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Report on the work of the UNESCO Chair on Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction in 2017

Members of the UNESCO Chair on Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (hereinafter UNESCO Chair) were in the year 2017 actively involved in the preparation, organization and implementation of the international doctoral summer school on natural disasters, which was held between 21 May and 10 June 2017. The summer school was organized as a joint initiative of three universities (University of Ljubljana, BOKU University from Vienna, Austria and University of Brescia, Italy) and a video production company (Piktorama). It was carried out with a relatively rarely used method of learning/teaching at the level of doctoral studies, i.e. blended learning methodology. The first week of the summer school was carried out at a distance (via the web portal www.let-group.com). The second two weeks students spent in Ljubljana (face-to-face learning). The summer school was attended by 9 Slovenian and 19 foreign students from different countries around the world. Members of the UNESCO Chair participated in carrying out the lectures dealing with the content of risk reduction of water-related disasters (e.g., floods, droughts, landslides). In the fields of water-related disasters and other natural disasters, also lecturers from other countries have contributed to the summer school (partner universities, and 3 invited lectures from University of Milano Bicocca, Italy; Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic and Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia). Based on their knowledge and experiences they have contributed very interesting lectures. After the end of the event, video lectures (distance learning part of the summer school) are freely available on the web portal.

Part of the above-mentioned summer school (second week) was held at the 4th World Landslide Forum (WLF4; www.wlf4.org). WLF4 took place between 29 May and 2 June 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. UNESCO Chair co-organized the Forum (UNESCO Chair holder, Professor Matjaž Mikoš, was the Forum Chairman and the main organizer on behalf of the University of Ljubljana). Its members actively participated with papers in the field of landslide risk reduction. Springer Nature published papers presented orally at the Forum in five books entitled *Advancing Culture of Living with Landslides* on over 3000 pages. Abstracts of papers were published in *WLF4 Local Proceedings with Programme*. The event attracted 600 participants from 51 countries all across the world. At the WLF4, the 2017 Ljubljana Declaration on Landslide Risk Reduction (<http://iplhq.org/category/4-ljubljana-declaration/>) was adopted.

UNESCO Chair coordinates the work of two members, i.e. of the University of Ljubljana (Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering; UL FGG and Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering; UL NTF) in the work of the International Consortium on Landslides (Kyoto, Japan; icl.iplhq.org) and connects to the UNITWIN network together with the ICL and University of Kyoto (<http://iplhq.org/unitwin/>). University of Ljubljana (UL FGG) has been conferred the World Centre of Excellence on Landslide Disaster Reduction award (WCoE; <http://iplhq.org/category/iplhq/world-centre-of-excellence-wcoe/>).

Within the framework of this WCoE, the UNESCO Chair co-organized the *3rd Regional Symposium on Landslides in the Adriatic-Balkan Region*, which was held between 11 and 13 October 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Between 5 and 7 July 2017 Associate Professor Mojca Šraj (member of the UNESCO Chair) attended the *1st International Conference on Mobilizing UNESCO Chairs in Natural Sciences* for policy action towards 2030. The conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland. At the event were presented the main objectives and areas of the UNESCO Chair's work. While attending the conference new contacts were made. This will contribute to the capacity building in the area of water-related disaster risk reduction.

In 2017, the UNESCO Chair was also active in the field of publishing scientific and research work. Two issues of the *Acta hydrotechnica* journal (ISSN: 1581-0267) were published. The journal *Acta hydrotechnica* publishes among others review, original scientific and professional papers of Slovenian and foreign researchers in the field of protection against water-related damage and disaster risk reduction.

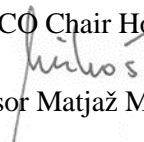
In the framework of the 2-year master's program Flood Risk Management the UNESCO Chair cooperates in the education with the University of Dresden (Germany), IHE Delft (The Netherlands) and Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Spain). UNESCO Chair contributes to the education with knowledge from the field of socio-economic assessments of flood protection. The subject in which we teach is carried out in the 3rd semester. Students arrived in Ljubljana in December 2017.

In December 2017, a two-year (2018-2019) bilateral project with University of Hannover (Germany) was approved. The project deals with stochastic precipitation models for estimation of rain erosion. Meetings of Slovenian and German representatives are foreseen. With the project, the knowledge will improve; not only at the level of the collaborates but also internationally. Furthermore, research results will help to strengthen the area of water-related disaster risk reduction. Now, a project proposal for the Public Call for Co-financing Scientific Research Cooperation between Republic of Slovenia and State of Israel in the years 2018-2020 is being prepared. The content of the bilateral project proposal refers to determining the effects of drought on the water balance and the dynamics of nutrients in relation to the regional water balance.

In addition to the aforementioned, in 2017 we participated in the following meetings in the field of water-related disaster risk reduction:

- 2. slovenski kongres o vodah (2nd Slovenian Water Congress), Čatež, Slovenia (April, 2017),
- European Geoscience Union Conference, Vienna, Austria (April, 2017),
- International meeting on flood modelling, Milan, Italy (November, 2017),
- IPL Conference, Paris, France (November, 2017),
- 28. Mišičev vodarski dan (28th Mišič's Water Day), Maribor, Slovenia (December, 2017).

UNESCO Chair regularly publishes news on implemented and planned activities on the web site www.unesco-floods.eu. Furthermore, on the site also reports and multimedia materials such as pictures and videos are published. Some news and reports are supplemented with links to other websites with more detailed information.

UNESCO Chair Holder

Professor Matjaž Mikoš