It is becoming essential for SEE countries to be concerned with issues of sustainable development, protection and promotion of natural and cultural assets and to adopt cross-sectoral (e.g., science and culture) models that deal with the governance of the local territorial dynamics such as Biosphere Reserves (BRs) and World Heritage Sites (WH). The SEE Region represents ‘open space laboratories’ and ‘model regions’, where this multi-functional framework can be better adapted to the rapidly changing geo-political and socio-economic conditions of the countries in transition. These activities promote the implementation of the Seville Strategy in the ‘first generation’ BRs and the new Operational Guidelines in the WH sites to properly manage the natural and cultural heritages, as well as to foster the transboundary co-operation in areas of particular relevance (e.g. TB water basins, rivers, etc.). Read about: Dinardic Arc Initiative (DAI) and Skadar Lake.

INTEGRATION OF NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN LOCAL TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE (SEE)

GLOBAL SCIENCE AND NATIONAL POLICIES: THE ROLE OF ACADEMIES
In co-operation with the UNESCO Office in Moscow and the International Council for Science (ICSU), a conference of the Academies of eastern and south-eastern European countries was convened in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova from 4-5 May 2007. The working sessions dealt with topics such as science and sustainable development; mitigation of natural and human induced environmental disasters; gender issues in science and the role of academies in ESEE countries. MORE

SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE, SCIENCE FOR SOCIETY. THE PARLIAMENTARY PERSPECTIVE
In co-operation with the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO and the Parliament of Romania, a conference of representatives of science & technology parliamentary committees of SEE countries will meet in Bucharest, Romania from 27 to 29 June 2007.

NEW DIRECTOR
UNESCO OFFICE IN VENICE

On 1 November 2006, the Director-General of UNESCO appointed Dr. Engelbert Ruoss as the new Director of the UNESCO Office in Venice (BRESCE). MORE
“COMMUNICATING PHYSICS/COMUNICARE LA FISICA”
BOOK LAUNCH - PALAZZO ZORZI 22 MARCH 2007

The presentations of “Communicating Physics/Comunicare la fisica” and the DVD of the Pirelli Relativity Challenge Award 2006, were presented at Palazzo Zorzi. This was an important contribution made by the Pirelli Company in promoting the International Year of Physics launched by UNESCO in 2006. Interesting discussions related to the promotion of science communication as well as the “culture of science”, with leading Italian scientific journalists such as Prof. P. Odifreddi and Dr. A. Massarenti followed. Dr. A. Calabrò, Director of Pirelli’s Institutional Affairs and External Relations and Dr. E. Ruoss, Director of UNESCO-BRESCE, are hopeful that this type of cooperative initiative will continue. MORE

UPCOMING UNESCO-BRESCE EVENTS
MAY – JUNE 2007, PALAZZO ZORZI

17-31 MAY 2007  10 am – 6 pm daily
SCOLOPENDRA ART EXHIBITION

Six young Russian artists will be displaying their contemporary works of art (sculptures & paintings) at Palazzo Zorzi. Organized by the Russian National Commission for UNESCO and the Scolopendra Art Gallery (Moscow). MORE

8 JUNE 2007  10 am – 6 pm daily
BULGARIAN PAVILION


"SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION INDICATORS:
TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN SEE"
27-31 MARCH 2007 - SKOPJE (FYROM)

This workshop was organized by UNESCO-BRESCE and the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) with the financial support of UNESCO and of the Italian Government.

The Workshop brought together Ministerial officials and technical officials responsible for S&T statistics to analyze recent international trends concerning STI relevant statistics and indicators and their role in science policy-making, strengthen national capacities for the production of quality STI statistics and indicators in SEE; promote close interaction between policy-makers and statistical officers; raise awareness for evidence-based S&T policy making; share experience and foster regional co-operation among policy-makers and statistical officers from SEE countries. MORE
NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION
Promotion of 1972 World Heritage (WH) Convention

Proper management is one of the most important factors related to the protection of cultural heritage and WH properties.

In cooperation with World Heritage Centre, BRESCE is providing the technical assistance in preparation of management plans to those member states that intend to submit their nomination as new sites or for those for which the World heritage Committee has requested updates of the existing plans in accordance to the present conditions.

Technical assistance related to upgrade/correction of a management plan for the following SEE countries are foreseen during 2007:
Mostar; Plovdiv; Gjirokaster; Berat; Kotor; Počitelj; Oreiul Vechi; Celebration of 10th anniversary of inscription of Trogir to WH List; Translation of World Heritage Education kit in Moldavian and Romanian language.

EUROMAB 2007- ANTALYA (TURKEY)
The Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme is oriented towards the use of BRs to mobilize the MAB network to scientifically test the implementation of the environmental integration principle. UNESCO-BRESCE will support the EuroMAB 2007 organizers (the Turkish MAB Committee and the MAB Secretariat) by providing a ‘critical mass’ of experiences from the SEE countries. This will be an opportunity of promoting the further implementation of the European integration process, by supporting the Turkish international and transboundary activities.

Preparing to “Bridging Science and Society - EuroMAB 2007”
Antalya (Turkey), November 2007

The e-conference is animated by moderators from the EuroMAB Network with the support of the MAB Secretariat and UNESCO Offices. EuroMAB members can share experiences, ideas and the thematic group will share common terms of references and questions aimed at preparing a work programme & an action plan for the future. This e-forum is accessible until May 2007.

2007 Perspectives for Training & Capacity Building in SEE
UNESCO-BRESCE is working on projects focused on the better understanding of the WH Convention mechanisms in relation with other international programmes, particularly Biosphere Reserves, among World Heritage focal points for natural heritage. Through the analysis of existing networks it will be possible to identify gaps in the WH system in SE Europe; explore the potential for new WH nominations, cultural landscapes, transboundary and serial sites in the Balkan Peninsula.

New Tool for Promotion of Romanian Cultural Heritage
With the support of the UNESCO Office in Venice and Cooperazione Italiana, on 24 April 2007, the Romanian NGO Mioritics Associations inaugurated the first “Cultural Heritage Info Centre” in Sibiu, Romania, this year’s European Capital of Culture.

The Centre will provide information about cultural sites and routes in the Sibiu area, and more in general cover main features of Romanian cultural heritage, including UNESCO World Heritage sites.
INTERVIEW WITH
MICHAEL MILLWARD
FORMER DIRECTOR BRESCE, A.I.

In what areas could UNESCO-BRESCE provide potential support in South East Europe?
UNESCO's Office in Venice, BRESCE, by its very mandate, focuses the brunt of its resources on the South Eastern European countries and has been so doing for some time now, in compliance notably with a number of resolutions and decisions taken by the Member States of the region. The programmatic responsibilities of BRESCE are:

FOR SCIENCES. Basic and Applied sciences including biotechnology, engineering and applied research including energy and new materials, environmental sciences, water resources, the fight against endemic disease, particularly HIV/AIDS and the transformation of science in Europe.

FOR CULTURE. Safeguarding and restoring the cultural heritage damaged by conflicts in the Balkan sub-region and in the Mediterranean and the Restoration of Venice Monuments.

The latest strategies it has been developing have sought to concentrate on UNESCO's main added value niches so that its limited resources - when compared to the extent of the needs - can have the greatest possible impact. Thus, environmental and sustainable development concerns are clearly of great importance to the SEE countries, alongside the provision of scientific policy advice, while in the area of culture, there is no doubt about the importance of cultural heritage and the value of intercultural dialogue as a factor in giving peace a chance in the region. The cross sectoral interest of looking at cultural and natural heritage together through the prism of advancing human development is also an area into which the Office is expanding.

Your comments on UNESCO-BRESCE's governance bodies.
In the case of BRESCE, these arrangements have been put in place in response to the wishes expressed by the Italian authorities without whose support, let us never forget, UNESCO's Office in Venice would never have seen the light of day. Second, it is never a bad thing to secure specialist advice in the building of the strategies of a UNESCO office, particularly in regard to a part of the world that has such particular complexities. The members of the governance bodies are also valuable additional "resources" for the enhancement of UNESCO's credibility and action in the sub region and in Europe more generally. Their recent meetings have, underlined their willingness to play this role more fully.

What are the possible challenges UNESCO-BRESCE could encounter in the Balkans?
UNESCO's challenges are BRESCE's challenges: always such a huge amount to do and never enough resources. It's gruelling when you have to make priority choices in the knowledge that so much is a priority. The current UN Reform is an opportunity to which UNESCO is very committed: not only will it help Member States to make better sense of the UN system as a whole and secure more benefit from it, but it will also help Organizations like UNESCO, whose span of expertise and range of mandate is not matched by the extent of its resources, to work better in the service of Member States in closer and more effective partnership with other organizations and bodies of the UN.

BRESCE is moving into a new phase in its existence: as part of the newly-reforming UN system, at the onset of a new strategic direction for UNESCO as a whole, with the benefit of an office strategy that seeks to be more closely attuned to Member States' priorities, and with a new Director at the helm, the Office is ready for the new challenges. The team I had the privilege to work with for the short time of my interim directorship is an enthusiastic and motivated group of people and I wish them and the new Director every success.

MR. MILLWARD
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