Eyüce, member of the Office's Scientific Council since 2012, on 9 August 2013.

Prof. Eyüce had earned his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the Department of Architecture in the Faculty of Architecture at Middle East Technical University (METU) in 1973. In the same year, he started working as an assistant at Ege University (E.U.). He earned his Master of Architecture degree in 1976 and Ph.Degree in 1979 at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Ege University. He conducted his research at the TU Karlsruhe Institute Für Industrielle Bauproduktion with a German Academic Exchange Service (D.A.A.D.) research fellowship.

Prof. Eyüce was a founding member of the Department of Architecture at KAAU, Jeddah (1981) and Um-al-Kurra University, Mecca (1983). He taught at the Faculty of Architecture at Dokuz Eylül University from 1988 to 1995 and, served as an adviser in Betontaş A.Ş. from 1998 to 1992. In 1995, he taught at the Faculty of Architecture of the Izmir Institute of Technology (IYTE). In the same year, he served as a deputy dean at the Faculty of Architecture. In 1998, Prof. Eyüce was awarded the National Architecture Award for the Project 'Izmir Aquarium'. Between 1999 and 2004, he was an adviser to the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality. In 2004, Prof. Eyüce was transferred to the Faculty of Architecture at Bahçeşehir University and in 2006, he became the Dean. During his career, Prof. Eyüce participated in numerous conferences and symposia in the U.S.A., Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and many European countries. He carried out many projects and his academic works were published in Turkey and abroad.

Information on Prof. Eyüce's passing was shared by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism. "I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to the family of Prof. Eyüce, as well as the country, the Ministry and the Bahçeşehir University for the loss of this outstanding person and professor", said Yolanda Valle-Neff. "His passing is a great loss to us and to the cultural and academic communities. Prof. Eyüce will be sorely missed in Venice where he was highly appreciated, not only for having enriched our work and for the positive impact he had during his two-year mandate as member of our Scientific Council, but also for his unique human qualities. He will be warmly remembered." >>>full story

#POST2015

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals have helped improve the lives of billions, but much more needs to be done to reduce inequalities and address environmental challenges. Actions must now be urgently stepped up to achieve the MDG targets by 2015. At the same time, different stakeholders are currently actively engaged in discussing a Post-2015 Development Agenda.

- Ukraine Wins The My World Outreach Award for Europe and North America

- Government leaders at UN Assembly debate urge ambitious, targeted post-2015 development agenda

- Albania: Youth employment as a priority for the Post2015 development agenda

- Post-2015 Development Agenda: Final report on consultations in the Republic of Moldova officially

- A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015



Watch the video:

EASTERN EUROPE AND
CENTRAL ASIA: WHAT KIND
OF WORLD DO YOU WANT?
[5:26]

Bridges

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