



Governance

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ENERGY GOVERNANCE

UNESCO designated sites can lead the way in terms of sustainable energy governance and climate change mitigation policies acting as exemplars for other sites. This should be operated by educating, disseminating best practices and mainstreaming energy through an integrated system embedded in the sites' governance.



PROPOSAL FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES IN UNESCO DESIGNATED SITES

The following set of recommendations on sustainable energy governance in UNESCO designated sites was developed by the core team of the Summer School in South East Europe on Sustainable Energy Governance in UNESCO World Heritage sites and is a follow-up of the international workshop, “Upgrading Life in Historical Towns – Renewable Energy”. Both events were held in Dubrovnik, Croatia in October 2013. The workshop was co-organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), the Municipality of Dubrovnik and Marco Polo System G.E.I.E. with the support of the RENFORUS Initiative.

In line with the UN Secretary General’s Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and the upcoming Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, and considering the role played by UNESCO within the United Nations family to strengthen capacities in the field of sustainable energy, and in compliance with the UNESCO Strategy

for Action on Climate Change, which considers energy as a key element for climate mitigation policies and, endeavours to enhance the knowledge base for the rational use and application of sustainable energy through institutional and human capacity-building by sharing scientific knowledge and best practices

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School group. Dubrovnik 2013.

through its own networks and the promotion of national and regional renewable energy policies and training initiatives such as the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme (GREET);

Also in line with the 24th session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme which stated that the combination of coastal, island, rural and urban ecosystem networking initiatives are important for promoting biosphere reserves (BRs) as sites for energy-efficient and renewable energy-driven development alternatives, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation efforts and to Sustainable Development in general;

In full consistency with the RENFORUS Initiative (Renewable Energy Futures for UNESCO Sites), devised as part of UNESCO's overarching Climate Change Initiative, which aims at enhancing and applying the climate change knowledge base for building green societies and at promoting the use of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites as field observatories for the sustainable use of renewable energy sources and as models for the efficient use of energy;

Thus, the participants of the Summer School in South East Europe on Sustainable Energy Governance in UNESCO World Heritage sites, along with the those of the International Workshop, "Upgrading Life in Historical Towns – Sustainable Energy" held in Dubrovnik in October 2013, organised by the Municipality of and the World Heritage Site of Dubrovnik and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the RENFORUS Initiative,

have identified ten strategic principles to facilitate the mainstreaming of sustainable energy in UNESCO designated sites:

Governance

1. UNESCO designated sites should rely on an integrated management system that must necessarily include the sustainable energy dimension among its strategic components under the frameworks of Sustainable Development and its climate change mitigation strategy.

2. Clear objectives, concrete sustainable energy action plans and reliable monitoring functions should all be put in place to ensure both compliance and effectiveness of declared sustainable energy principles on site.

3. A sense of ownership and of appropriateness of the concept of a sustainably-run site should be fostered among its social constituents (communities, users, local authorities, national governments) with dedicated actions and project-based activities carried out to bridge the gap between formal statements and substantial policies and practices.

4. A dedicated and recognised support structure should be set in place, comprised of experts with sufficient interdisciplinary skills to act as a driving force for enhancing sustainable energy on site, empowering local actors and offering a voluntary service of mentoring and counselling on sustainable energy to citizens and local administrators.



© Josep Loaso. Abertis Foundation. The participants of the Workshop on Renewable Energy Strategy in the Spanish Biosphere Reserves Network (Barcelona, November 2013), discussed the principles proposed in Dubrovnik.

Capacity building and education

5. Capacity building in the field of sustainable energy governance in UNESCO designated sites should be enhanced through dedicated training programmes, using the sites as learning cases, bringing together representatives from energy, cultural and environmental sectors and integrating natural and cultural conservation requirements with sustainable energy-related applications and innovation.

6. Public awareness of the pathway to apply sustainable energy concepts and practices to UNESCO designated sites should be enhanced as a part of the overall objective of Education for Sustainable Development, through the sharing of science-based evidence of direct experiences and successful case studies applied in other UNESCO sites as made available through the RENFORUS Initiative.

Implementation strategy

7. By prioritising both energy-related opportunities and conservation requirements, apply a holistic approach to project and site activities including, wherever applicable, the concept of Historic Urban Landscape, in order to a) valorise the relationship between people and their places, b) engender a sense of long-term custodianship of the site's tangible and intangible heritage, and c) establish a baseline of reference for operational and budgetary purposes.

8. The entity in charge of sustainable energy management at the site should be able to establish a range of improvement measures, from simple to more complex, and analyse their impact on the site's assets and communities. These measures should be implemented through an integrated approach combining practical solutions both from a conservation and an energy point of view with a dedicated monitoring system to assess achieved results.

9. The entity in charge of sustainable energy management at the site should be capable of a) supporting the delivery of effective and necessary actions of consultation and interfacing with public and private institutions; b) designing and coordinating community-based project implementation and monitoring functions on site; and, c) providing feedback to governing bodies on possible policy changes and relating with national/international actors and possible do-

nors to mobilise extra financial and institutional resources to increase the impact of its activities.

10. Achievements are to be two-fold:

a. Reduce energy poverty of local inhabitants, improving their living conditions and comfort without undermining their financial capacity and securing ownership and a self-sustaining management of their energy system;

b. Curb CO₂ emissions to the greatest extent possible by applying suitable energy efficiency measures combined with renewable energy systems, whenever applicable, according to the characteristics of the site and its zoning, finding a joint path between traditional knowledge/expertise and advanced technologies and materials in a compatible and smart way.

The way forward

UNESCO designated sites can lead the way in terms of sustainable energy and climate change mitigation policies acting as exemplars for other sites and foremost inspiring policies and practices of energy sustainability for non-designated sites globally. This should be achieved by educating, disseminating good practices and mainstreaming sustainable energy management through an integrated system embedded in the sites' governance whilst preserving the sites' unique assets, both at cultural and natural levels, and fostering an improved quality of life and comfort of their communities.

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Summer School in South East Europe on Sustainable Energy Governance in UNESCO World Heritage sites

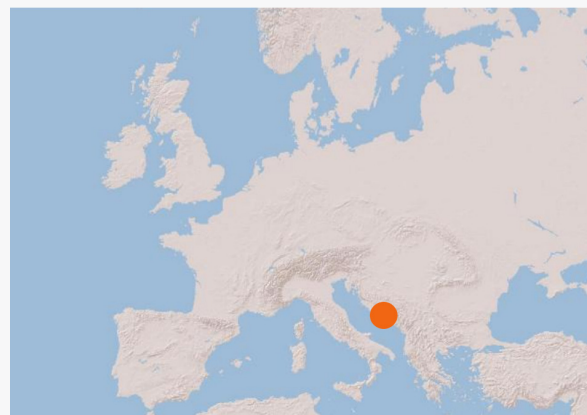
Organized by the Science Unit of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), at the University of Dubrovnik in Croatia from 29 September to 4 October 2013, the school represents a unique educational opportunity to enhance capacity building in sustainable energy by conveying in a single venue a substantial capital of knowledge developed on sustainable energy governance in World Heritage sites in Europe. UNESCO designated sites have proved they have an important word to say about sustainability, in terms of education, management, and scientific knowledge to be regionally shared and applied. The goals of the school were to:

- Offer educational support to World Heritage local-central governmental officials, site planners and managers, scientists, practitioners and researchers with applied interest on sustainable energy governance issues;
- Build capacities on renewable energy and energy efficiency promotion using UNESCO designated sites for learning and sharing knowledge;
- Strengthen the dissemination of information on renewable energy and energy efficiency potentials in UNESCO designated sites;
- Enhance problem solving capacity and critical thinking through the adoption of an interdisciplinary approach of sustainable energy issues;
- Promote the interface between young researchers and practitioners with industrial partners of high profile for the improvement of summer school technical provision and follow-up.

In its second edition, the school trained about 40 young professionals and scholars from South East Europe.



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UNESCO SCHOOL IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Sustainable Energy Governance in UNESCO World Heritage sites

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy)

Municipality of Dubrovnik - World Heritage Site

RENFORUS (Renewable Energy Futures for UNESCO Sites)