

Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau
for Science and Culture in Europe

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©Consorzio Delta del Po - Po Delta

Sustainable Water Management in the Biosphere Reserves in South-East Europe and the Mediterranean

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe organised a high-level MAB-IHP Regional Symposium at its premises in Venice, on 16-17 December 2021, with the aim of contributing to sustainable water management in the biosphere reserves of South East Europe and the Mediterranean. The event convened 35 participants from MAB and IHP National Committees, UNESCO National Commissions, Chairs and Category 2 centres in ecohydrology, climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem services and biosphere reserves from 12 countries in the region.

The symposium primarily explored how UNESCO and its water related networks in the region, as well as its network of biosphere reserves, can promote innovative solutions and projects to improve water resources management in biosphere reserves.

The rich, diverse aquatic ecosystems of the South-East European and Mediterranean region consist of rivers, lakes, wetlands, transboundary river basins, groundwater systems and coastal areas within its biosphere reserves. Biosphere reserves serve as useful sites to test innovative solutions for water and aquatic ecosystems management, which pave the way in achieving SDG 6 and contribute to SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG15.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, through the Intergovernmental Hydrological (IHP) Programme and the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme in close collaboration with Member States, provides support to water governance through IHP for water policy-makers in the region, and fosters sustainable development on the ground through MAB.

Building on these objectives, the symposium examined the MAB-IHP collaboration and improved the convergence and future cooperation of the two scientific programmes in the region, predominantly in biosphere reserves, which are viewed as exemplary sites to highlight best practices for water resources management, and promote a more integrated ecosystem-climate-water nexus.

“Solutions to today’s global challenges such as climate change need a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach including science,” emphasised Ana Luiza M. Thompson-Flores, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in her opening speech. “UNESCO, through MAB and IHP, is applying this science-based approach to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

@unescoWATER @UNESCO_MAB #MAB #IHP #2030Agenda #BiosphereReserves #watermanagement #SouthEastEurope #Mediterranean #water #ecohydrology #climatechange #biodiversity #ecosystems

PO DELTA BIOSPHERE RESERVE, ITALY

The Po Delta Biosphere Reserve is a delta plain located in northern Italy, produced by the actions of the River Po and recent human activities. It is created by the confluence of the main branches of the river, and comprises coastal dune systems and sand formations, lagoons, fishing ponds, marshes, fossil dunes, canals and coastal pine forests, vast brackish wetlands and cultivated lands dominated by rice farming. These landscapes provide the area with a unique identity and a high level of biodiversity due to the extensive range of habitats. The reserve is an important tourist destination, and tourism together with agriculture and fish farming constitute the main economic activity of local communities.



The hybrid format of the symposium not only enabled participants from 12 countries to attend in person, but representatives from 5 additional countries were also able to join online. Noeline Raondy Rakotoarisoa, Secretary of MAB, and Abou Amani, Secretary of IHP, opened the event with a joint presentation of their programmes, notably highlighting the best practice, namely BIOPALT project in Lake Chad.

MAB and IHP national committees from participating countries delivered presentations, focusing on water resources management in biosphere reserves and best practices. Dragan Zeljko, Secretary of the International Sava River Basin Commission and Prof Michael Scoullas, Chair of GWP Med, presented their work undertaken on water resources management at the regional level.

An exchange of knowledge and expertise among representatives from UNESCO chairs/centres and 12 biosphere reserves of the region

highlighted the role of aquatic ecosystems in biosphere reserves of the region. They examined how IHP’s ecohydrology approach and network can be applied to biosphere reserves in the region; they also explored how a multi-value and multi-stakeholder water governance can be achieved in biosphere reserves of the region.

Key discussions focused on increasing possible collaboration between MAB and IHP communities in the future, to confront the most pressing issues facing us today by identifying the best practices from this region and how they can be applied and scaled up to other regions.

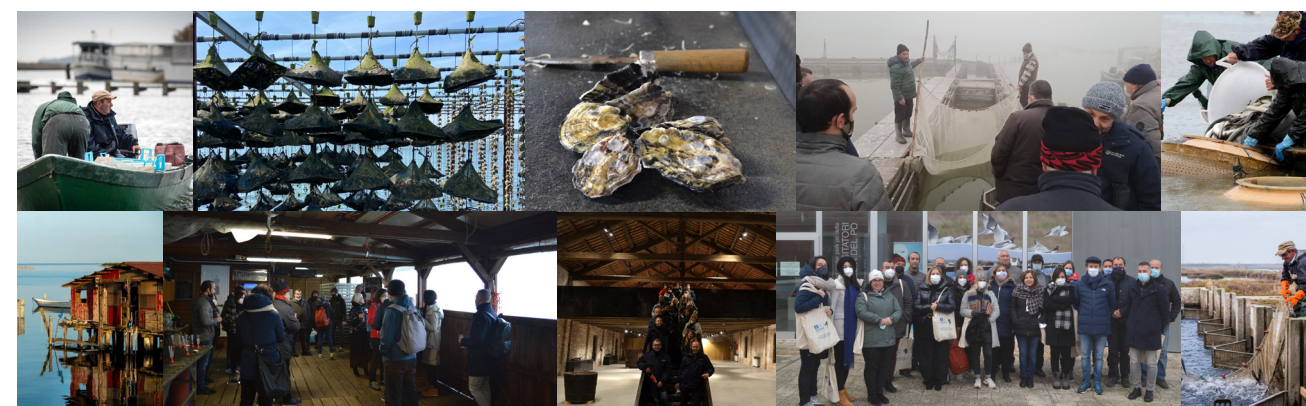
Through the field visit to the Delta Po Biosphere Reserve (Italy) on 18 December, participants gained insight on some of the innovative practices put in place for water management. They met the stakeholders working in the Biosphere reserve lagoons, notably in pink oyster production and “water fields” and “water farmers” as custodians of biodiversity. They

also visited the Valli di Comacchio, the largest brackish marsh in Italy, “lavoriero” (ancient Roman fishing system), learnt about the eel fishing activities and visited the centre on Slow Food presidium.

The symposium marked the first jointly organised regional event by MAB and IHP programmes to bring together the two communities and networks.

As highlighted by Jonathan Baker, Head of the Science unit, “the hope is for the symposium to also act as impetus for MAB and IHP to collaborate more closely in the region, notably in biosphere reserves.”

The joint initiative facilitated discussions among different stakeholders notably from the MAB and IHP communities on future collaboration and strengthened UNESCO’s regional network of stakeholders working in water, ecosystems, biodiversity and climate, particularly those working in biosphere reserves. >>full story



▲ © Parco Delta del Po; UNESCO - Field trip to Po Delta and group photos



© Parco Archeologico di Ercolano - Herculaneum and Mount Vesuvius

Working with Communities in UNESCO Designated Sites: the Role of visitors Centres

The 3rd regional workshop on the Role of Visitor Centres in UNESCO Designated Sites was held in Ercolano, Italy, from 29 September to 2 October 2021. This year's meeting brought together 23 professionals from different sites across Europe, to explore how to meaningfully engage with communities in UNESCO designated sites and how visitor centres can contribute to such a process, while supporting the broader management goals of World Heritage properties, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks.

The Role of Visitor Centres in UNESCO Designated Sites is an intersectoral and interdisciplinary initiative launched in 2018 by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, which includes the organisation of thematic workshops aimed at promoting exchange, driving innovation, developing capacities and reinforcing networking cooperation in the region.

Building on the outcomes of the first (Palermo, Italy; 2018) and second (Bamberg, Germany; 2019) regional workshops, the third edition organised in Italy adopted a special focus on working with communities. It specifically paid attention to the relationship between information/visitor/interpretation centres and local communities, looking at how community engagement and



community-oriented services can help promote local ownership, empower local actors and contribute to a more inclusive, participatory and integrated approach to site management.

The 2030 Agenda recognises community engagement as a key tool to achieving sustainable development, and UNESCO is actively promoting it throughout the Organization's focus areas.

The third workshop in Ercolano adopted a new hybrid format, composed of an introductory webinar on 23 September and a face-to-face session in Ercolano, Italy, from 29 September to 2 October, the latter using Ercolano as a real case-study.

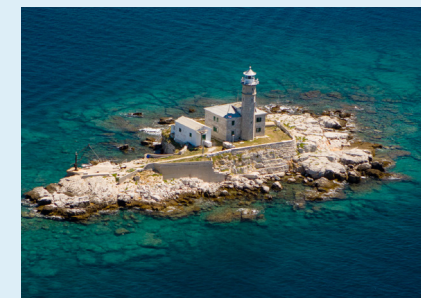
The Herculaneum Archaeological Park is located within a vibrant and complex urban context, concerning a wide array of stakeholders. The Roman town of Herculaneum was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997 as part of a serial property together with Pompeii and the Roman villas in Torre Annunziata. This territory is also part of the transition area of the Somma-Vesuvio and Miglio d'oro Biosphere Reserve, being a fascinating case study for the workshop.

@Ercolano2015 @UNESCO @MuseoMav @RadioSiani @pompeii_sites @VesuviusPark #Herculaneum #designatedsites #2030Agenda #sustainabledevelopment #WorldHeritage #culturalheritage #UNESCOdesignation #BiosphereReserves #GlobalGeoparks #visitorcentres

CRAFTING THE SEA. NEW DIRECTIONS TOWARDS A BALANCED RELATIONSHIP

Crafting the sea is a 15-month multidisciplinary innovative project aimed at identifying local knowledge for monitoring climate change, identifying biodiversity, mitigating risks and promoting a more balanced relationship between humans and nature. To this end, the project focuses on the marine life of the Rovinj archipelago, a NATURA2000 protected area in Croatia. The first phase concentrated on identification and research and included a workshop on 19-21 October, on the nexus between intangible cultural heritage and sustainable human-nature relationships.

The project is led by Ecomuseum Batana, a community-led organisation based in Rovinj, dedicated to the safeguarding of maritime heritage, enlisted in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Register of Good Safeguarding Practices for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage of the world since 2016. It



© Crafting the Sea - Saint John lighthouse, Rovinj, 2019

evaluates, protects, interprets, recreates, presents and communicates tangible and intangible maritime heritage through its varied research programmes based on knowledge, cultural heritage and dialogue, inclusion, innovation, its interdisciplinary approach and use of multimedia assets. It further actively reinforces the cultural identity and uniqueness of Rovinj as a good place to live for all its residents and a unique destination for visitors.

Ecomuseum Batana's primary mission is to empower local communities by protecting

their cultural and natural resources.

Developed in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project seeks to employ the local knowledge of the marine life (NATURA2000 protected area) of Rovinj's archipelago, which represents intangible cultural heritage. The long-term goal of the project is to raise awareness on the importance of the marine biodiversity and the threats of climate change, promoting more responsible and sustainable behaviours.

"Crafting the sea" is part of the SEA BEYOND project, a joint initiative developed by IOC-UNESCO and Prada Group, on ocean sustainability education programme. The project is implemented by the Croatian Ecomuseum "House of Batana" (Croatia) in partnership with the Centre for Marine Research - Institute 'Ruđer Bošković', with the financial support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. >>full story

BETWEEN SOCIETIES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT



© Parco Archeologico di Ercolano - Workshop participants during the group work discussions

The Herculaneum Archaeological Park and its surrounding area in the modern city of Ercolano, with its specific social, economic and environmental dynamics, were a vivid illustration of the challenges and opportunities for community engagement in heritage management.

During the onsite workshop, participants engaged in site visits and meetings with local actors from managing authorities, civil society organisations and the private sector; in addition, they had the opportunity to share and discuss experiences at their respective sites through a poster session and group work.

The workshop allowed participants to develop their individual and collective understanding of the subject, and to provide applicable

suggestions for working on a heritage-led urban regeneration process in which heritage assets become a catalyst for social inclusion and sustainable economic development. Special attention was paid to sharing experiences and advancing proposals on the role that visitor/information centres can play in this process, especially by enhancing their capacities to work with and for local community actors.

In particular, participants agreed that such centres should not only serve to communicate site values to visitors, but also play a proactive role in promoting and facilitating heritage ownership, stewardship and entrepreneurship at community level, bringing local actors closer to sites and vice versa. Such reinforced partnership requires specific information and

understanding of community needs and potentialities, combined with adequate methodologies, capacities and awareness at all levels.

Strategies for better community involvement include: working with communities from a very early age; developing specific activities for families; intending and managing centres as community services, beyond a merely visitor-oriented approach; working on co-creation for community-based heritage interpretation; promoting social and economic benefits for locals that may derive from sustainable site uses; creating inclusive and participatory consultation platforms; and reinforcing stakeholder analysis in the form of broader territorial community assessments. >>full story

UNESCO - Mondiacult 2022: Regional Consultations kick-start with Europe and North America

On 13 December 2021, more than 37 Ministers of Culture and high-level representatives, and around 30 intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, UNESCO Chairs and specialized networks participated in the online Regional Consultation on Cultural Policies for Europe and North America.

Chaired by Nina Obuljen Koržinek, Minister of Culture and Media of Croatia, the Europe and North America Regional Consultation is the first of a series of 5 that take place from December 2021 to February 2022, as part of the inclusive and participatory process aimed at informing the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – Mondiacult 2022, which will be convened by UNESCO, and hosted by the Government of Mexico, from 28 to 30 September 2022.

“Mondiacult 2022 will provide a new momentum for global policy dialogue on culture and sustainable development to advance the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, by encouraging cooperation among all countries.” underlined Ernesto Ottone R., UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Culture.

The consultation aimed at mapping national and regional trends in the field of cultural policies and identifying gaps, challenges, and priorities at the regional level for the years to come.

During the first session on Investing in culture and creativity for job creation and socio-economic development, participants highlighted the social and economic impact of the culture sector on development and the need to fully unlock this potential through holistic and transversal cultural policies, and as such, emphasized that culture should be seen as an ecosystem which must be stimulated and supported.

“We must acknowledge the crucial role of culture and cultural diversity in promoting recovery, social cohesion and well-being by creating new opportunities in the cultural sectors.” said Nina Obuljen Koržinek, Minister of Culture and Media, Croatia.

Participants underlined that the cultural and creative sector should be integrated into national resilience policies and linked to other key public policy areas such as tourism, trade, infrastructure, digital transformation and climate action.

The fact that Mondiacult 2022 should have a comprehensive and ambitious global agenda and shall serve as a steppingstone for future cultural policies came out as the main take-away from this first panel.

“Anchoring culture across the public policy agenda is the crucial task of Mondiacult 2022.” declared Tuomo Puumala, Vice Minister of Culture, Finland – Rapporteur.

Culture for Sustainable Development in figures



As we have entered the last Decade of Action for the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, agreed by the international community as a common aspirational roadmap, UNESCO is engaging its Member States and the international community to embark on a renewed reflection on cultural policies to tackle global challenges and outline immediate and future priorities. The aim is to shape a more robust and resilient cultural sector, fully anchored in sustainable development prospects in line with the vision enshrined in the UN Secretary-General's report Our Common Agenda (September, 2021)

The second session focused on the Promotion of cultural diversity in the digital environment and the advancement of the status of artists. Participants discussed the profound impact of digital transformation on the cultural sector, notably the need for updating legal and policy frameworks so that these would support both the diversity of cultural contents online, as well as the status of the artist, including freedom of creation and expression, as well as social and economic rights.

Equally important is the human right to access and participate in cultural life in a fair and inclusive manner, without discrimination nor bias, affecting notably women and vulnerable groups. In this sense, digital transformation can be instrumental in strengthening culture as global public good.

Finally, participants stressed that a human-centered digital transformation, supportive of the culture sector, entails developing adequate infrastructure, as well as strengthening basic as well as advanced skills, for both cultural professionals and institutions. Inclusiveness was at the heart of

interventions of the third session on Safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage for social inclusion. The need to embrace cultural heritage as a means of building trust and social cohesion by bringing together different communities was strongly emphasized.

Participants highlighted that a better understanding of the human dimension of cultural heritage should also translate into firmer recognition and respect for cultural rights as human rights. Many emphasized that more attention should be given to addressing the multiple risks facing cultural heritage, in particular armed conflicts, climate change and related natural hazards.

The fourth session explored the Synergies between culture and education for human-centered development and sustainability. Participants underscored the benefits of investing in educational policies through and in arts and culture, as well as of awareness and understanding of cultural

heritage, as integral dimensions of quality education, including global citizenship education.

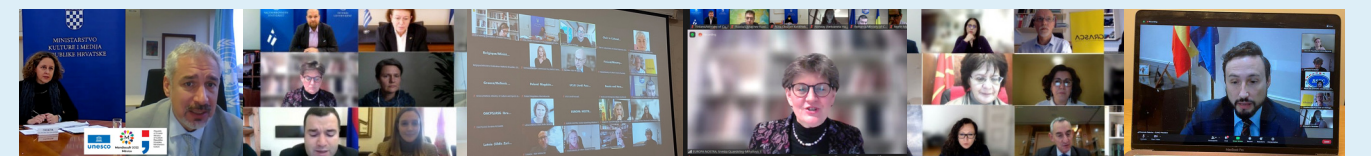
According to many participants such education has both personal and societal benefits by contributing to personal wellbeing, critical thinking and understanding of complexity. It also nurtures intercultural dialogue, social trust and cohesion. Investing in skills in arts and culture is also an investment for innovation, that should be seen as complementary and adding value to science education.

A final session on regional and global cooperation for culture and sustainable development provided international organizations and specialized networks with the opportunity to exchange prospects on how to strengthen global solidarity and international partnerships on culture for sustainable development, in the run-up to Mondiacult 2022 and beyond.

>>full story

MONDIACULT 2022 | 5 REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ORGANISED IN THE RUN-UP

From December 2021 to February 2022, 5 regional consultations are organised in the run-up to MONDIACULT 2022. The Regional Consultation process proves to be inclusive, participatory, priority-focused and strategic in terms of vision and ambitions. The five consultations play a critical role in mapping current trends pertaining to cultural policies, notably in the context of the post-pandemic recovery strategies. While helping identify key areas for the adaptation of the cultural sector to address the most pressing challenges of sustainable development, they are also intended to identify specific priorities of the region that require stronger policy investment, to better harness the contribution of culture across the public policy spectrum.



© UNESCO - Europe and North America regional consultations ahead of #Mondiacult2022 - UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies & Sustainable Development



© Crushpixel/Andrii Yalanskyi - Teambuilding

Sava River basin Open Lab: Co-creating tools for better flood risk response

How can international cooperation be facilitated in flood risk management? Which SHELTER instruments could be useful for the Sava River basin? How will the stakeholders living in the basin apply the project results? To address questions such as these, the International Sava River Basin Commission and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe initiated a virtual discussion. Stakeholders from the Sava River basin as well as target national groups came together to brainstorm ideas on how to improve SHELTER tools under development.

The 4th SHELTER Sava River basin Open Lab Stakeholder Workshop was convened virtually on 8 June 2021 by the International Sava River Basin Commission and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

The workshop aimed at defining user's perspective on the main functionalities and properties developed for SHELTER tools namely the Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment and Decision Support

System and the Chatbot, which are currently in the first phase of their development.

Once ready, these tools would be utilised in the Resilience Dashboard, an online platform that will enable users to better manage hazard risks in the SHELTER Open Labs across Europe, and specifically the management of flood risks for cultural heritage in the Sava River Basin.

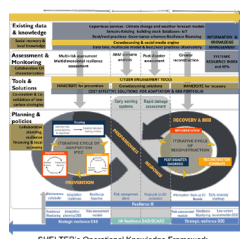
The 5 Open Labs, established in cooperation with local stakeholders, are representative of main climatic and environmental challenges in Europe and of different heritage's typologies, i.e.: 3 Urban Open Labs (in Ravenna, Italy, Seferihisar, Turkey, and Dordrecht, Netherlands); and 2 Cross-border Open Labs (in Sava River Basin and Baixa Limia-Serra).

To better engage, discuss and collect inputs from the participants, the coordinators held a co-creation exercise using the Miro board – an online collaboration platform allowing participants to visualise

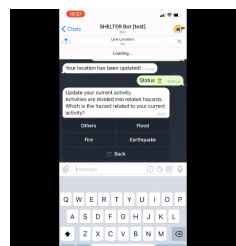
ideas and work on a project with a team. Stakeholders from the Sava River Basin commented on the tools and suggested some changes to the main functionalities, and also expressed a willingness to help further development by testing the pilot versions of the Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment and Decision Support System once it is ready.

The Chatbot was the second tool that the stakeholders got the opportunity to test for the first time. LINKS, a technical partner of the SHELTER Consortium created this instrument. The Chatbot is a structured data collection tool that can be utilised by citizens, professionals and decision-makers.

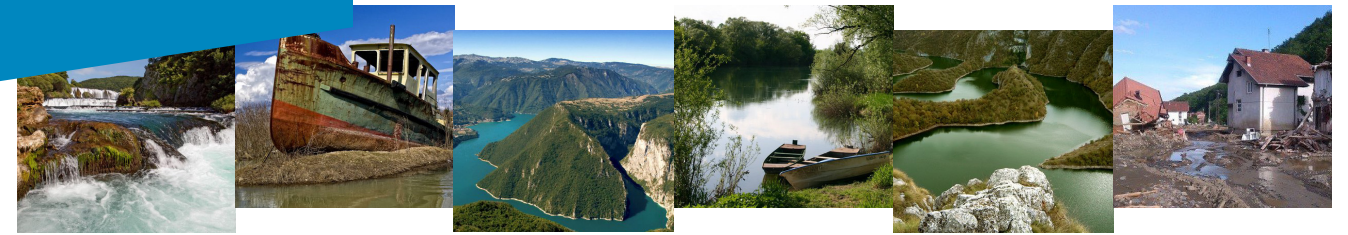
During the test, technical experts and participants from the Sava River Basin simulated a flooding scenario in the Chatbot and then prepared a report on it. Participants chose to either simply follow the simulation online or test it directly through an application installed on their smartphones.



INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION



▲ ©SHELTER operational knowledge framework and Chatbot tool interface



▲ ©SHELTER - Sava River Basin and floodings

This activity was essential for the creation of the tool as it allowed participants to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement early on. The inputs and debate will allow the Chatbot to be fine-tuned to the real needs and expectations of its future users in the 5 SHELTER Open Labs.

"The two exercises conducted today provided inputs for the development of the SHELTER tools and their

future dialogue and integration with existing tools and platforms in the Sava River basin", commented Francesca Bampa, Science Project Officer, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. "Participants showed interest in sharing information and data already developed within their countries that could enrich SHELTER tools".

Recommendations received from expert stakeholders during the

workshop will be integrated into the design and structure of the SHELTER tools under development.

The next workshop will test the pilot version of the Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment and Decision Support System and the final version of the Chatbot, which will be developed further in accordance with the feedback received during this workshop. >>full story

@SHELTER_EU @EUHyperion @ARCH_H2020 #SHELTER #H2020 #climatechange #Europe #resilience #heritage #flood #Sava #chatbot

EU TASK FORCE FOR CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND RESILIENT

Historic urban districts play an important role in making European cities climate neutral and more resilient. The sociocultural factors associated with historic urban areas can significantly drive and support climate action. To address specific solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation to be employed in historic urban districts, there is a specific EU Horizon 2020 topic: "Resilience and sustainable reconstruction of historic areas to cope with climate change and hazard events", under which the 3 twin projects ARCH, HYPERION and SHELTER are funded.

The SHELTER consortium, of which the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe is a partner, established - together with the Horizon 2020 sister projects ARCH and HYPERION - an EU Task Force for Climate Neutral and Resilient Historic Urban Districts in response to the EU call for a 'Heritage Alive' orientation to "[increase] resilience and sustainable reconstruction of historic areas to cope with climate change and hazard events".

The technical core of the EU Task Force consists of partners from European research projects in the fields of heritage management, climate change, mitigation/adaptation, disaster risk management/ regeneration. The kick-off session was held online on 23 June with a panel of European Commission representatives to

EU TASK FORCE FOR CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND RESILIENT HISTORIC URBAN DISTRICTS

SAVE THE DATE

14 December 9:00-10:30 & 10:30-12:00 CET

15 December 10:00-12:00 CET



▲ ©Shelter_EU EU R&I Task Force for Climate Neutral and Resilient Historic Urban Districts

discuss issues, gaps, opportunities, and good practices for climate neutrality and resilience in historic urban districts.

Based on international, European and national programmes, the Italian Ministry of Culture, UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS examined concerns and potential opportunities for achieving climate neutrality and strengthening the resilience in and alongside historic urban districts. The Deputy Director of UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Jyoti Hosagrahar, introduced in a video message the Call for Action Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

Representatives from the EU tasks force of the 3 H2020 projects presented solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation that



▲ ©UNESCO - Deputy Director of UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Jyoti Hosagrahar, video message

can be used in historic urban districts, as well as how the socio-cultural factors associated with historic urban districts can drive and support climate action, based on case studies.

>>full story

HISTORIC URBAN DISTRICTS KICKED OFF

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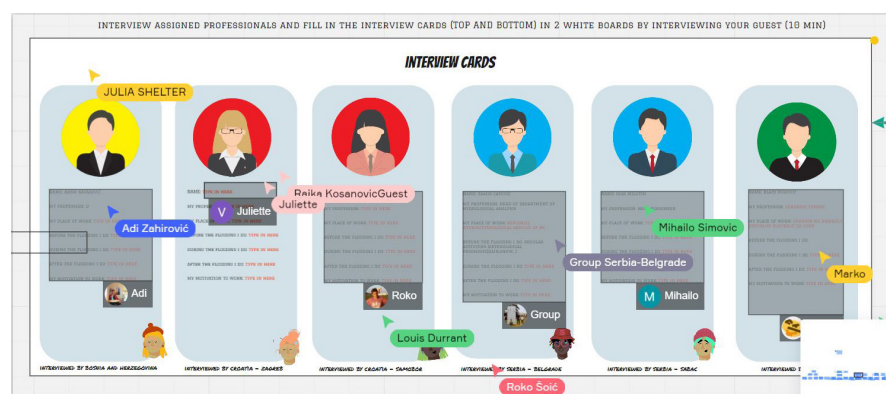
9th Sava Youth Parliament 2021: Let's protect our cultural heritage



The 9th edition of the Sava Youth Parliament, held on 8-9 October 2021 in Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and online, brought together students to brainstorm on how to enhance flood risk management of cultural heritage in the Sava River basin. The event was organised by the International Sava River Basin Commission and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, with the support of the EU H2020 SHELTER project. Participants' investigation, discussion with experts and results were presented in the context of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October 2021.

In 2014, the Sava River Basin was hit by its worst floods ever recorded according to scale and impact. Several neighbourhoods, towns and villages in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia were completely submerged. Large portions of the population were evacuated and displaced across the region, and a great number of resources were mobilised to provide aid in this difficult situation. The countries on the basin continue to be extremely vulnerable to flooding.

The Sava Youth Parliament, an annual event organised by the International



Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), provides a platform for the younger generation living in the basin to have their voices heard. This year's edition, titled 'Let's protect our cultural heritage,' addressed the topic of disaster risk management and resilience.

This 9th edition gathered winners of the "Competition for secondary schools and youth", from 8 schools in 4 countries, namely **Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia**. Due to the constraints of the pandemic, the event which gathered over 50 secondary schools' participants, was organised in a hybrid form.

A series of simulation games developed by UNESCO and SHELTER allowed the experts and students

from the Sava River Basin countries to exchange knowledge and ideas, and enabled the youth to learn about the threats on cultural-historical sites in the Sava River Basin caused by the floods.

Through multiple sessions, the main themes and current achievements of the SHELTER project were presented and discussed. The different aspects of managing disaster risk - from the use of social media to the experts involved and solutions at hand were introduced.

The students not only discovered, but also discussed potentialities, gaps and new ideas. The virtual activities involved 6 teams of students, aged 15-19, representing the 4 Sava River Basin countries in sessions of a 3-hour duration.



© UNESCO - Proposal of new solutions, activities and sharing of stories during the online session



© Roko Soić & Mihailo Simović, Dušan Stanojlović, Ksenija Opanković - Educational trips to Golubac Fortress (students from Serbia) and to Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia

In the first virtual activity, the students were familiarised with the potential of social media as messengers for disaster risk management and they specifically discovered the tools developed within the SHELTER project, such as the Chatbot. They searched and produced flood-related content

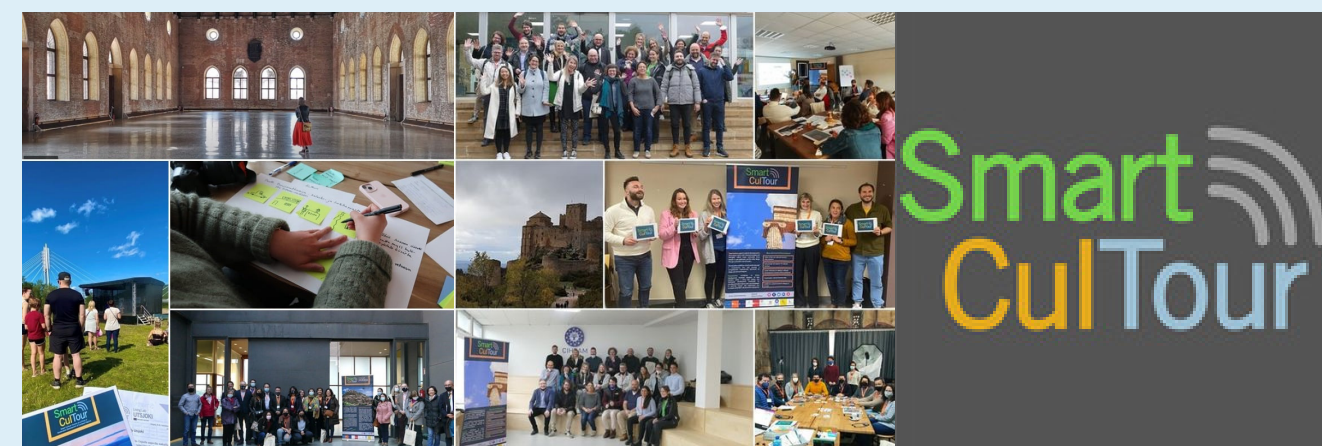
specific to the flood events in the region ready to be disseminated and shared with social media hashtags. Students realised the importance of social media and were motivated to develop ideas on its improvement for the protection of the Sava River Basin.



In the highly productive professional-student engagement session, students were able to engage in discussions and gain inspiration from the local professionals of disaster risk management invited to the sessions. >>full story

@SmartCulTour #Sustainable #culturaltourism #SmartCulTour #European #LivingLab #H2020 #Culture #Tourism #IntangibleCulturalHeritage #ICH #HistoricUrbanLandscape #HUL

SMARTCULTOUR AND UNESCO ENGAGE IN PROMOTING



© SmartCulTour - Activities and group photos from Living Labs

Sustainable cultural tourism policies can significantly support the development of European regions. Cultural tourism, especially in rural areas and in urban peripheries, can be a driver of sustainable economic, social and cultural growth. The EU-funded SmartCulTour project, which started in 2020 and will end in 2023, investigates cultural tourism to provide European regions with strategies that engage stakeholders in co-creating smart cultural tourism practices. The project is deployed through field tests in 6 Living Labs and involves 10 partners, including UNESCO through its Regional Bureau along with several universities and other actors across Europe.

SmartCulTour (Smart Cultural Tourism as a Driver of Sustainable Development of European Regions) is a 4-year project, funded by the European Union in the frame of Horizon 2020, grant agreement

number 870708. The project is developing a platform that extensively monitors the European regions through a combination of traditional and non-traditional data sources, helping to visualise the main trends and phenomena.

The data, alongside the collected indicators to measure the impact of cultural tourism on the sustainability and resilience of the 6 Labs' destinations, can eventually support effective decision-making. Cultural tourism policies with a positive impact have been identified through desk research and semi-structured interviews, the findings of which are analysed to formulate proposals for sustainable local interventions in the Labs.

"Our intention is to build bridges between policy makers, nature-conservation organisations, heritage experts, tourist entrepreneurs, locals,

among others, to create a common, shared vision on local culture and heritage and its potential application within a tourism context", said Bart Neuts, KU Leuven, SmartCulTour project coordinator.

Neuts, is an expert in tourism externalities and sustainable development, with a specific focus on social carrying capacity studies in urban environments. He explains that the 6 Living Labs assist local stakeholders in developing community-led cultural tourism innovations by serving as platforms in which innovative arts and service design-based methods are applied.

The Labs are based in Rotterdam Metropolitan Area (the Netherlands), Scheldeland (Belgium), Utsjoki municipality (Finland), Split Metropolitan region (**Croatia**), Vicenza (**Italy**), and Huesca province (Spain).

>>full story

INNOVATIVE AND COMMUNITY-LED CULTURAL TOURISM

Bridges

ICT Standards in Bosnia and Herzegovina Education Systems ensure efficiency and continuity of learning for All Children Equally



In the context of COVID-19 pandemic induced school closures, digital distance education platforms have become essential for ensuring continuity of learning for all. Students and teachers in Bosnia and Herzegovina have not stayed immune to challenges arising from the switch to online teaching modality, as they have been lacking adequate access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) devices and quality internet connections. These challenges prevented them to continue their learning trajectories and participate smoothly in distance and blended learning.

Strikingly, the lack of learning continuum affected over 9,700 children in primary and secondary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), as well as 523 primary and secondary school teachers (including TVET) who did not have access to ICT. Moreover, UNICEF's U-report showed that 45% of youth experienced challenges with access to learning, such as sharing devices with other family members, or lacking appropriate space and environment for studying.

At greatest risk of being left behind are students from marginalised groups, remote rural areas, and low-income households, as well as

students with disabilities. The rapid shift to distance learning caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 highlighted the persistent digital divide in terms of connectivity, infrastructure, and the digital skills of teachers for e-learning and blended learning.

Decentralised education systems in BiH resulted in a diversity of approaches to distance learning and a lack of common quality criteria for e-learning and shared e-learning platforms. Hence, most administrative units did not develop guidelines for e-learning and the teachers did not receive adequate training in this area.

"Re-imagining Education for Marginalized Girls and Boys during and post COVID-19" project in BiH recognised that defining basic ICT standards in education is one of the main prerequisites in education digitalisation process.

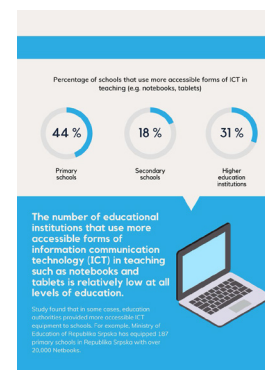
With this in mind, educational policies must offer standards to educational institutions, defining the recommended infrastructure for ICT, including equipment, stable and accessible Internet connectivity, as well as the necessary security

measures. The activity set the norms and standards for computer equipment and supported infrastructure in educational institutions in BiH. The minimum standards determined the lower limit of ICT acceptable equipment, which helps education authorities to achieve the goals of standardisation of ICT to be

used in educational institutions across all administrative units of BiH.

The UN implementing agencies created the working group consisting of education authorities to work on defining basic ICT standards in education systems in BiH. During the implementation process, UNICEF and UNESCO (through its Antenna in Sarajevo) provided technical assistance to the working group.

This normative support envisages further assistance to education authorities and institutions in implementing the defined ICT standards through their incorporation into legal documents (rulebooks, strategies, manuals, etc.) of educational institutions. >>>full story



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ENHANCING E-LEARNING AND BLENDED LEARNING



Reimagining Education for Marginalized Girls and Boys during and post COVID-19 in Bosnia and Herzegovina



© UNICEF Djemidzic - Students at a Secondary Technical School in Zenica

This year, the International Literacy Day (8 September) was celebrated across the world under the theme "Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide". The unprecedented learning disruption, affecting hundreds of millions of children and youth over the world is a reminder of the critical importance of literacy. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic,

the rapid shift to online learning environment has made evidence of the potential of digital learning – but it has also highlighted the digital divide.

There is an evident gap between functionally and digitally literate population in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which could potentially be deepened by COVID-19 pandemic

consequences to education sector. Since the pandemic outbreak, approximately 500,000 children and youth have been affected by country-wide closures of all education institutions from March 2020.

Learning loss, caused by COVID-19, disproportionately affected the most vulnerable children and youth across the country. >>>full story



@ Reimagine Education BiH. E-learning and blended learning

PROMOTES LITERACY AND QUALITY LEARNING OUTCOMES

Reimagine Education project : Digital Learning – A Look into The Future



Improvement of digital learning by establishing and enhancing Information Management Systems (IMS) in education was one of the many activities within the Reimagining Education United Nations joint project, implemented by UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO and UNV in 3 administrative units in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska Entity, Una Sana Canton and West Herzegovina Canton).

With the general objective of supporting the digitalisation of educational processes through quality data management, the activity helps

building a more resilient system able to quickly respond to emergencies, particularly when addressing the needs of the most vulnerable students. These systems aim towards a more efficient communication between all actors in education, including parents, guardians and caregivers, school administration and relevant education authorities.

Integrating this type of Information Management System is being currently undertaken in Una Sana

Canton. On 2 September 2021 in Bihać, the Ministry of education, science, culture and sport of Una Sana Canton organised the official signing ceremony for establishment of the IMS in education sector.

Implemented by the Breakpoint company based in Mostar, the functions of this system are not solely about managing the information but improving the distance learning process in primary and secondary education as well. >>>full story



#SocialMedia4Peace: Pilot Bosnia and Herzegovina counters online disinformation and hate speech



The European Union and the Antenna in Sarajevo of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe officially inaugurated in June 2021 the 'Social Media 4 Peace' project in pilot country Bosnia and Herzegovina. Discussions emphasised the powerful role that social media and ICT play in shaping socio-political realities, and the need to strengthen the resilience of civil society in the face of potentially harmful content distributed online especially content that incites hatred and violence. The lessons learnt at the local level will feed-in for the global discussion at the international level.

The increasing digitalisation of societies worldwide has led to unprecedented opportunities for the free flow of information. However, there are growing concerns about how digital communication tools have become instrumental platforms to spread harmful content with a significant impact on conflict dynamics and

peace. Apart from spreading hate, social media is also increasingly used to spread disinformation, misinformation, and propaganda designed to mislead a population, as strongly noticed during the COVID-19 health crisis.

The moderation and curation rules of online, potentially harmful content is mostly discussed at the global level in a "one size fits all" fashion. Yet, the complexity of addressing possibly detrimental cyber content lies in the impossibility to define precisely the boundaries of the type of content covered irrespective of the context. This is why the project foresees to, in addition to using human rights principles as a universal baseline, take into account social, cultural, and linguistic nuances to develop and review content moderation and curation rules and tools in a localised manner.

Digital technologies, in particular social media, are not systematically used in peace-building processes; although there are few recent

examples of organisations and campaigns that have successfully mobilised social media to empower people, notably the youth, to allow an inclusive dialogue on issues such as climate change. This is why the project will maximise digital technologies' potential to promote initiatives and narratives that create incentives for peace rather than violence to become a critical element of peace building.



The 36-month Social Media 4 Peace project is financed with €3 million investment from the EU's Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace. It started in January 2021 and it will run through December 2023, conducted in 3 pilot countries: **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Indonesia and Kenya.

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the resilience of civil society to potential harmful content spread online, in particular hate speech, which incites violence, while enhancing the promotion of peace through digital technologies, particularly social media.



@UNESCOEU #SocialMedia4Peace #EU #BosniaandHerzegovina #SDG16 #COVID19 #ICT #peace

YOUNG PEOPLE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



▲ @Sulejman Omerbasic - Nizama Husetic, winner of the competition, with Ingrid Macdonald, the UN Resident Coordinator in BiH, and Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec, Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH; Conversation with young people participating in the competition

The United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and OSCE Mission to BiH hosted a conversation with youth and presented awards to the winners of the "Next 25 years in BiH" competition. Bosnia and Herzegovina has all the natural and human resources to be a prosperous, fast-growing, leading 'green' country by 2045, for the benefit of everyone living in it. This was the underlining vision shared by the young people participating in the "Next 25 years in BiH" arts competition, whose winners

were awarded in Sarajevo on 17 September.

The competition was organised by the United Nations' Dialogue for the Future initiative and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in June this year, building upon the "25 Years of Peace" competition for youth organized in December 2020. Guided by the call for a Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, young people across BiH were asked to reflect on what



a peaceful and prosperous future means to them and what should the next 25 years look like in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Winners were announced in 3 categories, with Ms. Nizama Husetic awarded for the best written piece, Ms. Azra Imamovic for an illustration and Ms. Ajla Berber for a video-presentation.

A conversation with young people participating in the competition followed, with Ingrid Macdonald, the UN Resident Coordinator in BiH, Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec, Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH, Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov, the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Siniša Šešum, Head of the Antenna in Sarajevo of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, and Sanja Kabil, UNICEF Head of Education Section. >>full story



@UN_BiH @OSCEBiH @dff_dzb #BosniaandHerzegovina #dialogueforthe future

KNOW WHAT KIND OF FUTURE THEY WANT TO SEE

As the UN Agency with the mandate to promote and protect freedom of expression, UNESCO is relying on its convening power to bring together major relevant stakeholders to pilot a dialogue gathering among others, representatives of social media platforms, of national authorities, of civil society organisations promoting freedom of expression, conflict prevention and peace-building organisation and conflict-affected communities.

At the project launch event on 21 June, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe through its Antenna in Sarajevo facilitated a session, bringing together representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities at the state and local levels, journalist associations, academia as well as civil society organisations active in the field of peace and reconciliation. The discussion highlighted the powerful

role that social media and ICTs play in shaping socio-political realities, including their misuse as a tool to polarize society by manipulating and amplifying disinformation or by increasing hate speech and intolerance that could even fuel conflict. >>full story



"With this project, we would like to address and explore the potential of social media and new technologies for peace and human rights, in particular freedom of expression. But also a freedom of expression as an extraordinary tool to promote respect for cultural diversity of the country, and not to use it as an excuse for attacking others of different cultural, ethnic, religious or even political belonging." Sinisa Sesum, Head of UNESCO Antenna in Sarajevo

Bridges

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Biosphere Reserves: open laboratories for climate impacts

In the first two decades of the 21st century we have experienced unprecedented developments in a rapidly changing world. Among them, climate change has become for humanity a major threat that requires elaboration and adoption of urgent mitigation and adaptation measures to be implemented at the same time and in parallel on many different fronts. This is undoubtedly a big challenge for all levels of governance.

In the Mediterranean, we have already experienced the impacts of climate change more than in other parts of the world. We have just concluded the second hottest decade in recorded history, during which the “hottest-ever” year title was surpassed eight times! The special issue of Sustainable Mediterranean dedicated to Climate Change, in which we are featured with an article on page 82 titled “Biosphere Reserves: open laboratories for climate impacts”, is available online.

The Mediterranean region has already experienced an increase in average temperature of 1.4°C since the pre-industrial era, 0.4°C more than the global average. Europe and the Mediterranean region suffer each summer from an increasingly

warming and drying climate, already causing loss of life and disruptions throughout the region. The Mediterranean, where a large part of the population lives close to the coast, many in coastal sites and cities, is particularly affected.

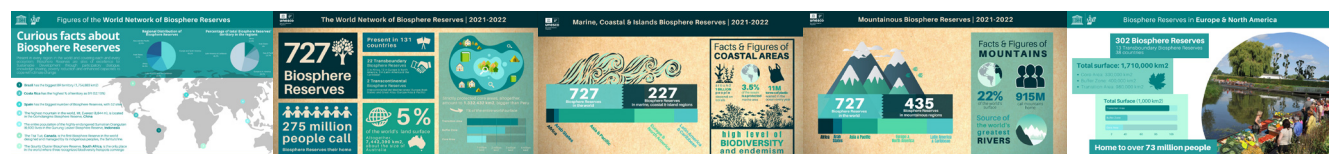
In South-East Europe and the Mediterranean, UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and its scientific programmes - such as the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) - is contributing to discussions on how climate change is affecting the region, notably its water resources and the Mediterranean Sea.

In addition, UNESCO has been working closely with its Member States to study the effects of climate change on UNESCO sites, such as biosphere reserves, Global Geoparks and World Heritage sites – with many situated on the Mediterranean coast threatened by sea level rise - and propose ways for these sites to best adapt to climate change and to the

multiplication of extreme weather patterns. UNESCO is also working both at the global and regional levels with youth and promoting education as key to addressing climate change through Education for Sustainable Development and climate change education.

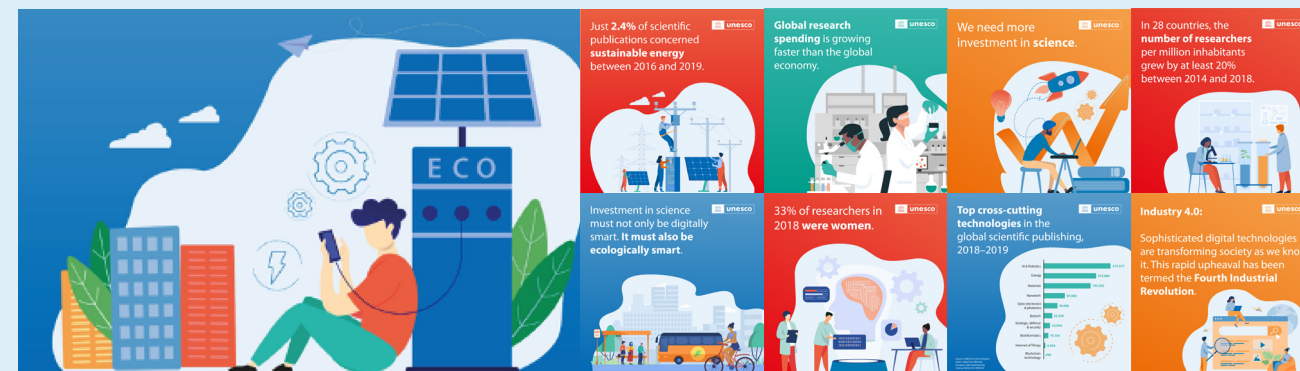
The regional symposium “The future of South-East Europe and the Mediterranean in the context of climate change: a UNESCO perspective”, organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau in November 2019 gathered 58 attendees including national and regional authorities, youth activists, experts and scientists, and UNESCO site managers to contribute to a climate-resilient South-East Europe and Mediterranean region.

The symposium explored how UNESCO could more effectively work with UNESCO sites, which are emblematic sites both in terms of nature and culture in the region, to increase their resilience to climate change and extreme events. >>full story



@Mio_Ecsde @UNESCO_MAB #Sustainable #Mediterranean #ClimateChange #changingworld #BR

SCIENCE OF THE FUTURE. AMPLIFYING THE BEST PRACTICES



Last October, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe made an official presentation in Venice, Italy, of the UNESCO Science Report publication “The Race Against Time for Smarter Development,” launched this year. The report serves as a monitoring tool on the implementation and development of science, technology and innovation worldwide, and maps the recent trends and developments in science governance. It provides essential information on gaps and priorities in development of science to rethink the ways of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Every edition of the quinquennial UNESCO Science Report includes sections dedicated to countries of South-East Europe and the

Mediterranean under the purview of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. The seventh report, published in 2021, highlights UNESCO’s longstanding commitment to achieving the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda by strengthening Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policies worldwide.

On 26 October 2021, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe organised a regional launch of the UNESCO Science Report 2021. The event took place at Palazzo Zorzi, UNESCO’s premises in Venice, Italy, and convened local and national authorities, academia, researchers, NGOs and scientific community members. The launch was attended by UNESCO partners and national authorities, including Cecilia Piccioni, Deputy Director General/ Principal Director for Promotion of

Italian Language and Culture at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Enrico Vicenti, Secretary-General of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO; and Massimiliano De Martin, Councillor for Urban Planning and Environment of the Municipality of Venice.

“Italy is playing a leading role in science-related aspects in Europe. For instance, it has the largest national network of biosphere reserves in the South-East European and Mediterranean region covered by our office. Both the national network and individual biosphere reserves are leaders and innovators in promoting science and sustainable development on the ground.”, underlined Ana Luiza M. Thompson-Flores, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau. >> full story



▲ @UNESCO - Launch event of UNESCO Science Report with speeches by Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Director of UNESCO Regional Bureau, Jonathan Baker, Head of Science unit, Susan Schneegans, Editor in Chief of the UNESCO Science Report, and Enrico Vicenti, Secretary-General of Italian National Commission for UNESCO

Although countries are investing more in green technologies, sustainability science is not yet mainstreamed globally. Sustainability science is attracting more attention, proportionately, in developing countries. To modernise, countries need to invest more in science: 8 out of 10 spend less than 1% of their GDP on Research and Development. Some countries have increased researcher numbers, but not expenditure, namely Argentina, France, Italy, Germany and South Africa.

FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Bridges



▲ ©Phabab - Drought ground; F. Franklin - European brown bear

Mainstreaming climate change and environment in Europe and Central Asia: a Technical Guidance

The United Nations Inter-Agency Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia is an interagency coalition that supports UN Country Teams on environment and climate change in the region. The IBC developed guidance for strengthening, mainstreaming and integrate integrating environment and climate change within the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and UN Common Country Analysis (CCAs).

Upon the request of Resident Coordinators (RCs) in Europe and Central Asia, the IBC conducted a gap analysis and developed new technical guidance on how to mainstream and integrate environment and climate change in sustainable development processes with the support of the UN's Development Cooperation Office (DCO).

The "Guidance on Integrating the Environment and Climate Change in Processes for United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks" is truly an IBC-wide product, as all member agencies participated actively in its development, providing inputs and comments to the drafts. The Guidance was officially launched

on 1 July 2021 with the main goal of supporting the RCs and UNCTs in integrating climate change, environment regulations and assessment in the UN programming cycle.

The mainstreaming guidance provides insights on how to increase awareness, assess climate change risks and challenges through internationally used approaches and focuses on opportunities through the identification of good practices. The Guidance is structured in a way that key issues are highlighted and illustrated through specific country cases; the annexes provide examples of different approaches and tools, and illustrate the links among environment, climate change and development priorities.

Prior to drafting the Guidance, a gap analysis was conducted in order to investigate whether UN Common Country Assessments (CCAs) have already integrated environment and climate change and to what extent. The gap analysis found a homogenous coverage of the topic in the 13 CCAs reviewed, and uncovered the need for

additional environmental governance guidance, especially in transboundary contexts. Overall, the gap analysis showed that environmental issues are well covered in the monitoring, implementation and evaluation phases of environmental policies, but that the environment is less present as a crosscutting theme when other topics are covered. To address this shortfall, the Guidance

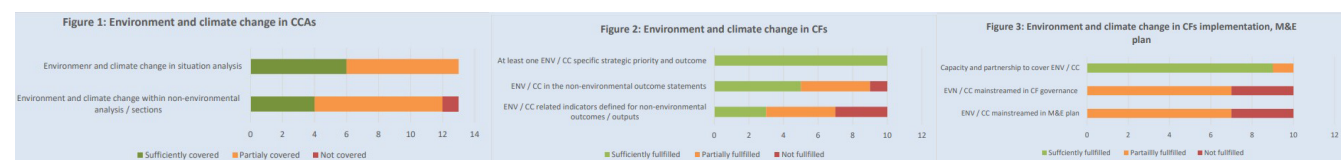
recommends that environment and climate change to be treated as a cross-cutting element within non-environmental working groups.

The launch event provided an occasion for IBC members, together with RCs and UNCTs, to discuss and collect ideas on how the IBC can support UN activities at the country level, tailoring this guidance and developing training opportunities that correspond to country needs.

During the launch, the IBC discussed with RCs the idea of testing the efficacy of the guidance in specific pilot countries. The Guidance could serve as the entry point for the discussion on environmental and climate change with other coalitions,



@UNECE @UNEP_Europe #IBC #mainstreamingguidance #SDGs #climatechange #sustainability #environment #UN #CCA #UNSDCF



▲ ©UNECE Graphs - Guidance on Integrating the Environment and Climate Change in Processes for United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation

BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



MEdIES
The Mediterranean Education Initiative
for Environment & Sustainability



▲ ©MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES - Asterousia Biosphere Reserve and beach clean-up

The Hybrid University of Asterousia 2021 is part of a long tradition of summer universities since 2012, co-organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science, Culture in Europe and the Mediterranean Information for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and hosting partners. This year's edition continues to promote sustainable development in biosphere reserves and other protected areas.

Phase A, held in presence from 19 to 24 October, convened 16 young participants from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and Romania. Phase B is scheduled online early 2022. This year's hybrid university examined the relationship between management and different forms of education, to

increase community awareness and participation in promoting Sustainable Development within and across the BRs.

Its overarching theme highlighted the role of young professionals in sustainable development management of BRs and other designated areas. This is of crucial importance in effectively addressing climate change and shifting energy, water and overall consumption and production patterns to new paradigms.

Key discussions addressed marine pollution and biodiversity in the Mediterranean, the Water Cycle and the Water – Energy - Food – Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus, Single Use Plastic and the issue of marine litter monitoring and assessment. At the same time, the

themes focused on the Sustainable Development in BRs, Education for Sustainable Development and Ocean Literacy, while also raising public awareness.

During Phase A, participants were introduced with the MAB programme and the respective policies for the sustainable management of biosphere reserves. Focusing on coastal and marine biosphere reserves and protected areas, the trainees were given information on how to develop ESD educational programmes for schools and the methodology of organising beach clean-ups and monitoring activities with the educational community. >>full story

@Mio_Ecsde @UNESCO_MAB @CreteRegion #HybridUniversityofAsterousia2021 #sustainabledevelopment #OceanLiteracy #marinepollution



▲ ©MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES - Presentations and field trips during the 2021 Hybrid University of Asterousia

GREECE HOSTS THE 2021 EDITION OF THE HYBRID UNIVERSITY IN ASTEROUSIA

and boost the collaboration with IBCs in other geographic regions.

According to Ana Luiza M. Thompson-Flores, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and

Culture in Europe, co-chair of the launch event for "Mainstreaming climate change and environment in Europe and Central Asia: a Technical Guidance": 'this Guidance is an excellent example of fruitful

collaboration among different UN member agencies and a demonstration of the work of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change: demand-driven, timely and practical.' >>full story



©Ministry of Culture Bulgaria/Tsvetan Nedkov - Tradition of carpet-making in Chiprovtsi (Bulgaria)

Periodic Reporting as a Strategic Tool for safeguarding Living Heritage in South-East Europe

The 15th Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage, convened virtually on 6-7 July 2021, was organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, together with the UNESCO Living Heritage Entity, in cooperation with the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe. The meeting provided an opportunity to share experience and discuss developments, achievements and main challenges encountered by State Parties in the region - whilst preparing the periodic reporting on the implementation of the 2003 Convention, under the reformed mechanism.

In 2007, UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe established the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage to promote the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the region.

Previous annual meetings of the network have been held in Arbanasi, Bulgaria (2007); Safranbolu, Turkey (2008); Zagreb, Croatia (2009); Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Romania (2010); Belgrade, Serbia (2011); Athens, Greece (2012); Sofia, Bulgaria (2013); Limassol, Cyprus (2014); Venice, Italy (2015); Supetar, Croatia (2016); Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017); Ljubljana, Slovenia (2018); Cremona, Italy (2019); and, online (2020).

Since 2013, the network meetings have been organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau of Science and Culture in Europe in cooperation with the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe based in Sofia, Bulgaria and operating as a Category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

This year, the 15th Annual Meeting of the Network was convened online on 6-7 July, in the midst of the first

regional periodic reporting cycle in the Europe region under the 2003 Convention, and in the context of UNESCO's regional training for Country Focal Points on periodic reporting. The regional training, coordinated by the UNESCO Living Heritage Entity, was delivered from March through April 2021 to strengthen the State Parties' knowledge and skills to design and implement results-based participatory reporting under the Convention, and followed by a webinar on 2 July.



Within this framework, the 15th Annual Meeting of the network focused on the achievements, challenges and benefits of the ongoing periodic reporting process, encouraging knowledge and experience sharing through thematic panels on participatory and intersectoral strategies. The meeting was aimed at Country Focal Points from the Convention State Parties

#ICH #intangibleculturalheritage #SouthEastEurope #network #periodicreportingprocess



©Ministry of Culture Bulgaria/Tsvetan Nedkov - Bulgarian Chitalishte (Community Cultural Centre): practical experience in safeguarding the vitality of the intangible cultural heritage; Nikolay Vukov. Visoko multipart singing from Dolen and Satovcha, South-western Bulgaria; Nikolay Vukov. Visoko multipart singing from Dolen and Satovcha, South-western Bulgaria; Lina Gergova. Festival of folklore in Koprivshtitsa: a system of practices for heritage presentation and transmission



▲ ©Lina Gergova. Festival of folklore in Koprivshtitsa: a system of practices for heritage presentation and transmission; Ministry Culture Bulgaria/Tsvetan Nedkov. Bulgarian Chitalishte; Mila Santova - The tradition of carpet-making in Chiprovtsi inscribed in 2014 on RL

that fall under the geographical purview of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, namely: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia,**

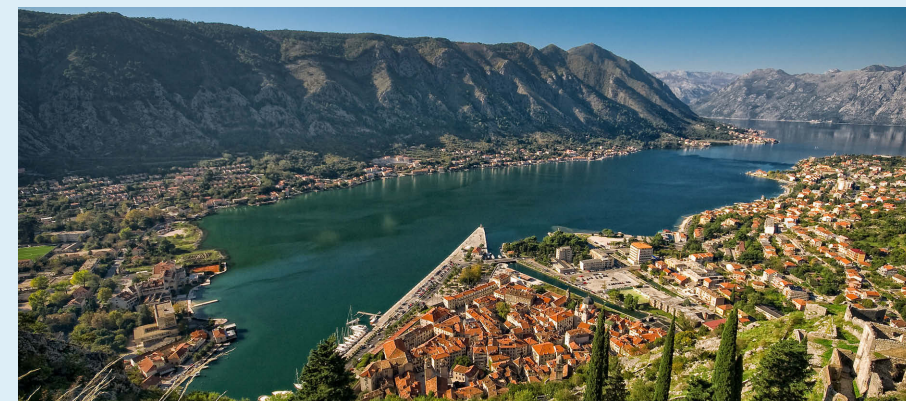
and Turkey. Austria and Italy were invited to the meeting as observers.

Additional country experts indicated by the relevant national authorities were also invited to participate, as well as UNESCO-trained ICH facilitators from the countries concerned. A total

of 53 experts participated in the 2-day meeting, including UNESCO staff and the representatives of the Regional Centre on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe. >>full story

@InterpretEurope #sustainabledevelopment #WorldHeritage #WHInterp #SustainableFuture #2030Agenda #culturalheritage #communityheritage

PILOT REGIONAL COURSE ON INTERPRETIVE PLANNING



▲ ©Giolibero.it - Bay of Kotor, Montenegro

The WH-Interp training course on interpretative planning on World Heritage properties held its face-to-face workshop in Kotor, Montenegro, from 11-15 October 2021. The workshop, as an essential segment of the training, convened professionals from 11 countries across South-East Europe, to develop their competencies on interpretative planning for World Heritage sites, using the natural and culture-historical region of Kotor as a case study.

The pilot training course on interpretative planning on World

Heritage properties, a ground-breaking initiative launched in 2021 by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in collaboration with Interpret Europe, shed light on how heritage interpretation can help transform the direct experience of World Heritage properties into an opportunity for personal development, and thereby enhancing the role of heritage in societies.

Overall, the course in Montenegro aimed to enable participants to contribute to the formulation and/or improvement of the holistic interpretative planning of their



respective World Heritage properties, leveraging heritage interpretation to support broader site management objectives.

The course particularly intended to promote a fact-based, people-centred and value-oriented approach of heritage interpretation, revealing how to lead audiences from heritage phenomena into deeper meaning.

In the context of World Heritage, it was crucial to connect the implicit multi-layered values of a property, spanning from its core Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to broader values underpinning UNESCO's mission, such as building peace and fostering sustainability.

To achieve these objectives, the pilot course developed an extensive programme merging a variety of learning modalities through 3 progressive Modules. >>full story



▲ ©Kamila Napora - Square of Arms; UNESCO - Field visit and group work at WH-Interp course in Kotor

AT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES COMPLETED ITS SECOND MODULE

Bridges

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▲ ©Selma Selman. Solo exhibition at National Gallery of BiH

Selma Selman's artistic expression empowering Roma women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The central event of this year's programme of the National Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo from 23 July to 10 September 2021, was the first Bosnian solo exhibition by Selma Selman, a Romani Bosnian international artist and activist. The conceptual uniqueness of Selman's work was reflected in 64 art pieces exhibited at the gallery, each representing the complexity of her identity as a permanent 'other' – a Roma, an immigrant and a woman.

The labour of the Roma community, including Selman's family, provided the inspiration for the series of works exhibited at the National Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Born in 1991 in the Roma community village Ruzica, in the northwest Bosnia and Herzegovina, Selman is a trained and accomplished artist whose artwork was recognised regionally, in the European Union and overseas.

The 29-year-old born in the very heart of Bihać's Roma mahala (neighbourhood) established a foundation for education of Roma girls in Bihać in 2017 with 5 children, which later expanded to providing scholarships for 12 and school meals for 45 children in 2019/2020.

Selman's project 'Get the Heck Back to School' dedicated to empowering Roma girls through visual arts

provided scholarships for their education, despite traditional Roma communities prioritising boys' education.

Her initiative brought the regular primary school attendance rate for girls in Bihać up from 15% to 95%, saving those girls who were at risk of being forced into arranged marriage. Having gained widespread recognition in the community, the project impacts on people's views on the importance of education in improving the quality of life of the community as a whole, not only the children involved.

"Access to most basic human rights like education, work, social and health security is increasingly difficult globally," Selman said in an interview with UNHCR South Eastern Europe last July. "We need to eradicate the root causes that place obstacle to access to rights for all people."

"Selma Selman is one of the best examples of how young people can overcome all challenges and difficulties and make their dreams come true," underlined Sinisa Sesum, Head of the Antenna in Sarajevo, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

"Being one of the most prominent young contemporary artist of

@selmaselman8 @ReimagineEducationBH @UN_BiH @UNICEFBiH @ILO @UNVolunteers #BosniaandHerzegovina #SelmaSelman #Roma #Education #Marginalised #COVID19 #RecoverBetterTogether #LNOB



▲ ©Selma Selman - Paintings on metal, Platinum, Superposition exhibitions and portraits

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Selma did not forget her roots, and therefore through her foundation she spares no effort to support a number of young Romani girls and boys to complete their education."

Following her education in painting at the Fine Arts Academy in Banja Luka, Selman completed her MFA in Transmedia Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University, New York. She has exhibited extensively across Europe and the United States and her work is included in numerous international collections. She participated in the FutuRoma Pavilion at the 2019 Venice Biennale. In 2021, she was awarded the Rijksakademie residency in Amsterdam.

Developed in collaboration with the curator Amila Ramovic over the course of two years, the conceptual focus of the artist was displayed through the 64 art pieces belonging to her most recent production created for this occasion, spread across the two floors of the National Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

The artistic techniques employed by Selman provide a nostalgia of the older traditions of a polymath art ethically synthesising technological and ecological tools to resolve the inherent conflicts of social engagement. The frequent reference to the motif of scrap metal collection and recycling is used by the artist to invoke the audience to question the

ways in which we assign value to objects, labour and human beings.

The Catalogue of Monographic Exhibition by Selman was the first of its kind to be translated in Romani language in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

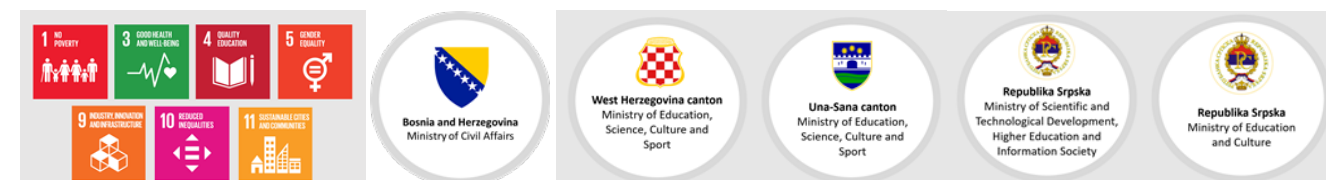
The editing and publishing of the Catalogue were supported by UNESCO through its commitment to education as a part of its programme on improved policies, plans and learning opportunities to increase inclusion in education for vulnerable populations as well as the "Reimagining Education for Marginalized Girls and Boys during and post COVID-19 in Bosnia and Herzegovina" project. >>full story

REIMAGINING EDUCATION FOR MARGINALIZED GIRLS AND BOYS

"Reimagining Education for Marginalized Girls and Boys during and post COVID-19 in Bosnia and Herzegovina" joint project focuses on gender responsive approaches that are addressing learning losses and preventing dropouts, particularly of marginalized groups; offers skills for employability programmes; supports the teaching profession and teachers' readiness; expands the definition of the right to education to include connectivity; remove barriers to connectivity; strengthen data and monitoring of learning; strengthen the articulation and flexibility across levels and types of education and training.



2,226 teachers and education professionals improved knowledge and increased efficiency in education as well their resilience to future shocks. 7,090 hygiene packages distributed to 158,411 primary and secondary school students. 229 laptops in basic and medium range will be distributed to education authorities for selected schools. 26 types of Assistive Technology (AT) devices set out in AT catalogue for Bosnia and Herzegovina to be delivered to education institutions benefitting children with disabilities. 142,424 pre-school children reached to 5 episodes of edutainment TV serial "Kids Scientists" for preschool children covering early learning, COVID-19, protection, and hygiene.



DURING AND POST COVID-19 IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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National Geographic brings mindfulness on the importance of Ocean Literacy



In her interview with the National Geographic on 8 November, Francesca Santoro, Programme Specialist of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, explained the importance of the Ocean Literacy programme, highlighting the fundamental role of the ocean in our lives and simultaneously stressing the need of our contribution in preserving it. The interview was a part of the National Geographic Fest 2021, a 7-day event aimed at encouraging a more sustainable way of living our planet by convening experts from different fields to share their stories.

In recent years, we have been experiencing a situation where climate change and global warming are increasingly threatening our planet, causing a significant deterioration of the environmental and marine conditions resulting from the phenomena such as carbon dioxide emissions, deforestation and massive pollution.

More specifically, when thinking about the ocean, what often comes to our minds are images of tragic scenarios, such as sea animals affected by plastic pollution and polar caps melting with a subsequent increase in the sea level. The ocean's worsening situation and its consequences urgently need to be taken into consideration in the climate change debate. At the same

time, it is also extremely important to recognise the ocean as the source of solutions to combat the ongoing climate crisis, and, thus, how crucial it is to preserve it. The ocean plays a critical role in our lives although most people remain oblivious to its crucial functions. Despite being the defining feature of our planet, the ocean continues to be predominantly unexplored and understudied primarily due to the expensive costs of oceanographic research.

In this context, the participation of Francesca Santoro, IOC-UNESCO Ocean Literacy Programme Specialist (IOC Project office, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe) at the National Geographic Fest 2021 was extremely enlightening. She clarified the importance of preserving the ocean, while

transporting the theme of the ocean to a wider audience by making it more accessible. Interviewed by Marco Cattaneo, Director of National Geographic Italia (Italy), she explained what the ocean offers us and why we need to take care of it.

There are a number of different reasons to thank the ocean, ranging over different fields. Among the most mundane but fundamental benefits is the production of oxygen, which is produced from 50 to 80% in the sea by the phytoplankton; and climate regulation, which allows landmass areas to be habitable.



During the interview, Santoro mentioned the benefits more directly linked to human health, for instance, being near the sea can improve the heart rate and blood pressure. More specifically, she underlined that "the ocean is a large pharmacy open to us all." It is astonishing to learn the possibilities of developing medicines from substances produced by organisms living in the ocean abysses, which can be used to treat severe diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer.

In the context of climate change, the

ocean plays a pivotal part, in fact "the ocean is our best ally against climate change, against the climate crisis, also because, up until now, it has absorbed about 28% of the carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere due to antropogenic activities," emphasised Francesca Santoro.

Nonetheless, the ocean is still not a subject of negotiation in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Instead, the preservation of the ocean and its forests should be placed at the centre of negotiations

for climate action, as Santoro pointed out, "working on the restoration and regeneration of marine ecosystems is one of the solutions to the climate crisis".

It, therefore, becomes essential to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge on the importance of the ocean's well-being for our lives and for our planet. This can be achieved by investing more in education, which would lead to the ability to make more conscious and well-informed decisions. >>full story

@decenniodelmare @locUnesco @artnightvenezia @UNESCO @UNOceanDecade #oceanliteracy #sustainabledevelopment #ArtNightvenezia

THE MAN AND THE OCEAN



© UNESCO - Sergio Múñiz's performance at the Venice Art Night, accompanied by Andrea Lavelli

On 2 October 2021, on the occasion of Venice Art Night, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe hosted an evening with the actor and musician Sergio Múñiz. Interviewed by Francesca Santoro, Programme Specialist and coordinator of the Ocean Literacy initiative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission UNESCO, the artist explored the inspiration behind his show "L'Onda che verrà" and his personal link with the ocean. Afterwards, acting and accompanied by the guitar, he staged some scenes of his show, which depicted the delicate relationship between man and ocean.

Who is the sea? Who am I? We are in a garage. There is a lot of confusion, scattered objects and above all a lot of boxes. You can guess that they are boxes of a recent move. Some are open, others still closed. Among the boxes you can hardly recognise some objects piled up in disorder, a sail or what remains of it, a guitar and other junk scattered in the disorder. A figure moves in the dark. It is Sergio who is looking for something among the boxes. At one point, he stops and his gaze falls on a stone. He takes it, dusts it, sits down and begins to read slowly. The "L'Onda che verrà" show, where Múñiz is both co-author and actor, exhibits the relationship between man and the ocean through the recollections of the protagonist, Sergio, a surfer and angler, who seeks to find an equilibrium between these two sides of his soul. >> full story

ART'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN OCEAN'S CONSERVATION

@NatGeotItalia @decenniodelmare @fransantorina #NGF21 #ocean #marineecosystems #oceanliteracy #oceandecade #climatechange #health #COP26

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Ocean&Climate Village exhibition: Diving into the ocean!



© IOC-UNESCO - Kid taking notes

IOC-UNESCO kicked off its first travelling exhibition, Ocean&Climate Village, on 1 October 2021. Organised by the IOC Project office at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, within the framework of Pre-COP26 and in the context of the Ocean Decade, the aim is to disseminate the principles of Ocean Literacy by educating new generations about the ocean conservation. Over 3 days, visitors experienced a multisensory, formative experience of diving into the ocean and discovering its connection with the Earth's climate and the solutions which are already implemented to restore marine ecosystems.

Ocean&Climate Village was developed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in collaboration with the Prada Group, E.ON and GRIFAL. The exhibition was included in the list of the UNFCCC pre-COP26 side events in the framework of the All4Climate initiative. Largely inaccessible and mostly undiscovered, the ocean is home to fascinating forms of life. With the purpose of reconnecting with the ocean in an interactive learning environment, the Ocean&Climate Village installation offers a journey to the heart of the ocean and raises awareness on its critical role for life on Earth, its future and consequently ours.

Ocean&Climate Village made its first stop in Milan, Italy, at the Triennale Milano from 1-3 October

for its inauguration. With itinerary interactive panels, the exhibition winded through 8 'zones', exploring issues related to the Earth's climate, the consequences of neglecting the intrinsically valuable environment and our relationship with it.

The exhibition was enriched by two interactive installations. The 'UpSeaDown' show glued together art, science and design, and created an interactive experience for the young visitors of the exhibition, displaying changes in sea level from 1940 to 2100. The sound of the ocean was transported to the city through the Sound Safari acoustic exploration, allowing one to listen to the hydrophonic recordings of some cetaceans.

With the use of an interactive map and geolocation system, one could listen to the sounds of the ocean 24 hours a day by scanning the QR codes of the totems located in the gardens of the Triennale and in the areas around the Piazza Castello, City Life, Darsena and Bosco Verticale, and connecting their earphones to smartphones and tablet devices.

Ocean&Climate Village is intended as a journey inside the ocean, from its deepness to its treasures, even to its wounds, especially regarding the issue of the climate crisis. The interactive panels and workshops show visitors to observe the ocean from a variety of points of view: climatology, species and habitats, nutrition, culture, environmental conservation and the



© IOC-UNESCO Ocean&Climate Village Posters

concerns faced by the ocean today. *"We brought together scientists, designers, exhibition installers to make sure this was an emotional journey. What makes us most happy is that we have created a collective of young illustrators who have accompanied the researchers in the*

story," underlined Francesca Santoro, IOC Programme Specialist, Ocean Literacy.

"I am not saying that everyone should become a marine scientist but one can be an illustrator, a journalist, a lawyer and attend to the ocean and its

conservation."

The Ocean&Climate Village exhibition was attended by 1,500 visitors and ample space was allocated for the active participation of all visitors, young and old. >> full story

OCEANTHON 2021. MEDITERRANEAN EDITION



Following the success of the first edition in autumn 2020, the Oceanthon was organised this year from 24-26 September by the Project Office of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO), the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC), with the support of Hack for Italy.

The event was held on the occasion of the first year of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and within the framework of the Pre-Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Change. Oceanthon 2021 calling for "We need ideas for the ocean we want" was entirely dedicated to innovation in the marine domain as the main theme of this second edition of the digital hackathon was "Ocean&Climate".

Participants competed to address the increasingly important challenge related to the climate crisis, with the aim of finding interdisciplinary solutions to tackle global change effects on society and the environment.

The ocean offers an unparalleled potential to address challenges such as climate change mitigation and adaptation. It has been demonstrated by several innovative solutions and pilot

projects that it is possible to restore marine biodiversity, preserve the ecological functions and features of the marine ecosystems and to implement ocean-based solutions for climate change adaptation and increasing resilience.

Oceanthon 2021 provided a platform for students and young people to collaborate with their peers, other experts and mentors in a virtual and engaging environment to develop new skills, with the ultimate goal of proposing avant-garde and unconventional solutions. >>full story



© IOC-UNESCO. Oceanthon 2021 award ceremony and winners of the competition

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR THE OCEAN WE WANT

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UNESCO 75 years of history in the service of peace



After two World Wars in less than thirty years, UNESCO was born of a clear vision: to achieve lasting peace, economic and political agreements among states are not enough. We need to bring people together through mutual understanding and dialogue between cultures. Over the years, UNESCO has launched pioneering programmes to achieve this. From the very beginning, UNESCO denounced racism, and mobilized philosophers, artists, the brightest minds from every nation, to develop innovative projects that changed how we see the world: The Universal Copyright Convention.... Biosphere Reserves.... World Heritage.... Intangible Heritage...

2021

July

15th Annual Meeting of the SEE Experts Network on ICH
Online 6-7 July 2021

September

3rd regional workshop on the Role of Visitor Centres in UNESCO Designated Sites
Ercolano, Italy 23 September 2021

Oceanthon 2021
Online 24-26 September 2021

Eu4Ocean Coalition, Mediterranean Sea Basin event: Ocean and Education
Online 27 September 2021

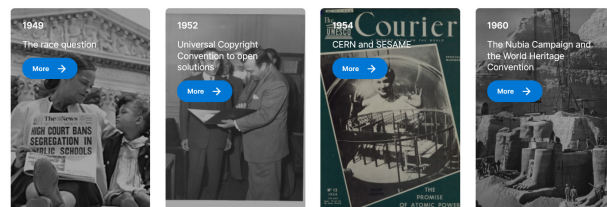
October

Ocean&Climate Village
Milan, Italy 1-3 October 2021

Art Night Venezia – Sergio Múñiz
"L'Uomo e il Mare"
Venice, Italy 2 October 2021

International Academy on UNESCO Designations and Sustainable Development ed.2021
Turin, Biella, Ivrea, Milan & online 3-8 October 2021

9th Sava Youth Parliament
Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina & Online 8-9 October 2021

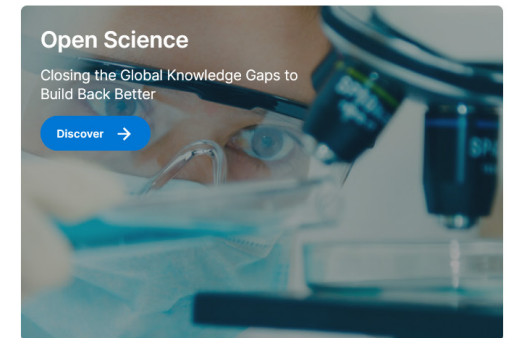


UNESCO established universal principles for scientific ethics and the human genome, and protected the best that humanity has to offer: The temples of ancient Egypt.... saved from rising waters; The treasures of Venice.... and Angkor; The old Bridge of Mostar... rebuilt after war; the Old City of Mosul.... revived as a symbol of peace Today, UNESCO is still innovating, piloting global reflections on the futures of education in a post-COVID world. We are establishing common standards on open science and the ethics of artificial intelligence. We are developing new tools to fight new forms of racism and hate speech and building a more sustainable relationship between humans and the environment.

>> unesco.org/events

UNESCO was born in the aftermath of two world wars out of a simple but firm conviction: political and economic arrangements between states are not enough to build lasting peace. Reconciliation and development require stronger foundations, deeply rooted in societal interactions, and built upon intellectual and moral solidarity. To better understand and respect each other; to be aware that we all belong to a single human family; to recognise that we share the same planet and pursue common objectives: those are the greatest challenges.

Looking ahead: 1946 - 2021 and beyond



Pilot regional course on Interpretative Planning at World Heritage properties in Europe
Kotor, Montenegro 11-15 October 2021

Venice 1600th Anniversary – workshop with Ocean Space “Fragile Venice, Living Venice: the city and the lagoon as models for regeneration”
Venice, Italy 13 October 2021

Crafting the sea workshop
Rovinj, Croatia 19-21 October 2021

Hybrid University of Asterousia 2021
Heraklion, Greece 20-23 October 2021

SEE Regional Conference on Media & Information Literacy
Online 21 October 2021

IBC on Environment and Climate Change webinar on preventing water conflicts through transboundary water cooperation
Online 25 October 2021

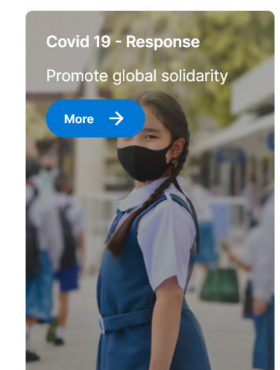
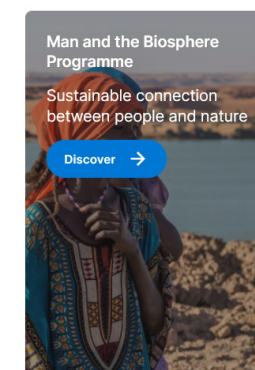
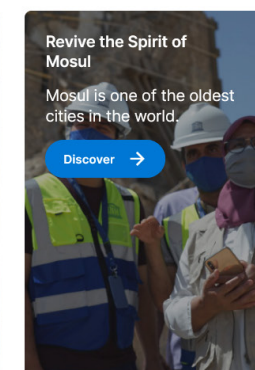
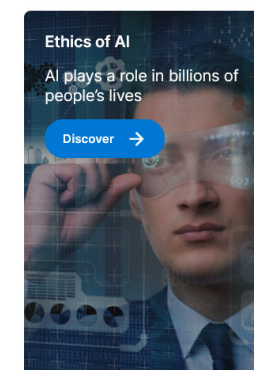
Launch of UNESCO Science Report 2021
Venice, Italy 26 October 2021

November

IBC on Environment and Climate Change core team meeting
Venice, Italy 25-26 November 2021

December

MAB IHP Regional Symposium
Venice, Italy 16-17 December 2021



Today, UNESCO is still innovating, piloting global reflections on the futures of education in a post-COVID world. We are establishing common standards on open science and the ethics of artificial intelligence. We are developing new tools to fight new forms of racism and hate speech and building a more sustainable relationship between humans and the environment.

UNESCO presents guidelines for UNCTs on the Universal Periodic Review and freedom of expression, access to information and safety of journalists



▲ © UNESCO - Safety of journalists

The webinar, organised by UNESCO in close coordination with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) for Europe and Central Asia, discussed concrete ways to analyse the call to action on human rights, and more specifically how UNCTs can better leverage the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to promote access to information, freedom of expression and the safety of journalists.

UNESCO supported the preparation of the UPR Guidelines for UNCTs on freedom of expression, safety of journalists and access to information, prepared by Denise Cook, former UN Resident Coordinator herself, and translated in the 6 UN official languages.

The Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Ana Luiza M. Thompson-Flores, underlined the importance of the UPR, *"Its periodicity and universality is particularly suited to address emerging informational threats, which have a detrimental impact on freedom of expression and facilitate the spread of disinformation."* [>>>full story](#)

The Universal Periodic Review and its potential to foster freedom of expression, access to information



As the result of a universal process, one in which States are reviewed alongside all others, UPR recommendations, once accepted by Governments, are unique in offering a consensual avenue to advancing on human rights commitments.



Killings of journalists by region in 2019 according to UNESCO's data The largest number of fatal attacks on journalists occurred in: Latin America and the Caribbean region (23 Killings) representing 40% of the total killings registered worldwide. Asia and the Pacific region (15 killings) with 26% of the killings. Arab States (10 killings) with 18% of killings.



© UNESCO - UPR Guidelines

#Freedomofexpression
#AccesstoInformation
#UPR #MediaIndependence
#MediaandInformationLiteracy

BIYEARLY NEWSLETTER • <http://www.unesco.org/venice>

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Bridges

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