



THE PRESENTORS

The 40<sup>th</sup> UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting was held in Istanbul 10-17<sup>th</sup> of July 2016.

Sustainable Development was one of the key agenda items that found large attention in many different platforms.

One such activity was a side event organized by the UNESCO Chair on the Management and Promotion of World Heritage Sites at Kadir Has University, which took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July at 13.00 – 15.00 pm, specifically dealing with the Integration of the Sustainable Development into the processes of the World Heritage Convention. In this meeting the role of the academia and UNESCO Chairs was explored.

### Integration of SD into the processes of the World Heritage Convention

The Policy document (WHC.15/20.GA.13) on the integration of Sustainable Development processes into the World Heritage Convention suggests States Parties to promote research and develop capacities on the implementation process. Furthermore, the same document refers to the engagement of the UNESCO Chairs and academia.

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage mandates States Parties to foster the establishment or development of national or regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field (Article 5). Based on this background, the side event brought representatives of UNESCO Chairs and academia working under different conventions through four main themes of Sustainable Development. The impacts of Peace, Environment, Social and Economic Inclusiveness on World Heritage properties were presented by distinguished speakers.

Prof. Christina Cameron, Canada Research Chair on Built Heritage, Université de Montréal (Canada)

Prof. Lorenzo Cantoni, UNESCO Chair in ICT to Develop and Promote Sustainable Tourism In World Heritage Sites, Università della Svizzera Italiana (Switzerland)

Jasone Unzueta (MSc), UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Development and Environmental Education, Universidad del País Vasco (Spain)

Prof. Dominique Sewane, UNESCO Chair in influence of African thought - Preservation of African Cultural Heritage, University of Lomé (Togo)

## Integration of Sustainable Development Perspective into WH Convention

### 22 July 2016

WELCOME AND OPENING

The Head of UNESCO Culture Sector, Conventions Common Services, Ms. Vesna Vujicic-Lugassy welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of networking activities among different conventions of the culture sector.



Prof. Yonca Erkan, UNESCO Chair Holder at the Kadir University in her opening words presented the capacities within the academia and highlighted the importance of World Heritage Properties in Sustainable Development goals.

# Moments from the meeting

by Yonca Erkan

**Prof. Christina Cameron**, highlighted the importance of the Millenium chairs in Canada. The activities of the chair conducted for bringing universities and the government to a common platform to discuss the policies for the protection of cultural heritage. Her research in itself helps sustainability of the World Heritage Properties by documenting the memory within UNESCO.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Sustainability and Peace
- Sustainability and Environment
- Sustainability and Economic Inclusiveness
- Sustainability and Social Inclusiveness

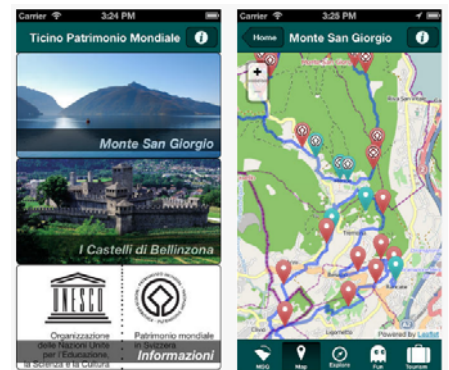
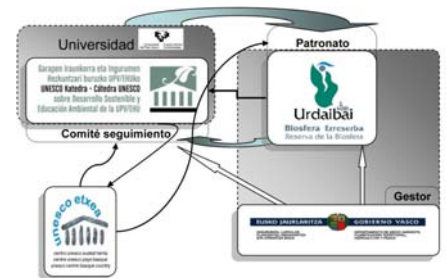
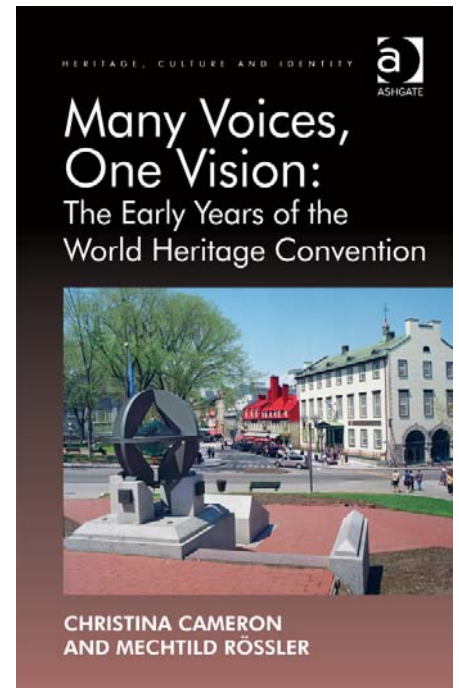


**Prof. Lorenzo Cantoni**, pointed to a very seminal aspect of the Sustainable Development, that of economic inclusiveness. He highlighted that tourism generates an important income for the societies while World Heritage properties have an important share in it, and digital technologies play a great role. The digital information technologies help access, better connect, disseminate and educate.

**Jasone Unzueta (Msc)**, presented a model in environmental sustainability that they are applying in Spain to work on the Biosphere Reserves. Their collaboration model brings governments, local stakeholders and academia together to reflect on the challenges of the real world.



**Prof. Dominique Sewane** conducted her studies on a living cultural landscape in Togo, the Koutammakou. Her presentation highlighted the importance of the human aspect and the vulnerability of indigenous peoples at the World Heritage properties.



## The Panel

MODERATED BY PROF. MIKE TURNER

The individual presentations were followed by a panel moderated by Prof. Mike Turner, UNESCO Chair holder in Urban Design and Conservation Studies, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design (Israel). The panelists were:

Francesco Bandarin  
UNESCO Assist. Director-General for Culture  
Nada Al-Hassan  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre  
Gamini Weijesuriya  
ICCROM, Sites Unit, Project Manager  
Andrew Potts  
ICOMOS, Focal Point for the UN SDG Process  
Vinod Mathur  
IUCN, Director of Wildlife Institute of India

### Challenges

The challenges in incorporating culture into the Sustainable Development Goals lies in the fear that cultural relativism and human rights may become an issue. This requires a closer look to the SDG goal #11 and its target #11.4. The present day challenges put forward the role of culture to make our world better thus the main target should be rephrased as "Strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard worlds cultural and natural heritage to make cities and human settlements *inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*". The question then is how to develop effective tools to bring culture as an enabler for SD.

UNESCO admits the shortage of these tools. New mechanisms on linking culture and nature are essential. Once these mechanisms are in place, changing the Operational Guidelines will be required. So far, SDG indicators mainly measure the money spent on culture; however a boarder perspective is a must. Indicators and monitoring tools necessary to measure on how to protect the Worlds' cultural and natural heritage to make *inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable* cities may require on the UNESCO part to develop shadow indicators.

UNESCO Chairs and the academia can address these issues. The required site based statistical data can be obtained in collaboration with academia. A network of UNESCO Chairs may address the problem in an interdisciplinary way, that would lead to a shared data-base.



Such an open data-base might be an informative tool which may enhance the organization of the civil society. Partnership of civil society with the academia is thus very helpful to create links between

Culture & nature  
The Six Cultural conventions  
Intergovernmental organizations & Academia  
Academia & Civil society

Thus academia becomes a bridge for Sustainable Development Goals bringing different sectors of the society together.

### Strategies

- UNESCO should rephrase the debate on the role of culture for SDGs
- UNESCO should provide an online platform for UNESCO Chairs and Academia encouraging collaboration
- UNESCO Chairs should study the shadow indicators and gather on site data
- A shared data-base should be used to strengthen the civil societies

### Action Plan

- Join the network to work on on how to protect the Worlds' Cultural and Natural Heritage to make our cities and human settlements *inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*
- Join the network to start applying the change the World Heritage properties





Thank you very much for your interest in our side event. Your presence has given us the courage to take this initiative forward.

Overall 81 participants from 31 countries were present in our activity. In addition there were 12 speakers.

# Who participated?

by Yonca Erkan

The representatives of international organizations form the (14%) of the overall participants, where the country of origin is not provided.

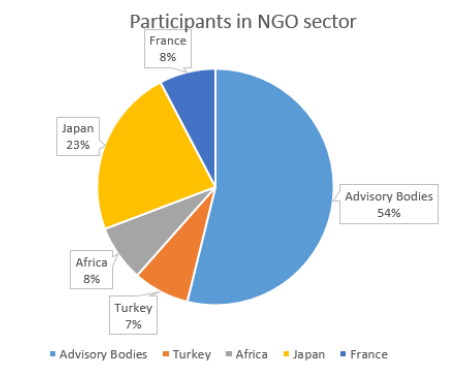
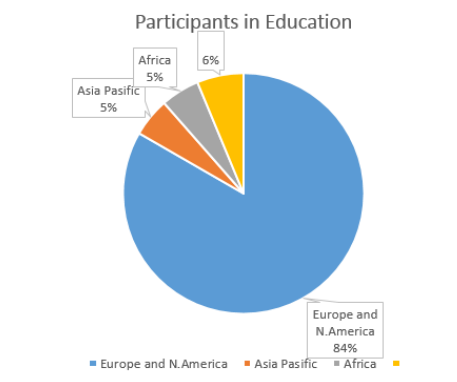
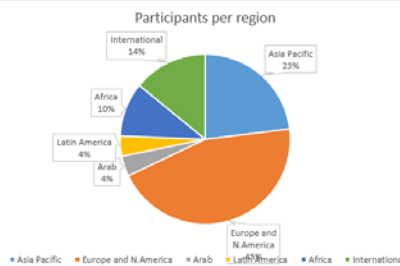
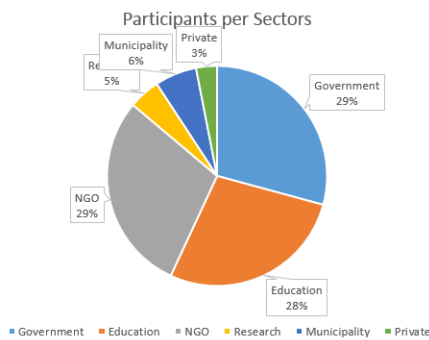
Participants per region reveal a high percentage (45%) in Europe and North America, mostly due to the Turkish participation (17%). It is followed by Asia Pacific Countries (23%), Africa (10%), Arab Countries (4%) and Latin America (4%).

There was an equal share in the sectors of NGO, Education and Government (29%), followed by Research Institutes (5%), Municipalities (4%) and Private Sector (3%).

Participants in the education sector were mainly from Europe and N.America (84%), with a minimal participation from Africa (5%), Asia Pacific (5%).

Majority of the participants from the NGO sector were Advisory Bodies (54%), NGOs from Japan (23%), France (8%), Africa (8%), Turkey (7%).

The Government sector representatives were from Asia Pacific Countries (37%), Turkey (31%), Africa (13%), Arab Region (13%), Latin America (6%).



# Joining the Network

If you want to join our network please subscribe to our newsletter.

Please email to [unesco@khas.edu.tr](mailto:unesco@khas.edu.tr) if you have an interest in joining to the network and please indicate that you allow us to publish your contact information on our website.



UNESCO CHAIR on  
Magement and  
Promotion of  
World Heritage  
Sites

Kadir Has University,  
Istanbul 34083 TURKEY

[unesco@khas.edu.tr](mailto:unesco@khas.edu.tr)