

Quarterly Newsletter
April-June 2008

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Map of F.Y.R.O Macedonia
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The Stone Bridge, Skopje
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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Office in Venice

ACTIVITIES IN THE UNESCO MEMBER STATE OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)¹

From the first field missions undertaken by BRESCE in Macedonia in 2001, numerous scientific and cultural activities have been implemented. The Ministries of Education and Science and of Culture have participated in important conferences and workshops organized by BRESCE. Cooperation with the Macedonian National Commission for UNESCO is well developed and a framework for future collaboration has been elaborated. Support will be provided to the institutes responsible for culture and science issues such as tangible and intangible heritage, cultural diversity, climate change, water management, genetics, seismology networks and databases for SEE countries. Macedonian experts will be invited to participate in these regional initiatives.

OFFICIAL UNESCO VISITS MACEDONIA

The Director-General of UNESCO, Mr K. Matsuura, officially visited [Macedonia on 26-27 March 2008](#).

He was accompanied by Mr Engelbert Ruoss, Director UNESCO-BRESCE and Mrs Marie-Paule Roudil, Head of BRESCE's Culture Section. On 6-8 May 2008, a BRESCE delegation headed by Mr Ruoss, met with representatives of the National Commission and other UNESCO Committees, UNESCO Chairs and Ministries. Information was exchanged concerning activities and priorities outlined in [BRESCE's Contribution to UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy 2008-2013](#).

Mr K. Matsuura, Director-General UNESCO and Members of
the Macedonian National Commission for UNESCO



Mr D. Panovski, State Secretary-
Ministry of Environment and
Mr E. Ruoss, Director BRESCE

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¹ The UN recognized name for the country is the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). For simplification and without any prejudice to the name related dispute with Greece, "Macedonia" will be used throughout the text.

SCIENCE ACTIONS IN MACEDONIA 2008

CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE GOVERNANCE OF SHARED WATER SYSTEMS. FOCUS ON NATURE CORRIDORS AND RISK PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

Transboundary cooperation for the management of the shared water bodies has been influenced by political and socio-economic developments. To date the shared Lakes Basins of the South-western Balkan Peninsula and the [Drin River Basin](#) management has been rather unilateral. Cooperation between the basin countries has initiated within the framework of external funded projects or initiatives of local stakeholders and international NGOs. Current BRESCE initiatives involve the integration of the Ohrid and Prespa Lakes into a large territorial framework (transboundary biosphere reserves TBR) in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre.



Drin/Drim River Sub-basin

© Inweb



Satellite view of Ohrid and Prespa Lakes

© Makedonija



Science, Higher Education and Innovation Policy Forum, 1-3 July 2008, Budva, Montenegro
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CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE SITES - UNESCO DESIGNATED (WORLD HERITAGE SITES AND BIOSPHERE RESERVES)

BRESCE will support the preparation of a comparative study as part of the nomination process of Markovi Kuli as a natural heritage site.



© Markovi Kuli
Macedonia.org

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN MACEDONIA

[Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region](#) (1979)

A workshop is planned in Ohrid in September 2008 between BRESCE and the Ministry of Environment to define a road map concerning management plans for the heritage site.

Properties submitted on the Tentative List: [Cave Slatinski Izvor \(2004\)](#)

MACEDONIAN AUTHORITIES PARTICIPATION IN SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND INNOVATION POLICY IN THE 'WESTERN BALKANS' COUNTRIES FORUM

In collaboration with the Montenegro Ministry of Education and Science, a [regional forum](#) took place in Budva, Montenegro, from 1-3 July 2008.

The following Macedonian Authorities participated:

- Mr Bojan SOPTRAJANOV, Vice-President, Academy of Sciences
- Ms Slavica GRKOVSKA, Chairperson, Committee on Education, Science and Sports

CULTURE ACTIONS IN MACEDONIA 2008

INAUGURATION OF THE SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DIGITIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE, 26 MARCH 2008

On 26 March 2008, Mr Matsuura and the Minister of Culture [inaugurated the Centre](#).

In co-operation with the Italian Government, BRESCE negotiated financial support to create a regional centre on cultural heritage digitalization in the [Museum for contemporary art in Skopje](#).

The elaboration of the Centre was undertaken by IMG (International Management Group). This project was a direct follow-up to the sub-regional

workshop on cultural heritage digitalization in SEE organized by BRESCE in co-operation with the Ministries of Culture of Macedonia and Italy in 17-20 February 2005.



Museum for contemporary Art, Skopje
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Ohrid
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WORLD CONFERENCE ON DIALOGUE AMONG RELIGIONS AND CIVILIZATIONS: THE CONTRIBUTION OF RELIGION AND CULTURE TO PEACE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND COHABITATION

held from 26-28 October 2007, in Ohrid. Approximately 300 participants representing numerous religions discussed the need of mutual respect and universality. Particularly underlined was the reference to the role of religions and religious leaders in SEE. Read the [Declaration](#). The next encounter is foreseen to be held in 2010.



Inaugural ceremony "World conference on Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations", Ohrid © BRESCE 2008



World Conference
on Dialogue Among Religions
and Civilizations
October 2007, Ohrid
© Conference

STRUGA POETRY EVENINGS FESTIVAL

In respecting the memorandum for cooperation signed by the former Minister of Culture, Mr. Blagoja Stefanovski and the Director-General of the UNESCO, within the framework of the cultural action for Dialogue between the Civilizations promoted by UNESCO, BRESCE elaborated a project supporting the organization of the Struga Poetry Festival 2007.

During the 46th edition of the Struga Poetry Evenings from 23-28 August 2008, Ms Antonija Novakovic will be awarded the [UNESCO International Golden Wreath Award](#).

VISIT OF UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE MACEDONIAN CINEMATHEQUE

During his visit to the [Macedonian Cinematheque](#), Mr Matsuura saw the permanent exhibit displayed in the Cinematheque's hall, highlighting the film industry in Macedonia and the Balkans. Numerous protected and restored film materials of the Manaki brothers, are displayed thanks to the financial support of UNESCO. The Macedonian Cinematheque presented to the UNESCO delegation copies of the CD "Film Century in Macedonia" along with DVD editions dedicated to the Macedonian feature films (Wolf's Night, Miss Stone, Black Seed).



Struga Poetry Evenings
Festival
© wikimedia.org

MACEDONIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK (UNDAF)

Commission Nationale pour l'UNESCO de l'ex- République yougoslave de Macédoine

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Meeting with the UNRC (UN Resident Coordinator - Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias) in Macedonia - May 2008

The [former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#) became a Member State of UNESCO on 28 June 1993. Recently it has been selected as one of the [UNDAF 2008](#) rollout countries.

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is the strategy of the [UN Country Team in Macedonia](#) (UNCT) for the period 2005-2009 to meet the major development challenges as identified by the UN System in the Common Country Assessment (CCA). The UNCT in Macedonia refers to the agencies, funds and programmes, both resident and non-resident, working under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator.

BRESCE was appointed as the general coordinator of UNESCO's involvement in this process due to its successful experience with the One UN Programme Albania.

In May 2008, Mr Ruoss and Ms Mejias met and discussed the importance of focusing and respecting the different approaches of the different UN Agencies

in Macedonia. The non-resident Agencies (i.e., UNESCO) should be fully integrated into the process and soon a UNESCO focal point will be appointed. Special attention will be addressed to social issues (cultural diversity and human rights) as well as the environment in Macedonia.

This meeting underlined the importance of involving the Ministries of Macedonia so to obtain their full endorsement of the One UN Programme.



Visit of BRESCE Delegation
to the Macedonian Ministry of Environment
and Physical Planning
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UNESCO ARTIST FOR PEACE: MACEDONIAN BARITONE BORIS TRAJANOV

The Director-General of UNESCO named Macedonian opera singer Boris Trajanov, [UNESCO Artist for Peace in 2005](#).

Mr Trajanov, is recognized for his commitment to *"defending humanist values and promoting dialogue among cultures and civilizations."*

The baritone performed in more than 550 operas in Europe, America and Africa.



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