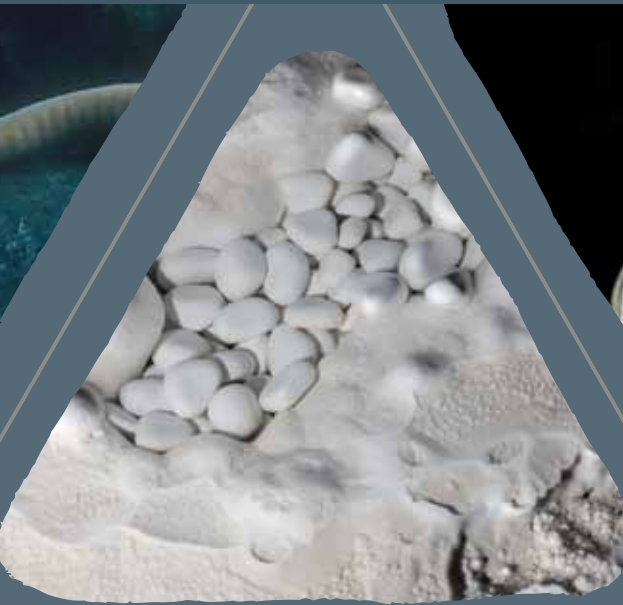




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UNESCO IN SLOVENIA

UNESCO in Slovenia

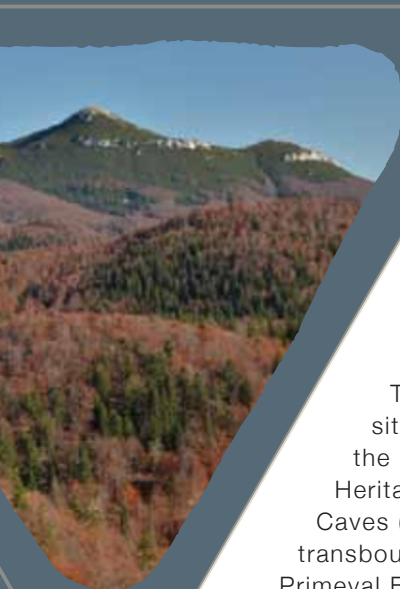
The most famous and prestigious of the UNESCO designations are the List of World Natural and Cultural Heritage and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. However, several other programmes and activities provide the framework for a balanced and coordinated approach to the protection of cultural and natural heritage at a global level: biosphere reserves, the network of internationally important wetlands and the global geoparks network. Important too is the Memory of the World Programme, dedicated to documentary heritage, and the network of UNESCO Chairs and Category 2 Centres, both complementing UNESCO's activity at the level of postgraduate studies and science.

The List of World Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites

The 1972 UNESCO Convention on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is an unique international act, which protects the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value to all nations, and mankind as a whole. Thus far, the Convention has been signed by 193 UNESCO Member States (as at 1st January 2017), placing it at the very top of international normative instruments. In the forty years of its existence, 1,092 monuments and sites have been listed on the World Heritage List, of which 845 are cultural, 209 natural and 38 mixed sites (with both cultural and natural features) and 37 transboundary sites (data for July 2019).



Two landmark sites are registered on the UNESCO List of Cultural Heritage Sites: the prehistoric pile dwellings in Ig in the Ljubljana Barje, as part of the transnational archaeological sites of prehistoric pile dwellings around the Alps (inscribed in 2011, six countries), and the heritage of mercury in Idrija alongside that of the Spanish town of Almadén (inscribed in 2012).



Two natural heritage sites are registered on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites: the Škocjan Caves (inscribed in 1986) and the transboundary property Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (2017).



Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

The aim of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is to contribute to the better protection of the intangible cultural heritage, promoting respect for it, raising awareness about its importance, and ensuring international cooperation and assistance. According to the Convention, intangible cultural heritage includes oral traditions, expressions and language, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship that individuals, communities and groups recognise as part of their cultural heritage, with which they identify and which they strive to preserve. Slovenia ratified the Convention in 2008 and included the intangible cultural heritage in the Cultural Heritage Protection Act (2008), which previously included only tangible movable and immovable cultural heritage. The Act defines, among other things, the tasks of the Coordinator of the protection of intangible cultural heritage, which have been performed by the Slovene Ethnographic Museum since 2011. The Slovene Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage has been in establishment since 2008, with 69 elements entered by the end of May 2019.

The following four elements were inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:

- Škofja Loka Passion play (2016),
- Door-to-door visits by the Kurenti (2017),
- Bobbin lacemaking in Slovenia (2018) and
- - Art of dry-stone walling, knowledge and techniques (2018, a multinational inscription of eight countries).

Biosphere Reserves

Established in 1976, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves counts 669 biosphere reserves in 120 countries (as at 14th June 2017). Biosphere reserves are representative examples of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, having an outstanding natural and cultural value. The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme designates biosphere reserves to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The Network not only helps disseminate knowledge about ecosystems and biodiversity but also provides a space for sharing good practices in sustainable development..

There are four Biosphere Reserves:

- Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve (2003),
- Karst and the Reka River Basin Biosphere Reserve (2004),
- Kozjansko and Obsotelje Biosphere Reserve (2010),
- Ura River Biosphere Reserve (part of the future Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve: The Amazon of Europe) (2018).



Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks are geographically defined areas with outstanding geological features, tasked with protecting geological heritage along with ecological, archaeological and cultural heritage, while at the same time developing a strategy for their promotion and marketing. Particular attention is paid to the landscape and the conservation and exploration of significant geological features in the context of sustainable development. Geoparks' main purpose is the protection and conservation of geological heritage, education for various groups and cooperation with local communities. Geoparks link nature, culture and tradition through a wide variety of activities.

There are two UNESCO Global Geoparks in Slovenia:

- Idrija Geopark (2015),
- Karavanke Transboundary Geopark (2015).



4. Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, better known as the Ramsar Convention, was signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. It was the first modern nature conservation convention, emphasising the need to conserve all wetlands, their functions and biodiversity, as well as their prudent use.

Wetlands are a critical part of the water cycle, needed on the one hand for a functioning ecosystem and on the other for human needs and regulating locally extreme incidents. In terms of biodiversity, they are among the richest and most endangered ecosystems. However, despite being aware of the importance of wetlands, their surface is in constant decline. There are three wetlands of International Importance in Slovenia:

- Sečovlje Salt Pans (1993),
- Škocjan Caves (1999),
- Lake Cerknica (2006).

UNESCO Chairs

The UNESCO Chairs Programme promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work. The Programme supports the establishment of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks (the UNESCO University Network) in key priority areas related to UNESCO's fields of competence. Through this network, higher education and research institutions worldwide pool their resources, both human and material, to address pressing challenges and contribute to the development of their societies. The chairs serve as bridge builders between universities, civil society, local communities, research and policy-making.

There are four UNESCO Chairs in Slovenia:

- UNESCO Chair on Karst Education (2014),
- UNESCO Chair on Open Technologies for Open Educational Resources and Open Learning (2014),
- UNESCO Chair on Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (2016),
- University of Primorska – Member of UNITWIN Network "Culture, Tourism, Development" and UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology (2014).

Memory of the World

Created in 1992, the Memory of the World Programme is a UNESCO initiative aimed at recognising the importance of the world's documentary, written and bibliographic heritage, as well as preserving documents that testify to the history and memory of humanity. The list includes 527 of the most valuable written documents from 84 countries around the world (December 2018).

- Codex Suprasliensis (inscribed in 2007) is part of the Memory of the World Programme.

Creative Cities

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network was established in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities. By joining the Network, members can exchange experience, knowledge and resources, and promote and stimulate the development of local creative industries and international alliances for urban development. The Network brings together and connects cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The title is permanent; the Network is currently made up of 180 cities, 28 of which are Cities of Literature.

- Ljubljana, City of Literature (inscribed in 2015) is inscribed on the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

UNESCO Category 2 Institutes and Centres

Institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2 institutes and centres) are established and funded by Member States to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's objectives through global, regional, sub-regional or inter-regional activities. They are not legally part of the Organisation, but are associated with it through formal agreements between UNESCO and the Member State. UNESCO centres serve as international or regional centres of expertise or excellence by providing professional and technical assistance to Member States, other stakeholders and the general public, as well as by advising the UNESCO Secretariat. The centres are expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the UNESCO programme's strategic objectives.

- IZUM – Regional Centre for Library Information Systems and Current Research Information Systems is a UNESCO Category 2 Centre.

