

# Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau  
for Science and Culture in Europe

Issue 1 • 2018

**In focus** pages 2-3

**News and Highlights from Science & Culture** pages 4-8

**Interdisciplinary stories** pages 9-11

**Oceans** pages 12-14

**Events** page 15

**Backstory** page 16



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Regional Bureau  
for Science and Culture  
in Europe

# UNESCO, France and the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina bring Sarajevo Haggadah close to the public



© National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Sarajevo Haggadah

The new exhibition space for the Sarajevo Haggadah was inaugurated at the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 22 February 2018. The National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina can now better preserve the manuscript and display it to the public, thanks to the recent renovation works, financed by France in cooperation with UNESCO.

Originated in northern Spain in the second half of the 14th century, the Sarajevo Haggadah - a manuscript written on parchment, with superb illuminations - has been housed by the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina since the end of the 19th century. In 2003, Bosnia and Herzegovina proclaimed it a movable national monument. In 2017 it was registered as a documentary heritage to the Memory of the World Register, giving recognition to its importance worldwide.

The Sarajevo Haggadah is not just a manuscript, it is one of the most emblematic examples of Jewish medieval art in Europe. It is a silent witness to the past, a survivor of turbulent moments in its history, that of the region, of Europe and of the world. In Hebrew, the word

'haggadah' means 'telling'. Indeed, within its 600-year-old pages, this extraordinary, colourfully illustrated manuscript tells of the diverse, yet conflicted culture from which it emerged. Consisting of illuminations (69 miniatures on 34 folios), the Sarajevo Haggadah, which narrates of the biblical history of the Jewish people and their exodus from Egypt, falls into the category of the Haggadahs that are read on the occasion of the Jewish feast of Passover.

Along with its historical and artistic value, today the Sarajevo Haggadah has a great emotional significance for Jewish communities all over the world. Its journey and story are unlike that of any other book, having survived a range of trials and tribulations over the centuries. It went from Spain to Venice and then to Vienna, before landing in Sarajevo and was rescued twice by the Museum employees. The manuscript bears witness to the coexistent life of different peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"The Sarajevo Haggadah's journey from its place of origin to Sarajevo is extraordinary.", declared Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Director of the

Sarajevo Haggadah manuscript: Documentary heritage submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina and recommended for inclusion in the Memory of the World Register in 2017.



"During the darkest times, the Sarajevo Haggadah risked destruction on a number of occasions, and its survival at all is no small miracle" she added. "The manuscript owes its survival to the courage of those who appreciated its significance to Jewish heritage, its embodiment of diversity and the intercultural harmony noted in its illustrations, regardless of their religious beliefs, and who put their own life at risk. Its destruction would have been a loss for humanity, its protection, today, is a symbol of the values which UNESCO holds dear."



© National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Opening of the Sarajevo Haggadah exhibition

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe during the opening ceremony. In addition to the opulence and artistry of the illuminations, its beauty and outstanding importance are a reflection of the history of humanity. Its long history continues to be studied today, and many details of its adventures are still to be revealed.

Concerned about its preservation for future generations and its value for humanity, the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina invited UNESCO to take on this challenge. As a result, with the motto "Haggadah close to you", the exhibition room was restored with the purpose of ensuring both its protection and increased accessibility.

During a period of 100 years, between 1898 to the 1990's, the

original Sarajevo Haggadah has rarely been displayed to the public; no more than 4 hours in all.

Thanks to the financial support of the French government, the Sarajevo Haggadah is now safely accessible to visitors. During the renovation works, the lighting, the air conditioning and the surveillance systems were fully remodelled. The manuscript is now better preserved from a wide range of potential damaging factors including light, temperature, humidity, and pollution. It is similarly better protected against deterioration and theft. The new installation prevents the book from being moved manually from one place to another, thus decreasing the need for manipulation and damage exposure.

Together, France, the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina

and UNESCO have improved the presentation of the content of the Sarajevo Haggadah, and its legibility. A video screen flips through the book virtually.

The newly renovated exhibition room stands as a testimony for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for the visitors of the museum, of efforts to bring back to public view one of the most valuable objects of cultural heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A new book edition of the Sarajevo Haggadah is being reprinted, with the support of UNESCO through its Participation Programme. In addition, a new study and the extraordinary story of this manuscript will also be supported by UNESCO. >>full story

## Education as a Tool for Prevention of Violent Extremism in South-East Europe for Peaceful Societies



**The Global Citizenship Education for Peaceful Societies in South-East Europe: a Sub-Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on the Prevention of Violent Extremism took place on 2-4 May 2018 in Venice, Italy. It aligned with the “Education for Justice” (E4J) initiative, implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as part of its Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, and was complimentary to UNESCO’s ongoing efforts on Global Citizenship Education and the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education.**

The workshop was organized jointly by UNESCO’s Section of Global Citizenship and Peace Education (GCPE) and UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, with the support of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In attendance were 22 representatives from South-East European countries.

The event was inaugurated by Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, H.E. Ambassador Ali bin Jassim Al Thani,

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations and International Organizations in Vienna (Austria) and Gilberto Duarte of the UNODC, with greetings from the Italian National Commission for UNESCO.

In her welcoming remarks, Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores underlined that it is through the transformative power of education that we can not only prevent violent extremism, but also build peace – real, lasting peace – in the minds of the young men and women who represent the future - of this region and of the world.

*“It is in this same collaborative spirit that we are working together to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and I am very pleased to note that your discussions in these days will work towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education, specifically towards Target 4.7.”*, she added.

The 3-day programme focused on the role of education in the prevention of violent extremism, followed by key tools and approaches for effective multi-stakeholder engagement, which

provided a solid basis for the participants to formulate and present their draft country action plans on the last day.

Lydia Ruprecht, Team Leader for Global Citizenship Education within UNESCO’s GCPE Section, introduced the 9 international experts who, in representation of their institutions (Arigatou International, CELL Foundation, the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research, Training Centre for International Cooperation, and Radicalisation Awareness Network RAN EU) supported the workshop.

The experts, along with the expertise of UNESCO and UNODC staff, facilitated exercises on varied topics. They ranged from the global PVE legal framework to potential causes of the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education (PVE-E) in South-East Europe, linkages between education and violent extremism, what defines a “good practice”, inclusive education through quality textbooks, the power of media and information literacy, ethics education, polarization management and the role of the family in PVE-E.

Lydia Ruprecht explained that democracy is key to enabling and



The UNESCO video on “Global Citizenship Education to prevent violent extremism” explains how education can prevent violent extremism by equipping young people with the skills to dialogue and think critically, and engage meaningfully with others and their communities in order to build peaceful societies. **Watch** the video on youtube

keeping activism within reasonable limits, also for the evolution of laws to keep pace with society, and that “as educators, we should also be able to recognize our own subjectivity and know how this is interpreted and taught to students”.

*“There is a chance”, she finally stated “that students start questioning what they consider truth and real justice. It may lead them to the authorization, inquiry, critical thinking, self-questioning, and assumption to bridge or build some connections.*

*I suggest we can conclude on our way so that we are reflecting our own assumptions about teaching content or approaches.”*

The primary outputs of the workshop will be a set of draft country action plans, as a basis for developing follow-up activities.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe will continue monitoring progress in the action plans’ preparation and implementation in participating countries. >>full story

*It is not enough to counter violent extremism - we need to prevent it. This calls for forms of ‘soft power’ to prevent a threat driven by distorted interpretations of culture, hatred, and ignorance. No one is born a violent extremist – they are made and fueled. Disarming the process of radicalization must begin with human rights and the rule of law, with dialogue across all boundary lines, by empowering all young women and men, and by starting as early as possible, in school classrooms.*



© UNESCO Global Citizenship Education for Peaceful Societies in South-East Europe - 2018 Sub-Regional Capacity-Building Workshop

## Global Network of Water Museums and UNESCO-IHP in support of Water Sustainability Education and Water Awareness Efforts



© Global Network of Water Museums

The Global Network of Water Museums was placed under the umbrella of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in June by its Intergovernmental Council, composed of 36 Member States. IHP is the only intergovernmental programme of the UN system devoted to water research, water resources management, and education and capacity building. The new IHP initiative aims to reconnect people and water in all of its dimensions. It is expected to strengthen IHP's communication and capacity to reach new audiences in order to deploy and enhance the benefit of formal and informal water education.

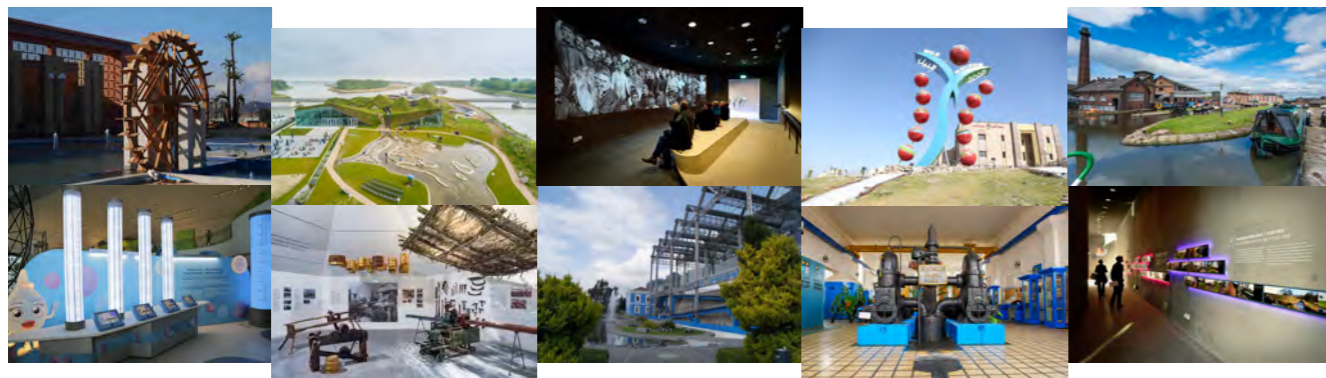
At its 23rd Session held on 11-15 June 2018, the IHP Council adopted 13 major decisions through Resolutions by consensus, among

them an international network of water museums, in Resolution XXIII-5: "Global Network of Water Museums and UNESCO-IHP in support of Water Sustainability Education and Water Awareness Efforts". In the last decades, water has been conceived and used mainly as a means to afford unprecedented economic development at a global level. Simultaneously, however, water has become increasingly invisible and often more remote from people's awareness, which makes water more vulnerable than ever.

The Global Network sets out to awake a new sense of water as a civilizational bond. The initiative calls upon authorities and citizens who are interested in valuing all bodies of water with their unique cultural and historical dimensions that evocatively narrate the one of a kind relationship between humanity and the life-giving

liquid element. Currently, The Global Network is composed of over 60 institutions and has a combined audience of approximately 5 million visitors per year. Each member institution has its own vision and diverse and particular approach with regard to water, concerning educational, cultural and scientific activities.

Water museums represent a unique heritage, displaying and questioning the different water cultures that have developed around the world: from oases in the desert to terraced fields, water mills, waterways, aqueducts, fountains and rain harvesting artefacts. Today's water resources are increasingly threatened by waste, quantity and quality degradation, despite extraordinary technological progress – or rather, because of it. Hydraulic heritage is a vital source

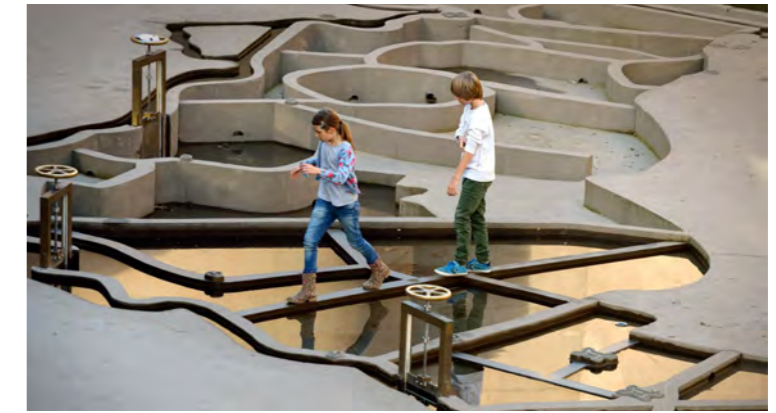


© Global Network of Global Museums: Biesbosch Museum Eiland - Netherlands, Cluj Water Museum - Romania, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua Quito - Ecuador, Kahramaa Water Awareness Park Doha - Qatar, Musée pour la civilisation de l'eau au Maroc - Marrakech Morocco, National Waterways Museum - UK, The Water Museum of Nile River Cairo - Egypt, Waterlinie Museum - Netherlands



of inspiration to face the modern water crises on a universal scale. In this context, the Global Network aims to reinstate a new relationship between humanity and water, a new sense of civilization, which helps us to reconnect people and water in all of its dimensions: scientific and technical, but also social, cultural, artistic and spiritual.

The Global Network of Water Museums facilitates the transmission of unique water-related knowledge across generations: on natural and cultural, tangible and intangible heritage, including hydraulic artifacts, unique waterscapes, management models and techniques, perceptions, attitudes and behaviors. Its integration among the IHP initiatives fosters future synergies of the Global Network with UNESCO, with



© Global Network of Water Museums

the objective to better use water museums for disseminating water-related knowledge through education and public awareness-raising activities, such as web platforms, conferences, workshops, publications, exhibitions and art performances, and ultimately for improving water use and management practices, including through informed public participation.

The Global Network was established in May 2017 as a result of the international conference hosted in Venice, Italy, by the UNESCO Regional Bureau. Following the initial international conference, a second

edition was convened on 14-18 May 2018 to consolidate the co-ordination and the future activities of the Global Network.

The Conference was held in s-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands, with the support of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO (IHP), the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice), Kring Vrienden van 's-Hertogenbosch (Netherlands), Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Civiltà dell'Acqua International Centre (Italy), with the endorsement of the Netherlands' National IHP-HWRP Committee. >>full story

## Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network towards a strategic cooperation with the Adriatic region

The meeting "Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network. Towards a strategic cooperation with the Adriatic region" was hosted by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe on 19 April 2018.

The UNESCO International Centre for Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves (CIURBN) and the Abertis Foundation are fostering collaboration among the various European networks.

This event, jointly organised under the auspices of UNESCO in Venice, Italy, was presided over by Salvador Alemany, chairman of Abertis and director of the Abertis Foundation; Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe; and, Carlos del Río, chairman of A4Holding, a subsidiary of Abertis in Italy.



© UNESCO/Abertis Foundation

In his opening address, Salvador Alemany emphasised the desire to establish the UNESCO Centre as a benchmark for excellence and model for collaboration between both coastlines of the Mediterranean on Biosphere Reserves-related matters and as a facilitator of the development of agreements and links.

Miguel Clüsener-Godt, director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences of UNESCO, emphasised the crucial role of public-private companies in the creation of prestigious future CIURBN projects in other countries. >>full story

## The role of youth in building sustainable and resilient urban and rural communities #YOUTH2030



The ECOSOC Youth Forum is the largest official annual gathering on youth issues at the United Nations. The Forum brought together more than 500 youth advocates from around the world, youth ministers and civil society leaders, to advance the role of young people, as agents of change, in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 30-31 January 2018 under the theme 'The role of youth in building sustainable and resilient urban and rural communities' featured plenary sessions, interactive thematic and regionally-based discussions and region perspectives, providing a platform for meaningful engagement on how the world's young people must be at heart of the global development agenda, leading efforts to address a range of global issues. Young participants from UNESCO and UNESCO's Youth Networks

actively engaged in the work of the Youth Forum, promoting UNESCO's priorities, programmes and activities, in the discussion addressing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, structured around the goals under review in the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum in 2018.

Young 'voices' from the UNESCO Office in New York took part in the breakout sessions of the forum, advocating for and highlighting the importance of education for 2030 as a whole and in relation to the cluster of reviewed goals in 2018.

In their interventions, they highlighted the role of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee as a global coordination and partnership mechanism for the Sustainable Development Goal 4, and spread a call among youth delegates to exercise their collective voice to support the provision of quality and equitable education for all by joining the GEM Report Right to Education campaign.



UNESCO, through its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme co-organized a session on SDG15 on biodiversity and supported the participation of four youth representatives from the MAB Youth Network. A young participant from the World Youth Parliament for Water represented UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) at the session on SDG6 on water. UNESCO also co-organized and co-facilitated the session on SDG17 on the role of science technology and innovation (STI) in the implementation of SDGs.

During the ECOSOC Youth Forum, UNESCO also organized and engaged in a number of side-events. UNESCO's MAB Programme



© ECOSOC Youth Forum - Social Media campaign

organized a side-event on MAB Youth Forum Committed to Sustainable Development, following on the 2017 MAB Youth Forum and featuring four MAB Youth delegates, who shared their experiences from their respective Biosphere Reserves. UNESCO moderated discussions on youth migration and peacebuilding

during the session on SDG 11 – make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Being the first organization within the United Nation system to introduce youth delegates' involvement, UNESCO's work with and for youth is committed to empowering young

women and men and helping them work together to drive social innovation and change, participate fully in the development of their societies, eradicate poverty and inequality, and foster a culture of peace. >>full story

## MAB Youth delegates share their experience at ECOSOC Youth Forum

The ECOSOC Youth Forum is the largest official annual gathering on youth issues at the United Nations, and this year's edition was about "the role of youth in building sustainable and resilient urban and rural communities". Among them were delegates of the MAB Youth Forum, who are engaged in shaping the sustainable development of their communities.

During two days, youth representatives focused their attention on access to water, sanitation (SDG 6) and energy (SDG 7); sustainable and inclusive cities (SDG 11), sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12); sustainably managed forests (SDG 15); and, use of science, technology and innovations in facilitating youth engagement, development and resilience (SDG 17). UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme supported the participation of 4 youth delegates to present the outcomes of the first MAB Youth Forum, (2017). The forum brought together youth representatives living or working in Biosphere Reserves, areas that are committed to developing solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use, to give them an opportunity to become active in the MAB Programme and to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities.

A side event on "MAB Youth - Committed to Sustainable Development" gave them an opportunity to share the results of the MAB Youth Forum and the impact it has had on their lives and local engagement. They explained the concrete steps that they are taking, together with their local community, to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Side event was organized with the support of the UNESCO liaison office of New York and the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Venice. The MAB Youth



delegates also participated in the thematic breakout session on SDG 15 'Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss', co-organized by UNESCO. The ECOSOC Youth Forum called on Member States to ensure that young people have the institutional and political space to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at country, regional and global levels.

"The voices of young people can be amplified at the global level if they are included as youth delegates at the UN and

if they are part of national delegations for the review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the High-Level Political Forum" said Marie Chatardova, president of the UN Economic and Social Council. The importance of holding their Governments accountable for such commitments, including through vigorous shadow reporting, was highlighted.

With its MAB Youth Forum, the MAB Programme has opened a new space for youth to engage with UNESCO and contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, to make a difference on the ground. >>full story

## Implementing Culture for Development Indicators in South-East Europe: sharing results and lessons in Brussels



The Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators in South-East Europe: Outcomes, impact, lessons learned, and the way ahead took place on 17 May 2018 in Brussels, Belgium.

The meeting served to present the results achieved and share experiences about the implementation of UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators in South-East Europe. It was an opportunity to present a summary of the results at global level and to introduce UNESCO's current efforts in developing new indicators on culture's contribution to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as defined by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Culture is who we are, and what shapes our identity. Placing culture

at the heart of development policies is the only way to ensure a human-centred, inclusive and equitable development. In fact, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015, the international development agenda refers to culture for the first time.

The SDGs enshrine a conceptual shift in thinking about development beyond economic growth -envisioning a desirable future that is equitable, inclusive, peaceful, and environmentally sustainable. This bold vision demands creative approaches, beyond the typical linear and sectoral ones that most countries have been used to in recent decades. With 22 indicators in 7 interrelated policy dimensions that address the multi-faced contribution of culture to sustainable development, the UNESCO Culture

for Development Indicators (CDIS) establishes a common ground for culture and development actors to better integrate culture in development policies and strategies, generating concrete impacts at policy level.

UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in Venice (Italy), is supporting the implementation of CDIS in several countries of South-East Europe. After Bosnia and Herzegovina where the indicators were implemented during the pilot phase in 2013, UNESCO established cooperation with national authorities to run the CDIS in other countries of the region. The CDIS implementation was completed in **Montenegro** (2015), **Croatia** (2016) and **Albania** (2016), while it is still in progress in the **Republic of Moldova** (2016), **Serbia** (2016) and **Romania**

© UNESCO CDIS

(2017). Ongoing consultations will possibly allow to also initiate the process in **Slovenia** and in The former **Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**.

Thanks to these joint efforts, South-East Europe is the sub-region at global level in which the implementation of the CDIS methodology is the most advanced, providing an unprecedented opportunity for the comparison of data, results and sectoral policy at sub-regional and European levels. Experience shows that CDIS implementation in these

countries is leading to substantial progress on multiple issues, ranging from an increased awareness of culture's potential amongst actors inside and outside of the culture sector to better-informed policies and strategies.

The multidimensionality of the CDIS facilitates cross-cutting analyses, thus providing a holistic and inclusive illustration of the relationship between culture and development. The results obtained and their analysis have

already produced concrete and tangible impacts by encouraging action at policy level and structuring an inter-institutional dialogue and collaboration on culture and development.

The meeting was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels and the UNESCO Division for Creativity. [>>full story](#)

## South-East Europe: Ministers of Culture promote the role of museums in societies



The Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe 'Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development' (CoMoCoSEE) gathered for its annual meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 4 April 2018. Being the main cultural cooperation platform in South-East Europe, its main purpose is to further strengthen regional cooperation, boosting cultural heritage and creativity as drivers for sustainable development and regional integration.

Culture paves the way for a human-centred, inclusive and equitable development. Placing the region's rich

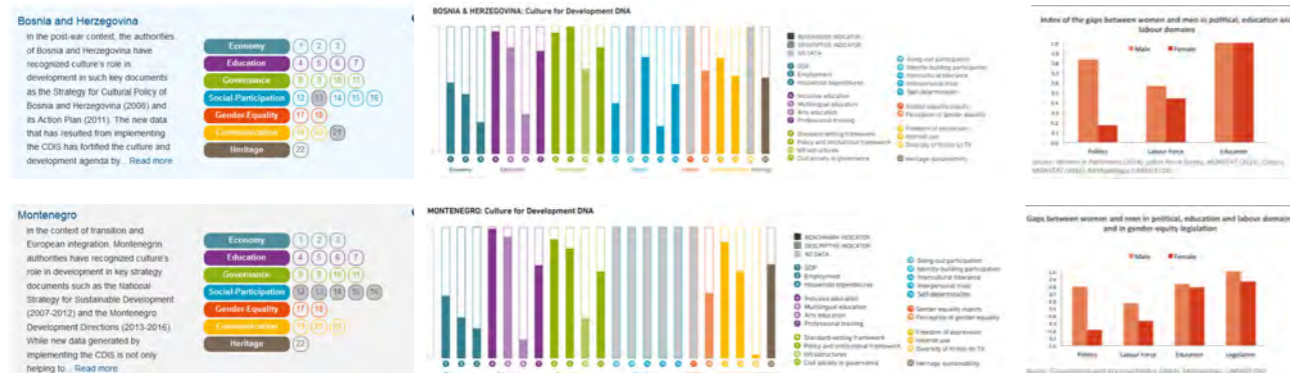
and diverse culture at the heart of development policies constitutes an essential investment in the future of South-East Europe. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015 by the United Nations marks a substantial step forward for sustainable development in many fields, and in particular for culture. For the first time, the international development agenda refers to culture within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals related to education, sustainable cities, food security, the environment, economic growth, sustainable consumption and production

patterns, peaceful and inclusive societies.

As **Bosnia and Herzegovina** is currently holding the rotating presidency of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe (CoMoCoSEE), its Minister of Civil Affairs, Adil Osmanović, hosted the fourth meeting of this platform since the revision of its format in 2014. The event in Sarajevo aimed at promoting joint initiatives and reinforcing coordination between cultural and other sectorial policies, in line with the 2030 Agenda, with this year's special focus on the role of museums. [>>full story](#)

© CoMoCoSEE

### UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro



## Walled Cities, open Societies: Managing Historic Walls in Urban World Heritage properties II



© Tomáš Demšar, Jolijan, Silverije, Dobarštroz, Ferreira - Šibenik

Mayors and high representatives of 18 cities from 15 countries in Europe, together with representatives of national heritage authorities, international expert, and resource persons gathered with the objective of discussing the management of historic walls and fortifications in urban World Heritage properties in Europe, with a special focus on implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011) in those properties.

The meeting was organized on 5-6 March 2018 in Šibenik, Croatia by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Ministry of Culture of Croatia, the Croatian Commission for UNESCO, the Šibenik-Knin County and the City of Šibenik.

It followed a first workshop of the Regional Network on the Management of Historic Walls and Fortifications in Urban World Heritage Properties in Europe held in Sienna, Italy (January 2017). Based on the increasing need to take advantage of the urban

cultural heritage as a key resource to enhance the liveability of urban areas, the 2001 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) advocates the integration of cultural heritage conservation strategies within the larger goals of sustainable urban development, embracing a landscape approach for identifying, conserving and managing historic areas within their broader urban contexts.

Véronique Dauge, Head of the Culture Unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, spoke of "the implementation of the Recommendation being of critical importance to ensure that the integrated management of historic urban areas achieves effective preservation, while at the same time fostering social cohesion, inclusive growth, and quality of life".

At the meeting, different knowledge tools on the HUL approach were presented with a special focus on its possible implementation in World Heritage properties with a significant presence of historic walls, fortifications and fortified urban areas. Guidance was given to identify the attributes of the

Outstanding Universal Value of urban World Heritage properties based on the recognition of historic cities as a changing ensemble with multiple layers and stories. Besides, they were shown how to manage historic fortifications as an open space to integrate conservation and development in an evolutionary perspective, enhancing the relationship with the socio-economic context and improving the functionality, usability and accessibility of urban areas. Issues related to EU policies and financing opportunities were also discussed, to help the implementation at a practical level.

On the second day of the meeting, participants took part in a field visit



© Šibenik Official seal

Šibenik (Town, Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia)

to the World Heritage property of Šibenik and other urban heritage sites, to develop a better understanding of the HUL approach through a teamwork simulation using Šibenik as a case study.

Participants showed great appreciation, underlining that "it offers new visions and perspectives on heritage conversation and urban management in a comprehensive

way, it facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experiences, and it helps international networking lying the basis for future cooperation".

Participants found the HUL approach to be a very relevant, useful and practical tool to improve heritage management. They expressed their willingness to explore possibilities for its implementation in their respective

cities, expecting nonetheless other capacity-building opportunities and technical assistance.

To reinforce the cooperation of the network and extend the exchange of experiences, participants proposed to hold a third meeting of the European network on historic walls in urban World Heritage properties in 2019, possibly with a special focus on sustainable tourism. >>full story



© UNESCO - 2018 edition of Walled cities in Šibenik

## Dialogue for the Future enters its second phase to promote Social Cohesion in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dialogue for the Future's second phase has begun, with high expectations. The project is the only peacebuilding initiative that enables people from all of Bosnia and Herzegovina's constituent groups, and others, to directly engage their Presidency. It is also the only initiative which brings together the highest-level elected leaders around the concerns of Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens, despite political differences between them.

Titled "Dialogue for the Future: Promoting Coexistence and Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina", the project established dialogue platforms and youth forums across the country, supported 42 community projects and reached out to 30% of the population.

As a tangible output of the first phase, over 54,000 citizens were directly engaged through 3 Dialogue Platforms, 26 Youth Forums, training seminars and the grants programme. 1 million viewers were reached through communications and outreach materials.

The second phase of the DFF project started with the participation of



© United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNESCO, through its Antenna Office in Sarajevo – UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in January and will be ending next year in June 2019. Phase II is funded by UN Peace Building Fund. The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina is partner of the project, carried out in support of SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Implementing UN agencies include UNICEF, UNESCO and UNDP.

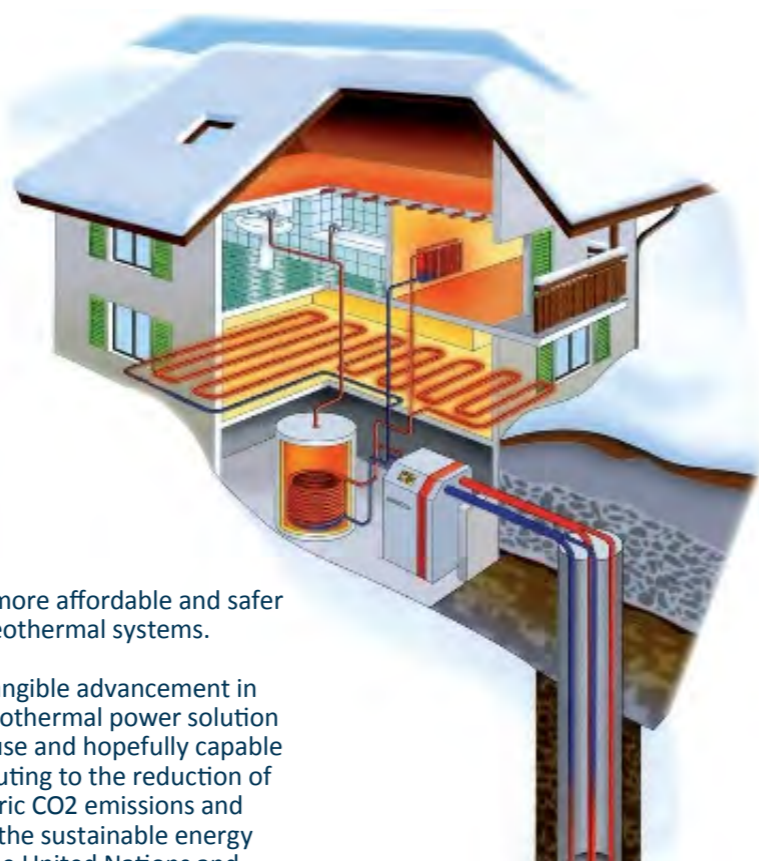
In its second phase, the DFF project seeks to enhance the inclusiveness

of local level governance by undertaking joint assessments of common problems and creating local dialogue platforms - bringing together local leaders as well as civil society, youth, religious leaders, women's organizations and relevant local level authorities.

These dialogue platforms will be established as genuine bases for collaboration among diverse stakeholders, empowering them with collaborative leadership and peacebuilding skills. >>full story

## Cheap-GHSPs geothermal facility tested in Croatia at the Technical Museum Nikola Testa of Zagreb

**2015-2019**  
**CHEAP AND EFFICIENT**  
**APPLICATION OF RELIABLE**  
**GROUND SOURCE HEAT**  
**EXCHANGERS AND PUMPS**



The Cheap-GHSPs geothermal facility at the Technical museum Nikola Tesla was officially opened on 20 June 2018 in Zagreb, Croatia. In attendance were UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the Ministry of Culture of Croatia, the Croatian National Commission for UNESCO, the municipality of Zagreb, museum management authorities, and project partners.

After 3 years of interdisciplinary work, Cheap-GSHPs has reached one of its main milestones. It is a contribution to the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society (2015), proving how museum can become places for sustainability by applying innovative sustainable energy technologies, in everyday life.

Croatia with its Technical Museum in Zagreb is one of the 6-real demonstrators of Cheap-GSHPs in Europe, in different grounds and under diverse climate conditions, with the aim of developing more

efficient, more affordable and safer shallow geothermal systems.

This is a tangible advancement in making geothermal power solution more diffuse and hopefully capable of contributing to the reduction of atmospheric CO2 emissions and achieving the sustainable energy goals of the United Nations and European Union, along with the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

UNESCO's role in the Cheap-GHSPs project is highly relevant due to its specific interdisciplinary activity aimed at accommodating geothermal innovative solutions in cultural heritage sites and buildings, with the objective of combining different stances, such as innovation in sustainable energy, conservation of built heritage, climate change mitigation, and energy poverty reduction.

During the opening, the geothermal system successfully switched to cooling functionalities. The infield team operated multiple checks on the geothermal system functionalities along with a changeover from winter to summer modality. The system managed to lower the internal temperature of the exposition room from 28°C to 19°C, turning a hot and humid environment into a pleasant one for both visitors and workers. The training for the handover of the geothermal system was completed and instructions were



▲ © Zeliko Kovacic - Cheap-GHSPs Geothermal Facility at the Technical museum Nikola Testa

## Cheap GSHPs

given to museum management on how to correctly handle the basic functionalities and commands. The data stored in specific sensors, indoor and outdoor, for a constant environmental monitoring were downloaded to be further elaborated and analysed. These data sets are useful to assess the geothermal installation performance according to different climatic parameters and changing seasonal patterns. The attending authorities were satisfied with the architectural

features of the technical room in the renewed yard of the museum and with the performance of the innovative heat pumps.

The system now performs as a permanent showcase for Education for Sustainable Development on sustainable energy and climate change mitigation actions.

The Museum displays Cheap-GSHPs solution as one of the possible technical contributions to green energy, becoming a component of educational and informative activities conducted by the museum in the section devoted to renewable energy and energy efficiency. >>full story

CHEAP-GSHPs project is funded by Horizon 2020, call LCE-03-2014, under the technology-specific challenges about renewable electricity and heating/cooling technologies.

## GEO4CIVHIC Project kicks off in Italy with UNESCO as partner



methodology, Ground Source Heat exchangers and grouting. All will be tailored according to the requirements driven by beneficiary sites and their urban context.

With the support of the management authorities, UNESCO will supervise the implementation of the real demonstration component adapted to the World Heritage site of Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta in Italy, while a full feasibility study is foreseen in a World heritage property in Croatia.

The meeting hosted at the Department of GeoSciences, University of Padua (Italy), on 12-13 April 2018 marked the beginning of the GEO4CIVHIC EU project. All 19 project partners, among which the Italian National Research Council - Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, Project coordinator, and UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe joined Daniel Marave De Lemus, EC Project Officer, to present the project and discuss about the work, objectives and expected outputs.

innovative shallow geothermal solutions particularly targeting historical buildings, including UNESCO designated sites.

Solutions will be put in place by considering a multi-criteria approach based on building typologies, climatic and hydro-geological settings, featuring the geothermal system – such as drilling

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe has a long interdisciplinary work experience in sustainable energy applied to both capacity building, through dedicated trainings and the elaboration and the implementation of geothermal power system in built heritage, including museums. >>full story

The project, titled 'Most Easy, Efficient and Low Cost Geothermal Systems for Retrofitting Civil and Historical Buildings - GEO4CIVHIC', aims at applying a pan-European and



GEO4CIVHIC project is funded by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020, call LCE-2016-2017, under Competitive Low-Carbon Energy. The project duration is 4 years, 2018-2020.

## Ark of inquiry inquiry-based science education shapes innovative future scientists and motivated teachers



Started in 2014, the EU-funded “Ark of Inquiry” project ended with a rousing finale on 5-6 February 2018. Combined efforts from everyone made it possible to complete it successfully. The project bore many fruits throughout its duration. Great efforts were invested to raise pupils’ awareness regarding Responsible Research and Innovation, to engage them in inquiry activities, to stimulate their curiosity, and to inspire their ultimate understanding of “real” science. The project resources are now self-sustaining for interested teachers around the globe to use.

Project partners from 11 of the 12 participating European countries gathered at the Ark of Inquiry consortium meeting hosted by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in Venice, Italy. The final face-to-face meeting permitted to collect

feedback on project deliverables, to discuss about project sustainability and to take final steps towards scientific and financial reporting.

The project was implemented by 13 project partners, including UNESCO, from 12 different countries. UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe was involved in 6 of the project’s work packages (WP) and was leader for dissemination activities. UNESCO identified schools, supported teachers and encouraged students by promoting

a wealth of knowledge and resources in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. UNESCO was responsible for coordinating partners and for tracking and monitoring the project.

Through 3 online webinars on Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE) and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), a window was provided for queries and clarifications about how to implement the investigation and the discussion phase of the model, how to use the Ark of Inquiry portal,



▲ © Ark of Inquiry/Inquiry activities

and the inquiry model’s applicability to other subjects. Collinearly, the final conference in Paris brought intense discussions from a variety of perspectives and panel presentations at different levels. It provided the direction and the next steps to take and concretize in terms of RRI, empowering girls in science fields and the next generation.

Overall, the 13 participating partners focused on implementing the training session for both pre-service and in-service teachers as well as facilitating and developing science activities for pupils in different languages. A number of efforts were made to maximize the outcome of the project at regional, national and transboundary levels.

The Ark of Inquiry project reached a target audience that included teachers, science centres, museums, and so on. As the end of the journey, the project successfully involved 1,426 schools, 3,222 teachers and 42,627 pupils in over 42 countries in Europe and beyond – much exceeding the original goal of 1,100 teachers and 23,000 pupils.

Although the project officially ended, the “Ark” of Inquiry learning will keep on its self-sustained voyage. The portal is at the core of the sustainability of the Ark of Inquiry project. Some 965 inquiry activities have been updated in at least 13 different languages. All major STEM domains are well covered and the activities are available for



different age groups, showing a well-balanced distribution of 3 proficiency levels – novice, basic and advanced.

As a cornerstone of a more engaging and self-directed learning, the Ark of Inquiry project could continue its influence on teaching and learning methods across Europe and even beyond. >>full story

## UNESCO contributes to UN Inter-Agency MAPS Missions in South-East Europe

*In July 2018, the High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations in New York reviewed progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030, including the National Voluntary Reviews of selected countries.*

Among these countries was Albania, to which the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe recently provided support to facilitate the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This has included the country’s MAPS Report and a Situation Analysis of Education in Albania. **Montenegro** presented its National Voluntary Review in 2016 and Serbia foresees to present its own review in 2019.

MAPS, which stands for Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support, aims to mobilize and leverage the expertise and comparative advantages of UN agencies and programmes to contribute to human-centred and rights-based sustainable development under the overarching objective “to leave no one behind”.

By examining available data and existing policies and strategies, the MAPS Missions support national



governments assess and identify potential areas for UN intervention and critical issues in order to stimulate integrated national policy responses to SDG acceleration with the support of the UN Country Teams. This eventually leads to the forthcoming rollout of the next generation of the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) per country. The MAPS process is seen as complementary to the process of accession of these countries to the EU.

The MAPS Missions also facilitate the integrated alignment of the SDGs with current key national policy documents (until 2020), and those to be developed by the governments

subsequently until 2025 and 2030, such as the National Development Strategies, and strategies per Sector/Line Ministry.

In the MAPS process, UNESCO is most actively involved in policy analysis and technical backstopping for SDG 4 - Education 2030 and SDG 5 - Gender equality, and variable country-specific priorities pertaining to culture, environment, climate change, and water in line with SDG 6, 11, 13 and 15. UNESCO staff have contributed to the MAPS Missions in **Albania** (April 2018) and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (May 2018) and will also do so for **Serbia** (September 2018). >>full story

## UK tests I-REACT latest cyber technology to prevent floods and other natural hazards



A new set of I-REACT tools designed to improve disaster response and to enhance the resilience of communities to natural hazards was tested together for the first time during the training workshop on Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies on 13-14 June 2018 in Ipswich, United Kingdom of Great Britain.

Designed to integrate and manage data from various monitoring systems, including social media, the I-REACT tools include a powerful mix of wearable technology such as augmented reality glasses and sensors, combined with drones derived images, social media analysis tools and geo-localised crowdsourcing information for an enhanced emergency managers situational awareness capacity on the ground. Current risk management systems are not

making the most of technological progress and access to the huge amounts of information available in the era of Big Data is a critical element of Disaster Risk Management.

Over the last 20 years, more than 1.35 million people have died as a result of their vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards, with women and girls bearing a heavy toll. UNESCO joined forces with several European institutions with diverse expertise in order to develop the tools needed to improve the effectiveness of emergency management systems and foster more resilient societies.

Through the joint project, Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies (I-REACT), a set of solutions were designed, integrating satellite observations, historical information, models and weather forecasts with real time data from various sources. Funded by the European Union, the I-REACT project brings together



20 partners from 9 countries. The I-REACT project aims to provide increased resilience to natural hazards through better analysis and anticipation, effective and fast emergency response, increased awareness and citizen engagement achieved by better integration of existing emergency management systems and multiple data sources.

Whilst it can offer an “end to end” solution where necessary, in practice I-REACT is comprised of a flexible range of tools that enable it to be adapted to support existing structures and systems without duplication. This allows different end users to adopt various elements of I-REACT capability, at different times, to suit their local circumstances and needs.

© I-REACT/ testing in Ipswich, UK

The aim of this 2-day workshop was that of facilitating the interaction between I-REACT partners and end users from the expert and community level from a country with an existing/ developed warning system, and of enabling UK participants to consider the value of enhanced cyber technologies for their own use. The set of I-REACT tools is highly modular and can be adopted separately by the emergency services, enabling managers to interface the I-REACT solutions with existing

technologies. Plans embrace tests with local civil protection organisations and volunteers in several countries over the next months - including Finland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. The test is being adapted to the local context and vulnerability to hazards.

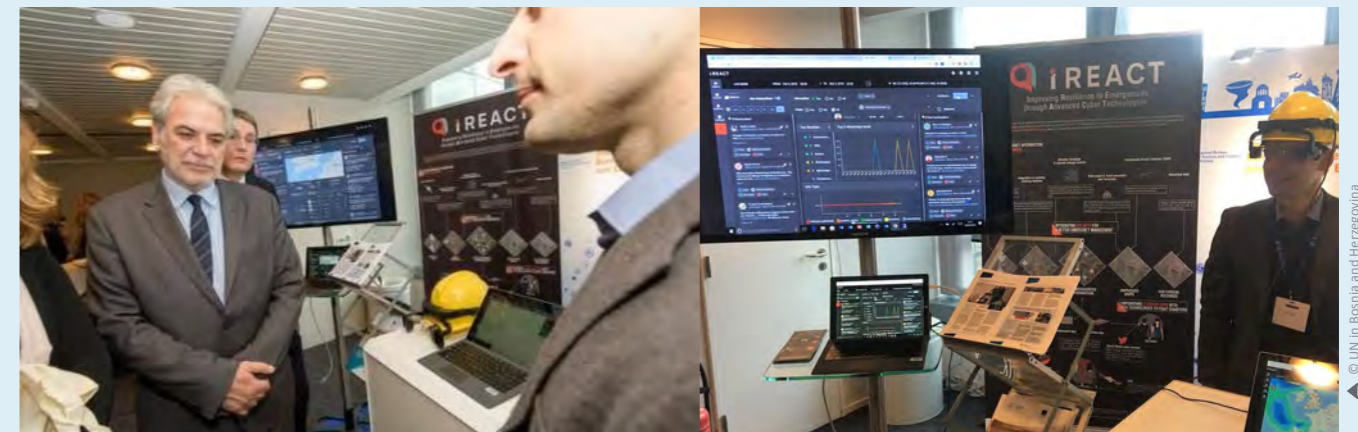
During the 2 days of the rain-induced riverine flood simulation exercise of the Orwell river, representatives of the Environment Agency, Flood Forecasting Centre, county councils and insurance professionals worked together to explore how new



© I-REACT -Project Workflow

technologies could be integrated in current disaster risk management systems. The exercise also counted on a team of volunteers to report through the I-REACT mobile application about the flood situation on the ground to the emergency coordination services. >>full story

## UNESCO presents solutions for disaster risk reduction at the European Civil Protection Forum 2018



The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) and the UNESCO Earth Sciences, DRR Unit, participated in the European Civil Protection Forum in Brussels, Belgium.

On 5- 6 March 2018, UNESCO through its Office in Venice and Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction section, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Unit, took part in the European Civil Protection Forum “Civil Protection in a Changing Risk Landscape” in Brussels with a dedicated stand. The forum was a unique opportunity to present EU-derived solution for DRM built upon two major projects I-REACT (H2020) and FLOODIS (FP7)

led by the Institute Mario Boella based in Turin (Italy).

I-REACT (Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies) directs and elaborates in the service of emergency managers a broad array of information provided from different sources, including imagery from space, citizens, social media, smartphones, unmanned vehicles, and wearable technology such as augmented reality glasses and sensors for first responders to better manage natural disasters through best-informed decisions.

FLOODIS system aims to bridge the gap between Disaster Management Teams

and Emergency Response Units by mainstreaming flood information into a centralised platform through a dedicated application in order to better manage and alleviate crisis situations linked to flooding.

UNESCO had the opportunity to present the above projects to more than 400 representatives from the civil protection and disaster risk management sector, including EU Member State governments, other UN agencies, academia, and relevant stakeholders who were gathered together to exchange best practises and explore ways of strengthening the Civil Protection Mechanism. >>full story

© UN in Bosnia and Herzegovina



MIL CLICKS is a way for people to acquire media and information literacy (MIL) competencies in their normal day-to-day use of the Internet and social media and to engage peer education in an atmosphere of browsing, playing, connecting, sharing, and socializing. The acronym MIL CLICKS stands for Media and Information Literacy: Critical-thinking, Creativity, Literacy, Intercultural, Citizenship, Knowledge & Sustainability. The objectives of this social media strategy are to use social media to expose people to become more media and information literate and to raise awareness about the importance of media and information literacy for their livelihoods!



© UNESCO - Building Trust in Media in SEE and Turkey

## Building Trust in Media in South-East Europe and Turkey

UNESCO supported national consultations on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) a strong impulse for progress. These actors reaffirmed their commitment to accelerating the development of media and information literacy policies and strategies in the country. This dedication was demonstrated at UNESCO and European Commission-supported National Consultations on MIL Policies and Strategies, which was held on 23 April 2018.

The event gathered policymakers, media experts, professors, educators, librarians and other information intermediaries, youth, civil society and international development community stakeholders. The Faculty of Political Sciences of Sarajevo University, with the cooperation of Ministry of Civil Affairs and the National Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for UNESCO, is leading the process. Fulfillment of the roles in digital world "Discussion on the policies and strategies of media and information in Bosnia and Herzegovina relies on UNESCO's composite concept, which includes a combination of knowledge, attitudes, skills, and practices required to seek, access, critically analyze, evaluate, and use/engage wisely with information, media, and technology." In Bosnia and Herzegovina, MIL policies are

necessary not only for citizens, but for authorities in order to fulfill their role in the digital world" said Dr Emir Vajzović, on behalf of the organizer, Faculty of Political Sciences.

MIL policies and strategies can open spaces for constructive dialogue between citizens of different ethnic, religious, ideological and political groups. They also offer a framework for finding adequate answers to current problems of disinformation.

"MIL policies should reach all layers of the population and prevent situations that lead to the divisions in a society - to those who have access to information and those who do not have it; those who know how to use digital technologies and those who do not know; to those who have the competence of critically analyzing media messages and digital information and those who do not have it", said Prof. Dr Rifat Skrijel, University of Sarajevo Rector.

MIL is important for everyone. Recalling that the rapid development of information technologies led to the transformation of traditional information and media, in 2007, UNESCO proposed MIL as a composite concept. "A media and information literate person understands the nature of the role and function of media and other information providers in society, and critically assesses information and media content. MIL is important for everyone," said Sinisa Sesum, Head of the Antenna in Sarajevo.

The project is being implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, as well as in Kosovo (administered by the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo in the context of UN Security Council



©TrustinMedia

He concluded that the MIL policy articulation process in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be followed through to an effective and purposive end as a lot is at stake. The recommendations from the Consultations are focused on

harmonization of public policy and the development of new policies and strategies where necessary. Participants highlighted the crucial task of strengthening the role of libraries, information institutions and other key actors in the lifelong

learning process, in particular learning with the support of new media and technologies. National consultations are one of several important steps in the roadmap for MIL development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. >>full story

As there is a clear decline in the civil society's trust in media in South East Europe and Turkey, UNESCO is seeking to reverse that trend through the project entitled "Building Trust in media in South East Europe and Turkey". Together with partners and with the financial support from the European Union, the project seeks to strengthen freedom of expression, access to information, free, independent and pluralistic media, ensuring that journalists and media are key drivers for democratic, sustainable and peaceful development in the region.

## UNESCO launches new campaign for the improvement of journalists' working conditions in South-East Europe and Turkey



European Federation of Journalists



©European Federation of Journalists

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), a project partner of UNESCO has launched an online awareness video campaign about the poor working conditions of journalists and media workers in South-East Europe and Turkey.

"Recently I met a journalist who works more than 8 hours every day including Saturday and Sunday for around 200 euros per month" witnesses Rea Adilagic from the Bosnia and Herzegovina journalists' association in one of the video clips of the campaign. "In Turkey, I know a journalist working for the international press and he only gets 400 Euros per month. How can we expect him to produce quality stories and make in-depth analysis?"

Moreover in my country, one third of the journalists are unemployed," observes Mustafa Kuleli from the Journalist' union of Turkey in another video clip. This online campaign gathers testimonies from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), where many journalists often face steep difficulties such as job insecurity and low wages. It was launched within the framework of the UNESCO EU funded project Building Trust in Media in South-East Europe.

The project aims to improve the internal governance of media organizations based on the

commitment of media owners and editors to respect clearly defined professional and labour standards. The project has enabled the Labour Rights Expert Group (LAREG) of the EFJ to transform into LAREG + by welcoming representatives from South East Europe and Turkey, providing a unique platform for exchange of best practices between EU and EU candidate countries on journalists' working conditions.

With this campaign, UNESCO and the EFJ are seeking to advocate for better working conditions of journalists and media workers in the region, to support quality journalism and build trust in media #TrustInMediaSEE. >> full story

# UNESCO calls on volunteers in Venice to raise awareness on plastic pollution



On the occasion of the World Oceans Day “Clean Our Ocean” (8 June), the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), in collaboration with various Venetian and national institutions, organized the second edition of the Plastic Free Venice Initiative. The main goal was to raise public awareness on the issue of plastic waste that, accidentally or voluntarily abandoned, invades the canals of the historic centre of Venice, vast areas of the lagoon, as well as other parts of the world.

Covering more than 70% of our planet, the ocean is among the earth’s most valuable natural resources. It governs the weather, absorbs part of the CO2 that we emit, helps feed the world, and provides a living for millions. The majority of garbage that enters the ocean each year is plastic—and it is there to stay.

“More plastic than fish in the sea by 2050!”, said Ellen MacArthur record-breaking sailor. Such image frightens people and may change their behaviour. Plastic pollution has become a well-known worldwide problem. Media outlets from around the world report of stranded mammals and seabirds that have died because of having digested plastics.

While some waste is dumped directly into the sea, an estimated 80 percent of marine litter makes its way there gradually from land-based sources.

The discovery of the presence of microplastics, or even nanoplastics, in the ocean is a very alarming turn from the environmental point of view. Microplastics, that is plastic fragments typically smaller than 5 mm, are able to pass through wastewater treatment plants, accumulating on shorelines and eventually reaching marine ecosystems. There, such fragments remain unaltered, representing a serious risk for marine flora and fauna, and not only. “The presence of microplastics in the ocean is alarming!”, voice the international scientific community. The Mediterranean Sea is one of the most worrisome regions of the world, and it is said to show a microplastics concentration higher than that of the North Pacific area (the Great Pacific garbage patch).

Plastic pollution is one of the greatest threats facing our ocean, thus our future. Unless strong action is taken now, the problem will get exponentially worse. Every single action is important; we all have a role in reducing, if not eliminating pollution. In this light, as part of a comprehensive action plan for a plastic free Venice, UNESCO Regional

## Our Ocean is Our Future

Every 8 June, we have an opportunity to raise global awareness of the benefits humankind derives from the ocean and our individual and collective duty to use its resources sustainably. Future generations will also depend on the ocean for their livelihoods!



© #plasticfreevenice campaign



© UNESCO - Sky TG24 live - 8 June 2018 // Speciale World Oceans

Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe joined hands with IOC and the Municipality of Venice to reduce plastic marine debris to which the city and its lagoon are being constantly and increasingly exposed.

The Plastic Free Venice Initiative is of a purely civic and educational nature, without any political connotation and open to individuals or associations that wish to adhere on a personal or collective basis. The idea of a clean-up day came from the need of encouraging reflection on the impact of such pollutants in marine environments like Venice.

On 8 June 2018, an extract of “A Plastic Ocean” was screened by UNESCO, in collaboration with Worldrise Onlus, at the World Oceans Day celebration of the Marine Science Institute of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISMAR): “Nature, science and history meet in the lagoon”. In this documentary shot on more than

20 locations over 4 years, explorers Craig Leeson and Tanya Streeter and a team of international scientists reveal the causes and consequences of plastic pollution and share solutions.

The screening was followed by UNESCO and the City of Venice representatives speeches to introduce the operational programme and guidelines for the clean-up event, foreseen for the following day. “The role of youth is essential in this process. Our aim is to raise awareness. It’s all about us and it’s our responsibility to educate them for a better future!”, re-joined Massimiliano De Martin, Councilor for Urban Planning and the Environment of the City of Venice, while addressing the public.

On 9 June 2018, the clean-up event also involved partners like Prontopia, VERITAS, Viva Voga Veneta, Row Venice, Real Venetian Kayak, AVA – Associazione Veneziana Albergatori,

Unione Sportiva Remiera Francese.

Armed with a map, nets, gloves and disposable bags, UNESCO staff, citizens and tourists helped collect plastic waste in the Venice canals and peripheral areas of the lagoon from 10 am till 5.30 pm. Some did the collection on boats while others on foot. “If we all travel the globe like that we would leave each city a little bit better than we found it.”, said Shannon Kenny, Prontopia.

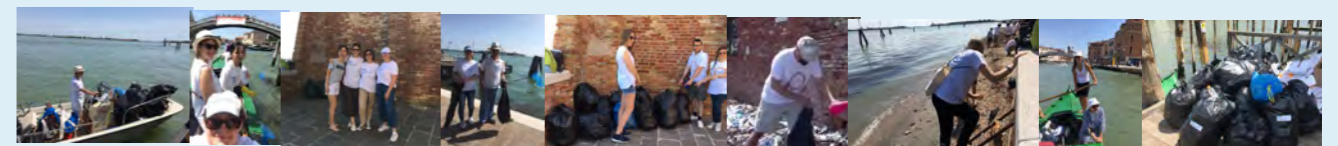
SkyTG24 TV programme, Sky Ocean Rescue - Un mare da Salvare, followed the launch of the initiative live from Venice and the clean-up event the next day. >>full story



## Presentation of the Plastic Free Venice Initiative on 8 June & clean-up on 9 June



Venice is a symbolic place. Its lagoon emblematically represents the connection between land and sea. Together we can win the challenge, by changing our daily behaviour, and by keeping alive everyone’s attention on the problem.



In less than 15 minutes, 40 bags were filled with plastic debris. In total that day, as a result of the day marine litter collection, over 100 large size bags were filled and properly disposed for recycling.

© UNESCO / Plastic Free Venice Initiative



MAKE A REAL  
SEA CHANGE TODAY!



© Love the Ocean campaign

## How will you 'Love the Ocean'? One action for our ocean this Valentine's Day!

Show us your commitment to your ocean (and your health). This Valentine's day, the Sea Change team asked everyone to pledge one action to #LovetheOcean and encourage others to do the same by sharing your love across social media.

It's easy to say we love the ocean, but for many of us, our everyday actions tell a different story. Seas of plastic, declining fish stocks and ocean acidification are just some examples of the destruction caused to the ocean by our everyday activities, which also have a profound effect on our health and wellbeing. Our relationship with the ocean has become toxic and one-sided. After all, the ocean loves us in real ways – like giving us half the oxygen we breathe, climate regulation, food, medicines and a variety of recreational opportunities.

The 'Love the Ocean' campaign aimed to rebalance our relationship with the ocean and show our appreciation by pledging to take real action each day, sharing our pledges and actions online, and tagging them with #LovetheOcean.

'Love the Ocean' coincided with the final conference of the EU Horizon

2020-funded Sea Change project on 15 February 2018 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, concluding 3 years of empowering and educating citizens to take action for our ocean. The conference focused on the project's achievements and plan for the coming years, maintaining the momentum of ocean literacy by linking with initiatives worldwide in the run up to the upcoming UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

*"Sea Change has been looking to make a difference, to make a Sea Change, in our attitude in Europe, to our seas and ocean. We are gathering in Paris on 15 February to celebrate what has been achieved and share our love for the ocean. We also want to look to the future, continuing that Sea Change. A lot has happened since Sea Change began and I feel confident that the recognition of the importance of our everyday lives on the ocean is growing and growing. We can all make positive changes and show our Love for the Ocean through #LovetheOcean."*, said Jon Parr, coordinator of the Sea Change project.

We asked the public to post a photo or short video using the #LovetheOcean hashtag, showing what change they

pledge to make to their daily lives. No change is too great or too small – one could make a pledge to take the bus to work, or simply to stop using disposable plastic drinking straws. Every positive action makes a difference to the health of our ocean! A selection of posts were viewed at the conference in Paris and provided valuable insights to



TAKE ONE ACTION FOR OUR OCEAN TODAY!



© Kahea - Ocean protection/seal

Want to love your Ocean better?  
Take action today!



LOVE THE OCEAN

our team. Our Facebook cover photo was used to share support for the ocean across social media.

The Sea Change project has sought to foster positive behaviour change by improving the 'ocean literacy' of citizens, whereby greater understanding will empower individuals to change their behaviour, creating an overall 'sea change' in how society views its relationship with the ocean. This will lead to

healthy seas, healthy communities and ultimately – a healthy planet.

Our 'Love the Ocean' campaign was promoted via Thunderclap with great results.

An invitation was made to join Sea Changers in making one's pledge using the #LovetheOcean hashtag and tagging us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For those who were seeking further inspiration on how to

make a sea change, lots of practical ideas in video series were made available on Vimeo or on the Sea Change project website. >>full story

#LoveTheOcean is an initiative driven by Sea Change EU Sea Change is an EU H2020 funded project that aims to establish a fundamental "Sea Change" in the way European citizens view their relationship with the sea, by empowering them, as Ocean Literate citizens, to take direct and sustainable action towards a healthy ocean, healthy communities and ultimately a healthy planet.



© Sea Change, UNESCO - Lovetheocean campaign

Thunderclap campaign "I'm making a Sea Change by committing to #LovetheOcean better in 2018. Join me & pledge one action for the ocean: <http://thndr.me/c1vbeT> Supporters 210 of 500; 42% of goal supported; Social Reach 460,024 People

# Ocean Literacy for All

A toolkit

IOC MANUALS and GUIDES, 80

Ocean Literacy for all: a global strategy to raise the awareness for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of our ocean

Most of us live our lives unaware of how our day-to-day actions impact ocean health of the ocean, or how the health of the ocean impacts on our own daily lives. Ocean literacy is defined as an understanding of the oceans influence on us and our influence on the ocean.

The focus of the Ocean Literacy for all initiative is to develop a global partnership to raise the awareness on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of our ocean and its resources and to build an improved public knowledge base across the worlds population regarding our global ocean.

The goals are to encourage cooperation and exchange on ocean education to improve ocean literacy; raise awareness of the two-way interactions between the ocean and peoples daily lives, and empower citizens to adjust their everyday behaviour; and, seek and apply innovative ways to make our current and future citizens ocean literate, so that they recognise environmental challenges and can make informed and responsible decisions related to ocean stewardship and the use of ocean resources.

The activities are coordinated by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. The Swedish Government provides financial support.

#oceanliteracy4all

## IOC-UNESCO and Sweden partner for ocean literacy

### Ocean Literacy for All

Sustaining SDG 14 Goals Through Ocean Science Education and Ocean Literacy



© AORA - Ocean Literacy for all SDG14

On 8 June 2017, the Kingdom of Sweden announced a financial contribution to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) during a meeting between UNESCO Director-General and Swedish Minister for the Environment on the margins of the United Nations Ocean Conference in New York.

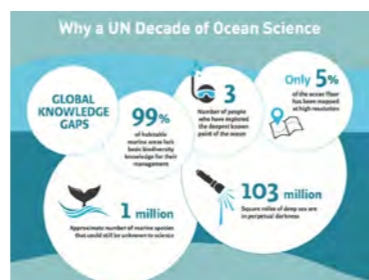
Among the various areas of cooperation discussed, the field of ocean literacy was particularly highlighted as it constitutes one of IOC's voluntary commitments to the Ocean Conference, in partnership with over a dozen intergovernmental, scientific and civil society organizations.

"Ocean Literacy for All: A global strategy to raise the awareness for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of our ocean" aims to develop an improved public knowledge base across the world's population regarding our global ocean and the close links between ocean and human well-being. It is also strategically linked to UNESCO's work on Education for Sustainable Development.

"All of us need to know more about how the ocean influences us, and how we influence the ocean. Sweden is happy to provide financial support to the voluntary commitment on Ocean Literacy for All," said Swedish Minister for the Environment, Karolina Skog. "When kids get the possibility to feel for example a starfish in their hands or learn about our ocean, a new world opens to them. To feel and learn is the first step to take action to save our ocean." Sweden also supported the IOC's proposal for an International Decade of Ocean

Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) at the 29th Session of the IOC Assembly (June 2017), and the importance of ensuring that the appropriate space is made available to ensure that policy-makers are developing policies based on sound science.

Wendy Watson-Wright, former IOC Executive Secretary and currently Chief Executive Officer of the Ocean Frontier Institute (Canada), added that "ocean literacy does more than teach about the sea. It supports the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, increasing both learner and teacher engagement. It's a key step forward to making a positive impact on the entire planet." >> full story



#### The essential principles of Ocean Literacy

1. The Earth has one big ocean with many features
2. The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of the Earth
3. The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate
4. The ocean makes the Earth habitable
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems
6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected
7. The ocean is largely unexplored

© Ocean Literacy for all toolkit - 7 principles Why a UN Decade of Ocean Science

One of Sweden's voluntary commitments from #saveourocean is to support UNESCO's work on Ocean literacy

## SCHOOLS IN OVER 30 COUNTRIES TO TRIAL OCEAN LITERACY MANUAL



© UNESCO - Ocean Literacy

Schools in 36 countries around the world will take part in a pilot project to test the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's latest flagship publication, Ocean Literacy for All – A Toolkit, through the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet).

Ocean Literacy is defined as the understanding of our influence on the ocean, and the ocean's influence on us – including as a major regulator of the Earth's climate.

As such, Ocean Literacy is an essential tool for all citizens, whether we live along the coastline, up on the mountains or in a landlocked country. As top priorities for ASPnet, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and climate change contribute to reorient education toward building more sustainable communities.

Ocean Literacy for All – A Toolkit is a two-volume publication: Volume 1 covers the history and definition of ocean literacy and its seven principles, while Volume 2 contains fourteen practical lesson plans. These lesson

plans are linked to the ocean literacy principles, as well as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 targets, but also relate to all other SDGs, highlighting the cross-cutting nature of ocean knowledge.

The lesson plans give out tips on how to adapt the activities to student groups of different ages (from 6-18 years), as well as to non-formal contexts (outside of the school). The Spanish version of the toolkit was recently published, with the release of the French version expected shortly.

Member States wishing to test the toolkit through ASPnet are invited to select a maximum of ten schools in their country, ideally from different levels and branches: primary, lower and upper secondary, technical and vocational schools. In each school, at least one male and one female teacher should participate in the testing, scheduled from September 2018 to March 2019.

In order to facilitate the process, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) and

ASPnet will organize 3 webinars in September 2018 for the heads of schools and teachers involved, in English, Spanish and French; distribute a teacher's guide in English, French and Spanish; and, provide an online questionnaire to be completed by the teachers after the testing with their students.

IOC will collect and analyze the feedback and disseminate the results to all participants and ASPnet by June/July 2019. Based on these comments, IOC will revise and further develop the teaching materials.

Ocean Literacy for All – A Toolkit was launched during the International Ocean Literacy Conference (4-5 December 2017, Venice, Italy), where over 100 participants from 30 countries contributed to design a roadmap on ocean literacy for the next 3 years.

The publication was produced jointly by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) and IOC. >>full story

## HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE

# Bridges

# World Oceans Day

2018

## January

2018 ECOSOC Youth Forum  
New York, USA. 30-31 January 2018

## February

Last consortium meeting of the Ark of Inquiry project  
Venice, Italy. 5-6 February 2018

Sea Change Celebration - #lovethesea @ UNESCO 15 February 2018

International Conference An end to antisemitism  
Vienna, Austria. 18-22 February 2018

New exhibition space for the Sarajevo Haggadah at the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 22 February 2018

## March

Walled Cities, Open Societies: Managing Historic Walls in Urban World Heritage properties  
Sibenik, Croatia. 5-6 March 2018

European Civil Protection Forum  
Brussels, Belgium. 5-6 March 2018

International conference "Perspectives on global citizenship: a shared commitment"  
Trento, Italy, 12-13 March 2018

2nd Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG) Board Meeting  
Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, 15-16 March 2018

Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe (CoMoCoSEE)  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 3-4 April 2018

## April

ECS 2018 Conference  
La Spezia Italy. 6-9 April 2018

GEO4CIVHIC Kick-off meeting  
Padua, Italy. 12-13 April 2018

The Network of Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves. Towards a strategic cooperation with the Adriatic region  
Venice, Italy. 19 April 2018



© National Geographic - World Oceans Day

Every 8 June, on World Oceans Day, we have an opportunity to raise global awareness of the benefits humankind derives from the ocean and our individual and collective duty to use its resources sustainably. Future generations will also depend on the ocean for their livelihoods! Together with the United Nations Family and our partners, we celebrate all that the ocean gives us every day: from the oxygen we breathe to the inspiration that moves our poets. Our Ocean is Our Future.

## May

Global Citizenship Education for Peaceful Societies in South-East Europe: Venice, Italy, 2-4 May 2018

Regional UN System Meeting - the joint meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Regional UNDG Team  
Geneva, 8-9 May 2018

Cheap-GSHP Project general coordination meeting  
9-11 May 2018, Bucharest, Romania

2nd International Conference of the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET)  
Netherlands, 14-18 May 2018

FUST Ocean: Celebrating 20 years of cooperation between the Government of Flanders and UNESCO  
Brussels, Belgium. 14-15 May 2018

Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators in South-East Europe  
Brussels, Belgium. 17 May 2018

Grand Prix AFEX 2018  
Venice, Italy. 24 May 2018

CIAC Junior International Film Festival – XXVIII edition  
Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy. 25-26 May 2018

Steering Committee  
Venice, Italy. 28 May 2018

## June

PLASTIC Free initiative – 2nd Edition  
Venice, Italy. 8 & 9 June 2018

Training Workshop on Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber Technologies  
Ipswich, UK. 13-14 June 2018

Opening of the geothermal facility of Cheap-GSHP Project at the Technical Museum Nikola Tesla of Zagreb  
Zagreb, Croatia. 20 June 2018



"My message to the leaders of the G7 on World Oceans Day: this is your chance. I am optimistic that we will succeed, and that by 2030 we will have healed our sometimes toxic relationship with our seas, transforming it to one of respect and balance. My confidence springs from the fact that we have a comprehensive, universally agreed plan: Sustainable Development Goal 14 'Life below water' and its ten specific targets."  
Peter Thomson, United Nations Special Envoy for the Ocean, 8 June 2018

>> all events

## Backstory

### UNESCO's special recognition goes ex aequo to Bulgaria and China



The 29th edition of the International Youth Film Festival CIAK Junior - Cinema made by Children took place on 25-26 May 2018 at the Vivaldi Auditorium in Lido di Jesolo, Italy. This year, 7 films written and acted by teenagers from 5 countries competed for the Best Film, the Best Subject, the Best Actor, and other awards. UNESCO gave a special recognition to Bulgaria for "How the Lilac Smells" and to China for "The Ugly Ducklings" for best representing the visions of UNESCO and the values it stands for.

Youth is the world's most important agent for creation and innovation. The sensitization, the engagement and the active participation of young people is of key to promoting creativity. To put more young people at the heart of this process, opportunities and platforms should be created so that they can demonstrate their capacities and potential.

Since 2001, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe supports CIAK Junior which is an opportunity for youth to get involved and be heard. The festival which encourages to engage in visions and efforts to build a better world, targets children aged 10 to 16 from all over the world. In this project, they are given the opportunity to turn their own movie ideas into professionally-produced short films. The films are then distributed among participating television networks for public screening. Over the years, CIAK Junior has been a valuable platform for children to tell their stories, display their creativity and exchange among different cultures.

The many perspectives brought by its young participants give rise to films that span a wide array of topics. This year, the competing films tackled identity exploration, teamwork, mutual help, inclusion and friendship among others, revealing children's prominent concerns in their life as well as their responses in identifying solutions. Children celebrated with joy and excitement this prize-awarding ceremony.

The Award for Best film went to "The Invisibles to the Rescue", created and interpreted by a group of students from Puglia (Italy), on the topic of group acceptance. The special recognition of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe went to two films, ex aequo, from Bulgaria and China for their special focus on the values of identity building through cultural protection and on the harmonious living with mutual help and understanding. [->full story](#)

### CIAK Junior International Youth Film Festival 29th edition



▲ CIAK Junior 2018

# Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau  
for Science and Culture in Europe

### Contact us :

Palazzo Zorzi, Castello 4930 - 30122 Venice - Italy  
Tel: +39.041.260.15.11 Fax: +39.041.528.99.95

[veniceoffice@unesco.org](mailto:veniceoffice@unesco.org)

For more information, please visit our website:

[www.unesco.org/venice](http://www.unesco.org/venice)



Regional Bureau  
for Science and Culture  
in Europe